

spiritual good is reached in the same way.

"Heaven is not reached by a single bound,
But we build the ladder by which we rise
From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies,
And we mount to its summit round by round."

PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES.

Read before the Nebraska Half-Yearly First-day School Association, held at Lincoln, Nebraska, 4th mo. 29, 1894.

The present only is ours; let us use it, and act with sterner truth and more loving will! Be up and doing! If we have whispered the truth, whisper it no longer, but speak as the tempest speaks, sterner and stronger. Wait not for days that may come to do grand work, but reach a helping hand, for

"There's no time like the present time,
The future is not ours;
If we would make our lives sublime,
Improve the present hours."

Opportunities like lessons, depend one on another. Every one unimproved weakens the foundation on which others rest.

"We who are least may do our best,
And none can farther go;
And all are great, what 'ere their state,
Who do the best they know."

The grandest yet the simplest opportunity of life to me is the religion of Jesus, that which is laid open for every one if they wish to accept it. Life is not worth living unless we do accept this opportunity to be led by the voice of God. It is no doubtful path, for destiny will lead our course aright.

Christ says, if a man lose his life for my sake, then shall he find it.

"There's life alone in duty done,
And rest alone in striving."

The great aim of our lives should be to benefit mankind, in so living as to make the world better and happier by our living and doing each day that goes by some little good, not in dreaming of great things to do by-and-by.

"Think truly, and thy thoughts
Shall the world's famine feed;
Speak truly, and each word of thine
Shall be a fruitful seed;
Live truly, and thy life shall be
A great and noble creed."

Do we improve every little opportunity and give what seems given us? Sow the seed of good, however small it be, only God knows what the fruit will be. If it is only a glad "good morning" as we pass by the way,—spread the morning's gladness. But who can tell how vast the plan of some little opportunity of to-day, perhaps unnoticed, and yet may prove, when understood, the harbinger of endless good. How beautiful are the feet of those that bring glad tidings of good things.

Everything is an opportunity in life if we but aim in the right direction. We do not set a high enough price on our little opportunities and leisure moments. They are sands of precious gold, which, if properly expended, will procure for us a stock of thoughts which will fill, stir, invigorate and expand the soul.

"Look not backward for instruction,
Look at the present need and time,
Grasp to-day the good before thee,
Grasp the truth, and it is thine."

Think nothing to little, nothing too lowly, to do lovingly for the sake of God. An opportunity becomes a duty both spiritually and intellectually. To do our duty bravely if it is a weary task, let us go to work and do it. Life is full of sunshine, and many know it when they strive to find their duties clear and do them. Labor with a will, make life a useful one and joy will crown our work at last if we do so.

Then a voice within our breast
Whispers audible and clear,
As if to the outward ear;
Do thy duty that is best,
Leave unto the Lord the rest."

If we always list to the voice we need not struggle alone; for help is near us where'er our footsteps roam, and he will guide us, light us, help us home.

Oh! the good we may be doing as the days are going by, and to let the Christ image in us shine expressing to men its precious love, all who will may wear the sign that needeth not the lips confession. Is it not the willing earnest workers that God wants? Fields