

MISCELLANEOUS.

Don't wait until to-morrow. Remember in all things that, if you do not begin, you will never come to an end. The first weed pulled up in the garden, the first seed in the ground, the first shilling put in the savings bank, and the first mile travelled on a journey, are all important things; they make a beginning, and thereby a hope, a promise, a pledge, an assurance that you are in earnest in what you have undertaken. How many a poor, idle, hesitating outcast is now creeping and crawling on his way through the world who might have held up his head and prospered if, instead of putting off his resolutions of industry and amendment, he had only made a beginning.

It needs no guilt to break a husband's heart. The absence of content, the mutterings of spleen, the untidy dress and cheerless home, the forbidding scowl and deserted hearth—these, and other nameless neglects, without a crime among them, have harrowed to the quick the heart's core of many a man, and planted there, beyond the reach of cure, the germ of dark despair. Oh, may woman, before that sight arrives, dwell on the recollections of her youth and cherishing the dear idea of that tuneful time, awaken and keep alive the promise she so kindly gave. And though she may be the injured, not the injuring one—the forgotten, and not the forgetting wife—a happy allusion to the hour of peaceful love—a kindly welcome to a comfortable home—a smile of love to banish hostile words—a kiss of peace to pardon all the past, and the hardest heart that ever locked itself within the breast of selfish man will soften to her charms, and bid her live, as she had hoped, her years of matchless bliss, loved, loving and content—the source of comfort and the spring of joy.

Endeavor always to talk your best before your children. They hunger perpetually for new ideas. They will learn with pleasure from the lips of parents what they deem it drudgery to study in books; and even if they have the misfortune to be deprived of many educational advantages they will grow up intelligent if they enjoy in childhood the privilege of listening daily to the conversation of intelligent people. We sometimes see parents who are the life of every company which they enter, dull, silent and uninteresting at home among their children. If they have not mental activity and mental stores sufficient for both, let them first use what they have for their own households. A silent home is a dull place for young people, a place from which they will escape if they can. How much useful information, on the other hand, is often given in pleasant family conversation, and what unconscious mental training in lively social argument. Cultivate to the utmost the graces of conversation.

Life is short, and you have much work to do. Work for others as well as yourself. You will not pretend you are never selfish. You are more or less so every day of your existence. In the very face of conviction, you play the part of contracted littleness. How often do you forget the interests of others, in eager desires for yourself; and how readily you silence the whispers of reason, by calling in for precedents respectable example. Yet you know the value of disinterested virtue—and how that avarice, or any selfish passion, can never acquire your felicity—but the appearances of the moment persuade you otherwise, and hence the cause of error and crime. Study, therefore, not only to be convinced of truth, but to establish it firmly on your mind, beyond the reach of doubt. Then, not till then, your character you will be uniform, and your principle strong enough to carry you through the trials and temptations of life. No one can be happy long, unless he is governed by virtue; and to be regulated