

proved, gifts to be occupied, and ample opportunities to exercise them ; and the reward of joy will be in proportion to our faithfulness. There should be a pleasure in the right exercise of every faculty we possess. Therefore it lies with us to decide whether we will improve the opportunities in this wide range or remain as mere ciphers in the world, and make life a blank. In deciding this point, let us reflect whether an idle, inactive life can produce happiness to ourselves or others. In no way can we more certainly predict the future than from the past ; and in studying the lives from those who have gone before us ; he must be blind who cannot see that " Life is not all a vale of tears " to those who, unmindful of that monster, " self," have labored to promote the welfare of their kind ; for while pursuing the path of duty they have found much of pleasure. While they who thinking to shun the responsibility of an active and useful life—and after chasing rainbow tints from birth till death has stared them in the face—have gravely said that life is nought but disappointment, ending but in woe. Such has been the recorded experience of every age. Though great opportunities may not be offered, much can be done by little acts of kindness to those around us. And as the future of our country depends very much on the rising generation, it certainly is a great work to start them right in life, and to advocate the right by which they may be kept from the vices that surround them, from descending so low as to take of the inebriating cup, the first step towards which is generally a glass of wine or cider, from impairing the powers of mind by indulging in the more prevalent and disgusting habit of using tobacco. For as the use of opium, tobacco and alcoholic stimulants have made so many unhappy homes, so surely, if continued, it will make still more in the future, and if excessively used for a few more generations, will finally degrade our nation. What a field of labor is here open for us. Let

us perform our duties faithfully in this great field, so that in the future there may be less unhappy homes than there have been in the past, and that our nation may not be degraded, and the coming generations be induced to carry out this great work, and be instrumental in bringing up a generation who will fully realize life is real, and make at least some small portion of the world better for their having lived in it. The world has had its heroes in all ages. In barbarous times military teachers were their honored heroes ; when the church ruled and shrouded the state in superstition they were monks and priests. But the world of mind has attained a growth, and he or she of the present generation who would be remembered with honor five hundred years hence, must be neither soldier nor monk, but philanthropists. What made Abraham Lincoln and Horace Greely what they were ? They were not children of wealth, neither did they have great opportunities for education, but they felt that life had a mission, and starting on the only sure foundation, honesty, they fulfilled that mission nobly. They were honored in life and at their death a nation wept.

Let our habits be virtuous, our language be chaste, and our words reliable, for

" We only have one life to live,  
Here in this world below,  
And it would be best for us to give  
The good seed room to grow.

There is plenty of work for all to take  
A great and active part,  
For there are weeds that each must rake  
From the garden of the heart.

We should ever watch a chance to speak  
The needed word in season ;  
The faults of others never seek  
Without sufficient reason.

First get the mote from our own eye,  
Before we see a Brother's ;  
With our own clear, we then may try  
To get it from another

If in the little things of life  
We try to faithful be,  
A wider sphere that needs more strife,  
We may in the distance see.