

late money, we can invest it, and can thus keep it as a permanent possession ; but we cannot keep or invest time. It must be spent at once in its rapid flight. The rich and noble have no more of it than the humblest. It cannot be arrested, or, if lost, recovered.

“ Like the dew on the mountain,
Like the foam on the river,
Like the bubble on the fountain,
It is gone and forever.”

Thus viewed, every fraction of time, no matter how small, must be precious.

To have spare time a person must have the capacity of being alone. If a person must have company the moment he is released from his stated duties he can have no spare time ; his time is fully occupied and in such a way that he has little control over it. All he can say is that his companions have helped him to spend the afternoon or evening. This is no great advantage, as time will pass rapidly enough away without such assistance. All any person has to do to spend time or to allow it to slip away is merely not to watch it. Amusements to which many addict themselves, and which are all of a social nature, deprive them of spare time. They think that when work is done they must have amusement ; indeed there seems to be a craze for amusements. In this way spare time is entirely disposed of. A habit of going in crowds is formed, also a craving for excitement, which nothing can satisfy, is generated. A little exercise and a reasonable amount of amusement are conducive to health, but these need not occupy much time. Public lectures by professional lecturers are generally a great waste of time and money. They are an American institution which has its branches in Canada. There are lecture-bureaus which provide lecturers and also seek audiences for them. Their primary design is to gratify the taste, to amuse or excite ; their ulterior design is to make money. Other public meetings, the object of which is amusement or mere excitement of any kind, are no better. In a constant whirl of excitement, principles cannot crystallize, and character cannot be formed. Our Canadian people are losing the steadfastness of character and the strongly-marked individuality which they once possessed ; thus there is a deterioration of mental fibre going on, and a craving, such as Paul perceived at Athens,