

"Multifarious reading," said Robert son of Brighton, "weakens the mind like smoking, and is an excuse for its lying dormant. It is the idlest of all idleness, and leaves more impotency than any other."

The evil is a growing one, and operates in various ways. Its least mischief is shallowness, its greatest, the aversion to steady labor which it induces, and the low and feeble tone of mind which it encourages. If we would be really wise we must diligently apply ourselves, and confront the same continuous effort that our forefathers did; for labor is still and ever will be, the inevitable price set upon everything that is valuable. We must be satisfied to work with a purpose, and wait the results with patience. All progress, of the best kind, is slow, but to him who works faithfully and zealously the reward will, doubtless, be vouchsafed in good time. The spirit of industry, embodied in a man's daily life, will gradually lead him to exercise his powers on objects outside himself, of greater dignity and more extended usefulness. And still we must labor on, for the work of self culture is never finished. "To be employed," said the poet Gray, "is to be happy." "It is better to wear out than to rust out," said Bishop Cumberland. "Have we not all eternity to rest in?" exclaimed Arnauld.

*Work*, the watchword, calls from everywhere for men to equip themselves with knowledge, for the struggle of life. Progress in knowledge should be the aim of old and young; the needs of the times demand it. Man was designed for work, not for ease. Most people want the results of self-culture without the work. Knowledge acquired without study and labor is not education. Those accustomed to learn easily will reject that which is accompanied by study and labor. We should desire to rise by study and hard work, whose results will endure the tests of time and use.—*Self Help*.

In looking over some of the advertisements for teachers, we still notice the disgraceful appendix, "State salary expected." If teachers are true to one another, the hateful phrase is sure to disappear in time, though there has been a patience shown towards this kind of thing which is surely no virtue. The other day a young man was applicant for a vacancy. The hateful query was not put to him in the open advertisement, but in the after note written in reply to his application.

"How much salary do you expect?" said the secretary's note.

"The salary which the former master received," was the reply returned in the applicant's letter.

And when he afterwards appeared before the Chairman of the Board in person, he did not hesitate to give the same reply.

"That is the salary you have formerly paid to the position," he said in a respectful way. "You have by your action declared the position to be worth that amount, and as I intend to fulfil all the duties of the position faithfully and well, I expect to be paid the value you have yourselves placed upon the work to be done."

There is a heroism in these words surely which must go to the heart of every teacher in the land, who is not what is beginning to be called in sneering parlance a *cheap teacher*.

Sir John Gorst, the Vice-President of the Lords of the Council of Education, England, is finding what it is to be Minister of Education with a superior officer over him. The Duke of Devon is President of the Council, and when Sir John makes his explanations before the House of Commons it is all but impossible for him to keep out of sight his personal wish that things could have been other than they are.