

From the leafless forests the songsters fly
As if warned by a dread desolation nigh ;
And the murmur of waters, unstirred by a breath,
Is sad as the music that tells us of death.

A sound to break this stilly calm
Would fall upon my ear
Discordant as the tones of mirth
When sorrowing souls are near ;
Would seem as the strains of a joyous song
To the heart of a watcher, watching long ;
As the noisy speech or the heavy tread
In the darkened chamber where sleeps the dead.
—*New Dominion Monthly for November.*

2. POLITENESS IN SCHOOL.

It will always bring a rich reward of respect to be polite to your pupils. Children relish and appreciate an "if you please" and a "thank you," and it adds to their self-respect, without which there is no true worth. Give your example to your precepts. Children can detect sham as well as grown people, and will often notice inconsistencies in walk and conversation that older people might pass unobserved. The successful teacher will have few rules, and respect them himself. The best is one that children can easily understand, viz.: "Do right." Explain what is right on different points, and impress on the children's minds that God always sees them, though the teacher may not. Talk to them often about their accountability for the gift of intellect, and you will be surprised at the display of conscientiousness! Encourage their little confessions at each evening's report, and you will see more bright faces than if truth were sacrificed, and the children sent home with ill-gotten rewards. Good government is the mainspring to success.—*Iowa School Journal.*

3. TACT

Love swings on little hinges. It keeps an active little servant to do a good deal of its fine work. The name of the little servant is Tact. Tact is nimble-footed and quick-fingered; tact sees without looking; tact has always a good deal of small change on hand; tact carries no heavy weapons, but can do wonders with a sling and stone; tact never runs his head against a stone wall; tact carries a bunch of curious-fashioned keys, which turn all sorts of locks.

4. A WORD TO BOYS.

Boys, did you ever think this world, with all its wealth and woe, with all its mines and mountains, oceans, seas and rivers, with all its steamboats, railroads and telegraphs with all its millions of groping men, and all the science and progress of ages will soon be given over to the boys of the present age—boys like you? Believe it and look abroad upon your inheritance, and get ready to enter upon its possession. The presidents, emperors, kings, governors, statesmen, philosophers, ministers, teachers, men of the future—all are boys now.

5. FAITHFULNESS TO EMPLOYERS.

There is no greater mistake a young man can commit than that of being indifferent to the interests of his employer. It is true there are circumstances under which it seems almost impossible to feel an interest in an employer's business; but for all that it is worth a trial. Be faithful in small things; be attentive to your duties; shirk no employment that your employer is fairly entitled to every minute of the time which you have agreed to give him for a stipulated remuneration. The wages may be small, too small; but if you have contracted to work for a dollar a week when your work is worth ten, stick to your bargain like a man, until your term of service has expired. It may seem very hard, but it will instil the great principle of being true to your word.

And, besides, you will gain a reputation for faithfulness and integrity and diligence which is worth more to a young person than thousands of silver and gold.

The good friend, who taught a boy the tanner's trade, when he was about to finish his apprenticeship promised to give him a present worth more than a thousand dollars. He carried the young man home and said: 'I will give thy present to thy father.' And then he turned to the father and said: 'He is the best boy that ever I had.'

That was the Friend's present, and the father confessed that it was 'worth more than a thousand dollars' for a boy to have and to deserve so good a name as that.

A good name is a fortune in itself; a good trade is another. If you earn but little try to learn a good deal. Your learning may be worth more to you than your earnings. Out of the hundred persons committed to States' prisons, only three have learned good honest trades. Ninety-seven persons *without trades* go to State prisons, when three persons *with trades* go there.

So wherever you are try to master your business; determine to know something; attend to what you are taught; and do thoroughly what you do at all. Finish what you begin. Put things back where you find them. Avoid dirt, disorder, and dissipation; resist the devil and submit to God, and blessed and saved, you shall serve him both now and forever.—*The Christian.*

6. YOUR EVENINGS, YOUNG MEN.

The historian Hilliard has said:—"To a young man away from home, friendless and forlorn, in a great city, the hours of peril are those between sunset and bed-time;" and we have no doubt many a young man will respond to this sentiment. It is then that the theatre throws open its doors, the drinking-saloon tempts by its glitter of lights and glasses; then the strange woman stalks abroad; then it is that your companions, tired of the day's labours, and seeking recreation, step beyond the line of rectitude, and cordially invite you with them. What must you do? Avoid temptation; but that is easier said than done. How do you do when you wish to avoid thoughts that trouble and unsettle you. You think of something else, and while you are reflecting upon other things, you are not thinking of your troubles.

Your duty then is plainly to do something—something that will put you out of the way of these temptations.

If you are happy enough to have a home, be found there as much as possible, and feel that you are bound to do something for the comfort and social life of that home. If you are in the city, boarding, then see that every evening is well occupied. Pass part of this leisure in reading or study, at your room, when it is possible. What fields of knowledge you may survey, and what acquaintance with the past you may make, by one or two evenings spent in this way every week! When you go out, as you certainly need to do, go to some lecture; visit some refined home, where woman's influence will soften you; connect yourself with some class or society where improvement is the motive. If you wish amusement, go where refinement will surround you, and where conscience will not reprove you; unite yourself with a Christian Association, and enter into its work, and be at the prayer-meetings. But do not feel that you can do without God's grace in your heart. All that we have mentioned is only secondary. Here is your armour.—*Association Monthly.*

7. READ AN HOUR A DAY.

An English paper tells of a lad who at the age of fourteen was apprenticed to a soap-boiler. One of his resolutions was to read an hour a day, or at least at that rate, and he had an old silver watch, left him by his uncle which he timed his reading by. He stayed seven years with his master, and said that when he was twenty-one he knew as much as the young sire did. Now let us see how much time he had to read in seven years, at the rate of an hour a day. It would be 2,555 hours, which, at the rate of eight reading hours each day, would be forty-five weeks, equal to twelve months—nearly a year's reading. That time spent in treasuring up useful knowledge, would pile a very store. Surely it is worth trying for. Try what you can do. Begin now. In after years you will look back upon the task as the most pleasant and profitable you ever performed.

8. ARCHBISHOP SUMNER ON OBSTACLES AND IMPROVEMENT.

It has been well said by the late Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Sumner,) in his "Records of Creation,"—"Of all obstacles to improvement, ignorance is the most formidable, because the only true secret of assisting the poor is to make them agents in bettering their own condition, and to supply them, not with a temporary stimulus, but with a permanent energy. As fast as the standard of intelligence is raised, the poor become more and more able to co-operate in any plan proposed for their advantage, and more likely to listen to any reasonable suggestion, and more able to understand, and therefore willing to pursue it. Hence it follows, that when gross ignorance is once removed and right principles are introduced, a great advantage has already been gained against squalid poverty. Many avenues to an improved condition are opened to one whose faculties are enlarged and exercised; he sees