

of the two little girls resolved to devote an hour or two every evening to the improvement of it; and very pleasant work he found it, while his wife sat upon the veranda with her sewing, and his two tiny girls, each furnished with a toy cart, gathered up the stones as they were raked from the flower-beds and conveyed them to a distant corner whence they could be easily carted off the premises.

It was amusing to see how important these little toddlers considered themselves. Three or four stones generally constituted a load, but sometimes they would only take one, if it was a large one. Several times they tumbled down, when they ran to mamma to have the real or imaginary hurt cured by a kiss, and came back to their work as bright and happy as before.

Their task seemed a hopeless one to me, for the stones were turned out so much faster than they could gather them up, but as their father remarked, it was well to keep them employed if only to train them in the habit of perseverance. Four months later, when the leaves were beginning to fall, I went to visit my friends again, and no sooner was I seated in the house than a little Mona, taking my hand and trying to raise me said, "Tum and see a pile o' 'tones." I went with her and Marianne and saw to my surprise a heap of stones higher than my head. They explained that they did not tilt their carts now, but took the stones out and threw them up. "And sometimes papa throws them up too," said Marianne, "and his stones stay up, and to-morrow a man is coming to take them away to make a road." "A great big piece of road out of our 'tones," chimed in Mona.

Dear little prattlers! What a lesson they taught me. If baby hands could raise such a mound, what might not I do? And are there not others who need to be reminded that life's work is accomplished not by doing great things spasmodically, but by continued little efforts, often so disconnected that they seem to have no bearing upon each other, but which are fragments tending to the great harmonious whole that we may never see until that day when "Every man's work has been made manifest." We want our reward too soon, and are impatient of the long chain of little acts which link our work to its results, but it is by one step at a time that miles of ground are compassed, by one stitch at a time that whole garments are made, by one brick at a time that mansions rise.

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