

## THE GOLDEN SIDE.

There is many a rest on the road of life,  
If we would only stop to take it;  
And many a tone from the better land,  
If the querulous heart would wake it,  
To the sunny soil that is full of hope,  
And whose beautiful trust ne'er faileth,  
The grass is green and the flowers are bright,  
Though the wintry storm prevaileth.  
Better to hope, though the clouds hang low,  
And to keep the eyes still lifted:  
For the sweet blue sky will soon peep through,  
When the ominous clouds are rifted;  
There was never a night without a day,  
Nor an evening without a morning;  
And the darkest hour, the proverb goes,  
Is the hour before the dawning.  
There is many a gem in the path of life,  
Which we pass in our idle pleasure,  
That is richer far than the jeweled crown,  
Or the miser's hoarded treasure;  
It may be the love of a little child,  
Or a mother's prayer to heaven,  
Or only a beggar's grateful thanks,  
For a cup of water given.  
Better to weave in the web of life  
A bright and golden filling,  
And to do God's will with a ready heart,  
And hands that are swift and willing,  
Than to snap the delicate silver threads  
Of curious lives asunder;  
And then blame heaven for the tangled ends  
And sit, and grieve, and wonder.

—Selected.

## WHAT KNOWLEDGE IS OF MOST WORTH?

This is the question with which we set out—What knowledge is of most worth?—the uniform reply is—Science. This is the verdict on all the counts. For direct self-preservation, or the maintenance of life and health, the all-important knowledge is—Science. For that indirect self-preservation which we call gaining a livelihood, the knowledge of greatest value is—Science. For the due discharge of parental functions, the proper guidance is to be found only in—Science. For the interpretation of national life, past and present, without which the citizen cannot rightly regulate his conduct, the indispensable key is—Science. Alike for the most perfect production and highest enjoyment of art in all its forms, the needful preparation is still—Science. And for purposes of discipline—intellectual, moral, religious—the most efficient study is, once more—Science. The question which at first seemed so perplexing, has become, in the course of our inquiry, comparatively simple. We have not to estimate the degrees of importance of different orders of human activity, and different studies as severally fitting us for them; since that the study of Science, in its most comprehensive meaning, is the best preparation for all these orders of activity. We have not to decide between the claims of knowledge of great though conventional value, and knowledge of less though intrinsic value; seeing that the knowledge which we find to be of most value in all other respects, is intrinsically most valuable: its worth is not dependent upon opinion, but is as fixed as is the relation of man to the surrounding world. Necessary and eternal as are the truths, all Science concerns all mankind for all time. Equally at present, and in the remotest future, must it be of incalculable

importance for the regulation of their conduct, that men should understand the science of life, physical, mental, and social; and that they should understand all other science as a key to the science of life.

And yet the knowledge which is of such transcendent value is that which, in our age of boasted education, receives the least attention. While this which we call civilization could never have arisen had it not been for science; science forms scarcely an appreciable element in what men consider civilized training. Though to the progress of science we owe it, that millions find support where once there was food only for thousands; yet of these millions but a few thousands pay any respect to that which has made their existence possible. Though this increasing knowledge of the properties and relations of things has not only enabled wandering tribes to grow into populous nations, but has given to the countless members of those populous nations comforts and pleasures which their few naked ancestors never even conceived or could have believed, yet is this kind of knowledge only now receiving a grudging recognition in our highest educational institutions. To the slowly growing acquaintance with the uniform co-existences and sequences of phenomena—to the establishment of invariable laws, we owe our emancipation from the grossest superstitions. But for science we should be still worshipping fetiches; or, with hecatombs of victims, propitiating diabolical deities. And yet this science, which, in place of the most degrading conceptions of things, has given us some insight into the grandeur of creation, is written against in our theologies and frowned upon from our pulpits.

