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Be Active "So much of our time is preparation, so much is routine, and so much retrospect, that the pith of each man's genius contracts itself to a very few hours."—Emerson.

Welcome to June

Welcome, bright June, and all its smiling hours,
With song of birds, and stir of leaves and wings,
And run of rills, and bubble of cool springs,
And hourly burst of pretty buds to flowers;
And buzz of happy bees in violet bowers;
And gushing lay of the lough lark, who sings
High in the silent sky, and seeks his wings
In frequent sheddings of soft falling showers;
With plunge of struggling sheep in plashy floods,
And timid bleat of shorn and shivering lamb,
Answer'd in fondest yearnings by its dam;
And cuckoo's call from solitary woods,
And hum of many sounds making one voice,
That fills the summer air with most melodious noise.

—C. Webbe.

June was so termed by the Romans in honor of Mercury, who was represented as a juvenile figure, to which they applied the word Junius. The Saxons called it "weyd" or "meadow" month, because their cattle were then turned out to feed in the meadows.—*Loaring.*



OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, thoughtfully anticipating the future, will do well to carefully ponder the wise words of the sage philosopher as they are quoted in our introductory paragraph this month. The point of view from which he surveys human life appeals to us from its thoroughly practical character. He divides the brief span of mortal existence into three general periods, and to each he has affixed a very suggestive word. The "routine" and "retrospect," "routine" and "retrospect." Around these three centres every person's earthly career may be said to revolve. It is not, however, with either of the latter two that boys and girls have immediately to do. The "routine" and "retrospect" will surely come later; meanwhile, "preparation" calls for their attention and claims at once their consideration. In this elementary stage the growing child must be helped; and parents, teachers, pastors, are the ones to whom he may legitimately look for light and leading. "Preparation" for living is necessarily first in time; it is equally first in importance. Until a sense of life's responsibilities come upon him and he is brought face to face with the actual duties that begin to call to him for prompt discharge, the boy is at best but learning how to live. Herein is the most important function of education made manifest. It is to fit the growing and expanding powers of the learner for the wise and proper execution of the daily tasks that soon will clamor for attention at his hands. It is to so prepare him to live that when the "routine" presses heavily and constantly he will not be found wanting, and that when, later on, "retrospect" reviews the whole career through which he has so quickly passed, there will be no reason for sad repining, but a glad consciousness of a fight well fought, a race well run and a crown of unfading righteousness near at hand.

But not for long is the boy wholly dependent on the counsel and guidance of his elders. He soon begins to realize that he must make his own choice, perform his own tasks, assume his own place among his fellows, form his own character, face his own record and work out his own destiny. When such personal consciousness awakens within him,

he really begins to live. The "routine" commences. Let us not be in too great haste to introduce our children to this stage. Yet let none shrink from it when it does come. If the youth has been well taught by both precept and example how to live aright, the strain, intense though it may be, will be bravely borne and the issue will not be in doubt. That many of the failures of mid-life may be logically attributed to lack of adequate preparation in the early years of childhood and youth, perhaps no one will deny. The multiplication of such failures the Church must seek to prevent, but the issue rests in the last analysis with the youth himself. If he make early choice of the essential spirit and principle of our Epworth League pledge as the guiding motive power of living, he need not fear the stress and storm that will assuredly ensue in the adult years ahead of him. All that is involved in the "routine" will come naturally, the daily round of tasks will be carried through with constancy, and the "retrospect," when it comes, will be neither mournful nor sad. Many an aged veteran who bears the scars of honorable warfare in the battle for righteousness will bear glad testimony to the supporting power of faith and the exhilaration of high endeavor. Every such experienced and ripened life calls loudly to us who have prospective years before us, and who are following on in the unending procession of earth's pilgrimage, to count no preparation too thorough, no cost too great, no application too severe, that we may know with them, and in even greater brightness, that "at eventide it shall be light."

Let not our young people think that life's "routine" may be well executed without adequate preparation. Neither let any of us think that life's "retrospect" can be bright and satisfactory if the "routine" of the years be not faithfully discharged. The youth looks ahead, and in prospect sees much to attract. If, when old age is upon him, he is to look back with a sense of pleasure and joy, life's fight must be well fought, the race well run and the faith maintained. So youth, manhood, age—"preparation," "routine," "retrospect"—all combine to make a fruitful whole.