

off having brains. When Paul, the new boy, came to the school he was frightened the first night he tried to sleep in the room with the other boys because they talked Greek and Latin in their sleep. Paul thought they were swearing. This system of training robbed the boy and the girl of their childhood and did not give them the preparation necessary for a vocation in life.

Today the pendulum has swung over to the other extreme. The numerous trades schools, manual training schools, technical schools, and vocational and professional schools fit the boy and the girl for any calling they choose to follow.

Goethe said that wisdom does not necessarily come with age, and in certain matters a man is as likely to perceive rightly at 20 as at 60. In these modern times a preference is given to youth and freshness in every calling. Many responsible positions are filled by men under 30 years of age, and with many the period of achievement comes early in life. Alexander overthrew Darius at 22; Gaston DeFoix was only 22 when he stood a victor at Ravenna; Cortez invaded Mexico at the age of 30; at 21 Nelson was a post-captain; Pascal was the author of a book at 16; when he saw the apple fall Sir Isaac Newton was not yet 20; at 18 Harvey discovered the circulation of the blood; Dickens wrote "Pickwick" at 21; Burns and Byron both died early; Holman Hunt painted "The Light of the World" at 25; at 19 Sir Arthur Sullivan was well known as a composer and Alexander McFarren produced his first symphony at 21 years old; Milton was a writer of note at 27; Commodore Perry won his great victory on Lake Erie at 27 and sent his famous message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours;" at 26 Napoleon war made commander of the army of Italy, married Josephine and started on the road to the conquest of Europe; Bryant wrote "Thanatopsis" when 19 years old. Many of our statesman were men of some note before they were 30—such men as Jefferson, Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, Charles Sumner, Stephen A. Douglas, Chief Justice Marshall, Alexander Hamilton and John Randolph.

Do not hesitate because of seeming difficulties that obstruct the way. Education and training in youth are essential to success. Many years ago there lived a little colored boy whose father died when he was six years old. He was a slave and slept on a dirt floor in a hovel. In cold weather he would crawl into a meal bag head foremost and leave his feet in the ashes to keep them warm. When hungry he would often roast an ear of corn and eat it, or crawl under the barn for eggs which he would roast. There was no school for him to attend, but he learned to read and spell from an old Webster's spelling book with the help of older companions, and from posters on bill boards and old buildings. He became a preacher and public speaker, and later in life