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MAKE THE WORLD BRIGHTER.

If the world seems cold to you
Kindle fires to warm it!
Let their comfort hide from view
Winters that deform it.
Hearts as frozen as your own
To that radiance gather;
You will soon forget to moan
"Ah! the cheerless weather!"

If the world's a wilderness,
Go build houses in it!
Will it help your loneliness
On the winds to din it!
Raise a hut, however slight;
Weeds and brambles smother;
And to roof and meal invite
Some forlorn brother.

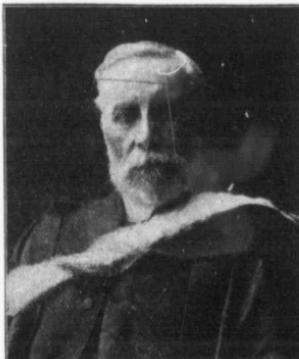
If the world's a vale of tears,
Smile till rainbows span it!
Breathe the love that life endears,
Clear from clouds to fan it.
Of your gladness lend a gleam
Unto souls that shiver;
Show them how dark Sorrow's stream
Blends with Hope's bright river!
—Lucy Larcom, in the *Independent*.

Self-Improvement.—Mental power depends less on the gifts of nature than on the fruits of culture. When an old lady in England heard that Southey, and Coleridge, and Wordsworth, with other distinguished men, were about to associate themselves in a literary club, she said she was "so glad they were going to try and improve their minds." We laugh at her simplicity, but it is not without a lesson of wisdom. Native mental gifts will avail little unless we improve ourselves. Native mind is but the rough stone in the quarry; it will depend on our aspiration and diligence whether from that quarry come the hewn blocks, the squared and polished stones, the carved and chiseled columns.—*Dr. A. T. Pierson.*

Power of Culture.—The studious or reflective youth is cheered by the radiance of hope which never illumines the sky of the indolent and the thoughtless. *Culture pays.* It gives momentum and solidity to thought and expression. It supplies solitude with society, and makes periods of rest seasons of intellectual refinement. It is said that at the battle of Gettysburg, there was a moment when it seemed as though the column, some hundred yards in breadth, sweeping down upon the Federal forces, must crush and master them. But the Pennsylvania Reserves, which breasted this battle wave, had among them a large number of the graduates of colleges, and were in moral and mental standing the superiors of the foe. To this fact, more than to all others, we are indebted for that lifting up of prowess, and that flash of patri-

otism, which appalled the rebel host and caused them to pause in their apparently resistless march. It is not surprising. As the eye of a man can awe the beast, it is not surprising that the *look* of an intellectual man influences his inferiors. It is known and felt everywhere that culture and education tell. Men are stronger, broader, and healthier because of it.—*Dr. J. D. Fulton.*

Arguing from Exceptions.—"Spurgeon never went to college; Lincoln had but a few weeks' schooling; Shakespeare was self-made; and so I—" says the complacent youth. To whom it might be replied: It is not wise to argue from exceptional cases. Are Lincoln, and Shakespeare, and Spurgeon, fair representatives of the average man? A few years ago an old gentleman died in New



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York at the age of far beyond a century. He had been a soldier, and fought in the European wars up to the battle of Waterloo. During all his life he used wine and spirits, tobacco and opium. It would hardly be wise to argue from his case that war, wine, alcohol, tobacco, and opium promote the length of life. Thirty-five years ago the writer saw and heard Colonel Lehmanowsky, a member of the Grand Army. He was in all of Napoleon's wars, in the Egyptian campaign, the Peninsular war, and the Russian campaign. Yet he lived to nearly a hundred. Would it be wise to argue that war is a healthful employment? Samson achieved a good deal with the jawbone of an ass; but his case was exceptional. We should hardly be warranted in arguing from it, and in inferring from it that rifled guns are of no account. The men who succeed without the aid of education are the exceptions. Common men need all the help that

education can give, to put themselves on a level; and even of the exceptional men it may be said that they would have succeeded still better with the advantages of education.—*Er.*

Christian Education.—What duty can be more urgent than to pour all our educational processes full of moral principle and religious life, and especially to see to it that the higher education, which is to give law to the masses of men in all matters of scientific, philosophical, and theological opinion, shall never lose sight of Sinai or Calvary; that it shall be thoroughly Theistic, and consistently Christian? Man wants morality and religion—the true morality, the one perfect, final religion—not Confucius, Zoroaster, Socrates, nor Moses alone, but Jesus Christ. He is the "Desire of all nations." It is truer than ever that "all men seek him." Scientists, moralists, philosophers, reformers, statesmen, all men, consciously or unconsciously, are swelling the refrain, "We would see Jesus." The mind and heart of the world have been so enkindled by the search after truth that nothing but the highest truth can satisfy them.—*Bishop C. D. Foss.*

Education and Wealth.—Often a parent is unwilling to spend money on a child's education—preferring to keep it to "give him a start" in life. Often a young man is so eager to get into "business," that he cuts short his educational course. All this is exceedingly unwise. Education with but little wealth is worth far more than wealth with scanty education. Wealth is desired for the pleasures it can purchase. But a trained mind has gratifications greater than those which money can buy. The thoughtful mechanic can get more enjoyment out of the five cents which he pays for a newspaper, or the dollar he gives for a book, than his ignorant fellow-workman can obtain from double the amount invested in tobacco and beer. The extravagantly furnished table, and the expensive carriage and horses, will yield a man far less pleasure than that which may be derived from study and literary companionships—matters which cost comparatively little. The body is capable of but little pleasure as compared with what the mind can receive. The cultivation of the intellect opens the way to far greater personal enjoyment than does the acquisition of wealth.—*Examiner and Chronicle.*

It is noticed that the Christian Scientist who has been trying to keep cool all the summer, is now laying in his winter store of blankets like other folks, to keep out the cold, which we are given to understand is only a matter of imagination.—*Edward Leigh Pell.*