

**PLAYING TRUANT.**

We never knew a boy who was in the habit of playing truant and wasting the golden hours of youth, to become a great or distinguished man. Most often the idler in life is the laggard in the world's race. Truly happy is the boy whom parental or friendly care saves from this alluring danger of youthful days.

The reason why truancy is so serious an evil, is not the loss of a day or two at school now and then, or any other immediate or direct consequence of it. It is because it is the beginning of a long course of sin, it leads to bad company, to deception, and to vicious habits; it stops the progress of preparation for the duties of life, and hardens the heart, and opens the door for every temptation and sin, which, if not closed, must bring the poor victim to ruin. These are what constitute its dangers.

These words written by a learned and good man, it would be wise for every child to ponder well. The fairest day would not then entice them, the merriest companion could not persuade them, nor the hardest lesson they might have to learn affright them from this path of duty.

**IMPORTANCE OF A COMMA.**

We yesterday published an article on the importance of a correct punctuation. We have seen a letter from a gentleman in Ohio, to Mr. D. Bennett, which more fully illustrates the importance of a comma. The letter inquires about an advertisement which was inserted some years ago in the Observer, which stated that a legacy of several million of dollars was left to the heirs of Hugh, John, and Daniel Mosier; but another paper in copying the advertisement carelessly omitted the comma after Hugh, so that it read Hugh John. The descendants of a Mr. Hugh John reading the notice, supposed that they might be heirs to a large property, and went to a considerable expense to investigate the matter, when they found that in the original notice it read the heirs of three brothers of the name of Mosier—Hugh, John, and Daniel.—*Utica Observer.*

**RULES FOR THE YOUNG.**

If you wish to cultivate your mind and succeed in the pursuit of knowledge, observe the following rules:

1. Take care of your leisure moments as you would of gold.
  2. Do not spend more time than is necessary in sleep.
  3. Withdraw from all idle and silly companions.
  4. See that you have always some good reading on hand.
  5. Read not novels, but history, biography, and works of science.
  6. Always think, always observe, and always seek to learn.
  7. Think of the pleasure of knowledge and the disgrace of ignorance.
  8. Take as your motto, what has been done can be done again.
  9. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.
  10. Remember the old maxim:—"Honesty is the best policy."
- Follow these rules and there is no such word as "fail."

**A BEAUTIFUL MIND.**—A beautiful mind is like a precious and prolific seed—the mother of loveliness—the fountain of bliss—the produce of many treasured and inestimable flowers—no canker can deface, nor time destroy. Even should there be those of its lovely produce that pass away, yet the source is there—the seed remains to revive, to modify—to place again on our bosom, and near our hearts, in renewed beauty—in the same deep interest and winning power as at first. We would gather it in as the richest possession—as well as the spring of the purest, most abundant and enduring joys—as our support, our comfort, and the cherished object, worthy of our highest admiration; and we would cling to it, thanking God that it is immortal—living for ever.

**BONAPARTE ON NOVEL READING.**—No works were read but those of real value. By common consent all novels were banished from the circle, as Napoleon inveterately abominated every thing of that kind. If he happened to find a novel in the hands of any of the attendants of the palace, he unhesitatingly tossed it into the fire, and soundly lectured the reader, upon her waste of time. If Josephine had been a novel reader, she never could have acquired that mental energy which enabled her to fill with dignity and with honor every position she was called to occupy.—*Abbott's History of Josephine.*

**WHAT MAKES A MAN.**—The longer I live the more certain I am that the great difference between men, the great and the insignificant, is energy—invincible determination—an honest purpose once fixed—and then victory. That quality will do any thing that can be done in the world; and no talents, no circumstanced, no opportunity will make a two-legged creature a man without it.—*Goethe.*

Women are the Corinthian pillars that adorn and support society; the institutions that protect women, throw a shield also around children; and when women and children are provided for, man must be secure in his rights.

**SWEARING.**—Profit or pleasure there is none in swearing, nor any thing in men's natural tempers to incite them to it. Though some men pour out oaths so freely as if they came naturally from them, yet surely no man was born of a swearing constitution.

**MAKE SURE,** first, and principally, of that knowledge which is necessary for you, as a man and as member of society. Next, of what is necessary in your particular way of life. Afterwards improve yourself in all useful and ornamental knowledge as far as your capacity, leisure and fortune will allow.

**LEARNING** will accumulate wonderfully if you add a little every day. Do not wait for a long period of leisure. Pick up the book and gain one idea, if no more. Save that one, and add another as soon as you can.

**THE REWARD IS SURE.**—Idleness is the hot-bed of temptation, the cradle of disease, and the canker-worm of felicity. Soon the idle man finds no novelty; and when novelty is laid in the grave, the funeral of comfort enters the heart.

What solid satisfaction does the man of industry enjoy! His limbs are strong; his understanding vigorous. With zest he relishes the refreshment of the day; with pleasure he seeks the bed of repose at night.

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