

in the grave. Sloth maketh all things difficult, but industry all easy; and he that riseth late must trot all day and shall scarcely overtake his business at night; while laziness travels so slow that poverty soon overtakes him.' Not to squander time has been one of the guiding principles of Sandford Fleming's life. It has made that life a full one in the broadest and best sense of the term.

And the boy in those far-off Kirkcaldy days was already taking the lesson to heart. Under the guidance of one of the best of teachers he was rapidly mastering the principles of his chosen profession. He had shown in school a strong taste for mathematics, and threw himself into the study of engineering with an energy that scorned obstacles. His days were passed in technical instruction in Mr. Sang's office, and in gaining practical experience in harbour and waterworks, as well as railway surveys, especially across Fifeshire from Edinburgh to Perth and through the Carse of Gowrie, from Perth to Dundee. Also he made prolonged examinations of the southern uplands in connexion with the new Edinburgh water-works. For recreation, he joined a local chess club called the 'Divan', and his diary for January 1845 records the progress of a tournament for the coveted rank of 'caliph', in which he won his way to the final stage and lost by a single game.

Up to his eighteenth year he had not seen much of the world beyond the heart of Scotland, embracing the group of counties extending from Perth and Dundee in the north to Lanark, Peebles, and Haddington in the south. He knew thoroughly, however, his own county, with its characteristic scenery, from the Ochil Hills to Loch Leven, the Lomonds to Largo Law and the East Neuk of Fife. He was familiar with the ruined palaces of Dunfermline and Falkland, and the manifold relics of other days between Queensferry and St. Andrews. Many a summer holiday had he fished the Leven waters, river and loch; had become familiar with the historical associations of Loch Leven castle perched on its rock in the middle of the lake, the ancient residence of Scottish kings and the prison-house of the ill-fated Queen