

nor day. You see I have had the book in my hand at all proper times, ever since my return from school, and yet I cannot repeat more than a few lines, perfectly.

*Father.* Never fear, but you will be able to accomplish it, if you set about it with a willing mind, and in a judicious manner.

*Boy.* Indeed I am very willing to oblige my master; his kindness to me deserves it: but I find it impossible to commit so many lines to memory. If you will tell me how I can do it, I will most readily follow your directions.

*Father.* I am happy to find you of this disposition. With pleasure I have observed your attention, and in due time should have assisted you, had you not of your own accord mentioned your difficulties.

*Boy.* Well, papa, how am I to overcome them?

*Father.* In one word, by perseverance, judiciously applied. You will recollect that when the letters of the alphabet were first pointed out to you, it was some time before you could distinguish them, and call them by their proper names. By degrees you mastered this. Next, when they were arranged in words, you found the same difficulty in reading; but by practice and my assistance, from short words you got on to long ones; and in due course you were able, instead of regarding it as a task you were to perform, to take up a book for the pleasure it gave you.

*Boy.* All this I remember, and I am indebted to you for taking so much pains to lead me on, step by step, till reading became one of the greatest delights I could enjoy. But is memory to be acquired by toil and perseverance?

*Father.* Most assuredly. Memory is extreme-