

YOUTH AND AGE.

YOUTH is strong, and age is weak; youth healthy, and age full of bodily infirmities. If the gross amount of health could be weighed and measured, yes, youth would undoubtedly have the best of it all round. But, taking patience and the power of bearing as modifying influences, there is something to be said of age even here. Age knows its lesson of suffering by heart, and bears cheerfully what it cannot avoid, and of which it foresees the end and extent; youth kicks against the pricks, and does itself increased damage by its impatience. To its inexperience every trivial ache is exaggerated into anguish—every passing indisposition, not lasting the twelve hours, into an illness of grave moment and never coming to an end. Age has a fit of the gout, and youth has a headache or a "growing pain;" but age suffers less, because it is patient and self-controlled, while youth becomes hysterical and frightened, and makes itself worse by its own self-pity and impatience. Stop grief. Age knows that man is born to sorrow as the sparks fly upward, and accepts its trials as it accepts wet days and gloomy seasons, but youth, strong in its instincts and with large vitality, believes in its own immunity from the general law, and, when it falls under the harrow of fate with the rest, gets additional scratches by its angry despair at being there at all. Age has learnt to take things quietly and in that quietness has robbed them of their sting; but youth, which accepts nothing patiently that it does not like, has to be chastized with scorpions till it has learnt to bear with resignation. Is it nothing to have learnt that lesson as well as the others? Life has none so difficult, and in proportion to the difficulty overcome is the relief of the achievement.

LITERATURE.

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