Paraphrasing an Eastern fable, we may say that in the family of knowledges, Science is the household drudge, who, in obscurity, hides unrecognized perfections. To her has been committed all the work; by her skill, intelligence, and devotion, have all the conveniences and gratifications been obtained; and while ceaselessly occupied ministering to the rest, she has been kept in the background, that her haughty sisters might flaunt their fripperies in the eyes of the world. The parallel holds yet further. For we are fast coming to the *denouement*, when the positions will be changed; and while these haughty sisters sink into merited neglect, Science, proclaimed as highest alike in worth and beauty, will reign supreme.—*Spencer on Education.*

—War in Europe will advance the price of corn and wheat and breadstuffs generally, and depress cotton. Corn and Flour, in the Northern and Western markets, have advanced considerably within the past week. Farmers in this section of the world might take a hint while pitching their crops this Spring.

—From all directions we are please to learn that the Fruit crop is but slightly injured by the cold weather last week.

## HOW MANY RECITATIONS?

The old complaint of too much work, too many lessons and exercises, still comes from many a perplexed teacher, and especially from ungraded, or as they are often called, district schools. There is probably no more unsatisfactory work done by any person, than that performed by a teacher who is compelled to fritter away time and strength upon such a great number and variety of lessons and exercises, that nothing can be done deliberately nor well. The teaching power of a person, under such circumstances, is greatly lessened by the hurried state of mind in which everything must be done. As soon as a recitation is commenced, the mind is put in a state of uneasiness by the feeling that but a very brief period of time can be allowed for it; and even his best efforts to give his attention to the work in hand are nullified by fear that time will be "up" before the exercise can be finished. The result is, of course poor teaching, doled out in a hurry and little space; and the teacher goes home at night with aching head and jaded nerves, and begins to reflect seriously whether he has not been acting the part of a grand farce. We can sympathize with such teachers, for we know by experience what their feelings are. But we advise our readers, who may be in like predicament, to take our advice at once, and not wait to be convicted of a better course, by an unsatisfactory experience in the school-room. If teachers, you are having an unreasonably large number of classes, you have but one sensible course before you,—reduce the number at once. Have no more exercises than you can do justice to within the prescribed hours of your daily sessions.—*Selected.*

The experience of the human soul is something like this: As soon as it gains consciousness it finds itself assailed on all sides—by society, by the priests and pharisees, by the preachers of aesthetics, by the preachers of good morals, and of religion; it is assailed with cries of—"Go on! go up! progress! educate yourself! gain culture and refinement! cultivate your taste, your spirituality, your morals! keep the mind open and attentive! be studious of all worthy things! go to the root of the matter! be independent, be manly, be conscientious!" But when the human soul responds to these exhortations it is met on every hand by opposition. And whence comes this opposition? Yes. From the evil and selfishness of its own nature? Yes. But also this human soul finds to its astonishment that the very exhorters are arrayed against it. They hamper it, they cover it with contumely, they persecute, they crucify it.—*Selected.*

SASSAFRAS OIL.—A number of persons in Davidson county are manufacturing Sassafras oil. Oil has advanced in price, and if it continues to sell at present figures, it may be profitable to manufacture it.

## ABOUT ECHO FARM.

It is with joy and delight that I look upon the pictures of Echo Farm and its surroundings. It is like an oasis in the desert—not because there are no good farms near Linchfield, for some of the best farms in New England are in this county, but the world is no wiser for them; they pass from one generation to another, but only a small part of the world knows of them or their value. Not so with the proprietor of Echo Farm; he seems willing to let the world know what he is about.

Not long since a penny wise farmer came and asked me if I knew where he could lend a few hundred dollars in a safe place. I replied that I did not want it myself, but thought I could show him where it could be placed to his advantage, if he would step into my house. I took up the *Country Gentleman* and said to him: "This will tell you where you can put your money out for from 15 to 20 per cent. interest." His eyes began to brighten. I then showed him the sketch of Echo Farm. That he said was all very well—"I like the pictures, but what about the 20 per cent. interest?"

I asked him: "How many acres of land have you?"

"A little over a hundred."

"Do you use a mowing machine on your farm?"

"No my meadows are not smooth enough?"

