

work so well that if any one ever does better work in that district he will be obliged to do remarkably well indeed."

THE HABIT OF PRECISION.—There are some valuable thoughts suggested in the subjoined article from an exchange, which says :

"There is no habit that young people can acquire that is likely to be so valuable to them in every relation of life as the habit of being exact. Indefiniteness is a crying fault of youth. It is an easy thing to get into slipshod habits of thought and work. Such work may be brilliant, but unless work is directed toward a definite purpose it is valueless. Thought that appears in brilliant flashes is as useless for guidance as the light of a jack-o'-lantern. A beacon-light must be steady and certain. The value of a fixed definite purpose in life, steadily adhered to, cannot be overestimated. It is the secret of success, and so fully is this recognized that some one has defined genius merely as the power of persistence. He who has ability to maintain a fixed purpose in spite of disappointments and apparent failures, must, in the end, win, if he is guided by honour and truth.

"Exact habits are best formed in youth. It is next to impossible for a man or woman who has grown up in 'happy-go-lucky' habits of work to turn back and learn to be exact. Parents often excuse inaccuracy and careless ways in children on account of their youth. It is a great mistake to do this. While youth cannot be justly burdened with the cares of age, yet whatever a young person is called on to do should be accurately done. The common habit of acquiring a smattering of many things should be discouraged as a vice. It is far better for the young student to have two studies and pursue these to the definite purpose of comprehending them thoroughly than to take up a dozen, of which he can only secure a frivolous knowledge.

"The habit of giving simple, accurate information is a rare and valuable one. Not one person in ten can give definite, clear directions on any stated subject of which they have full knowledge. Yet this is a habit which successful business men are compelled to acquire. The trained specialist in any branch of art or science is chiefly valuable because he has learned to crystalize his information and reduce it from vaporous theory to something that can be made practical. From the earliest childhood, children can be taught to be exact and clear. This is the chief value of the kin-