I invited him to the door for and outlook, and said to him: "You see those smooth meadows, not a stone or stump in one of them. A very few years ago, those meadows were covered with rocks, stone and trees much worse than yours are. Do you see those long lines of stone wall surrounding the fields in every direction—1,000 rods of which you can see? All were built in one year: and in these three large barns you see, every creature I keep has neat and comfortable quarters. These barns pay 15 per cent; the mowing machine pays 15 per cent; the stone wall saves 20 per cent. in chasing unruly cattle."

The man replied: "If I should lay out my money so, I should never get it back again."

I said to him: "I never wish to get it back. I have only a few years longer to stay on earth, and then I can take it with me just as well as you can your money."

To return to Echo Farm, I have sat with my wife at Mr. Starr's table, loaded with farm luxuries, the product of his own hands. Mr. Starr is not only a liberal man, but a liberal Christian, and a preacher of righteousness, not only occasionally in the village churches, but to all he comes in contact with, by a well ordered life and conversation. He is a man of wealth and culture; plain and unassuming; rather tall, but well proportioned; of few words, but they all count.—*L. F. Scott, in Country Gentleman.*

A poor young man remarks, that the only advice he gets from capitalists is "live within your income," whereas the difficulty he experiences is to live without an income.

## CURIOSITIES OF NAMES.

Names are divided into different classes. First, are names that signify occupation, as Mr. Tanner, Gathercole, Gilder, Fisher, Hornblower, Hopper, Walker. Second, are these that signify color, as; Mr. Black, Brown, Green, White, Reman, Grey. Third, there are names that suggest quality as; Mr. Smart, Quick, Sharp, Bliss, True, Doolittle, Blunt, Divine. Fourth, there are names of persons indicating objects, such as, Mr. Gunn, Church, Wood, Barnes, Stone, Street, Branch, Brooks. Fifth, there are men named after animals though they generally add another letter, for instance, Mr. Lyon, Lamb, Bull, Kidd, Hogg, Fish, Ball. Sixth, there are names indicating regard, as Mr. Dear, Darling, Love, Sweet. Seventh, among other names are those derived from proper nouns, as, Mr. Irish, English, German, Scott, French, Normandy. Eighth, there are men named after parts of the human body, for example, Mr. Legg, Head, Temple, Hand, Foot, Arms. Ninth, there are names also suggesting ability, like, Mr. Buswell, Treadwell, Stepwell, Shotwell, Goodspeed, Twogood. Tenth, there are names derived from descent, thus; Mr. Peterson, Johnston, Jackson, Wilson, Jameson, Dickson, Thompson, Robinson.—Eleventh, we have names, too, that describe men by their statue, such as, Mr. Long, Short, Little, Tallman, Longfellow, Longman.

## BIRD-HOUSES THAT ANY BOY CAN MAKE.

We are glad that a number of young people write us about bird-houses, not only because it shows a love for birds and a wish to have them about the house, but because they are at the same time doing good to themselves and their neighbors, by increasing the number of insect-eaters. It is a mistake to have the bird-houses too showy and too much exposed. Lost birds naturally choose a retired place for their nest, and slip into it quietly, so that no enemy can find out where they live. All that is needed in a bird-house is, a hiding place, with an opening just large enough for the bird, and a water-tight roof, and there are so many ways in which these may be provided, that any boy can contrive to make all the bird-houses that may be needed. A correspondent once wrote us that he had seen an old hat, with a hole for a door, tacked by the rim against a shed, and occupied by the birds sooner than a showy bird-house. Several years ago a friend told us that an old tin oil-feeder (such as is used in filling lamps,) which had been hung upon a fence picket, had been occupied by birds, who reared a brood in it. European sparrows and martins do not seem to care how much they are exposed, or how many neighbors they have, hence large bird-houses upon poles, with several tenements in them, will answer for these, while others prefer a more retired place. Gourd shells, fruit cans, and boxes of various kinds, may be securely fastened in the trees and at other places near the house, where they will soon be found by the birds. The neat little legs in which oysters are sent to inland cities, are capital ready made bird-houses needing only to be washed out, and placed so that the opening in one head will answer for the door.—*Agricultural Journal.*