

Usefulness of Vacation

By Eighth Grade Pupil

Although vacation is something most of us are all glad to have, we should not let it bother our minds all winter, as winter schooling is more important than vacation, for it is as the saying: "is laying up future dollars."

My idea of vacation is that the warmest two months of every year should be set aside for vacation. In some states where boys and girls can get steady work like hop picking, gathering fruit, or something of that sort it is better to choose that time for vacation.

As soon as commencement is over we should try to find work of some kind and keep busy for we will be in school next winter and there will be enjoyments which we should be ready. The best way to do this is to depend on ourselves, work hard and steady where we are sure to get the same position the next year if not a better one for the same man.

It seems better to have vacation in the summer time on account of the weather being too hot to study well, but still we should read the news and while at work if we have much time and should see a good chance to work practical problem we should try it, school is not the only place.

When we are in a large boarding school we can't all go out the first day neither can we expect to stay all summer for there are other who would like to go out also.

In our western states where we raise hops we should pick hops and after hop picking is over return to school and rest up a little for our hard winter's work. Some think they should be like grasshoppers in vacation, but if we are we will be like them in the winter.

A Building That Forever Stands

The house built on a sand falls when the mighty storm beats upon it. The house built on the rock will withstand storm after storm, but it, too must at last yield to the destructive hand of time. Yet we may build a building that can defy storms and tempests and may even laugh at the power of time. This building is character.

Emerson says: "Character is more than intellect. A great soul will be strong to live as well as to think. Goodness outshines genius as the sun makes the electric light cast a shadow."

Wealth is not character, but is, on the other hand, very often the cause of a ruined one. Learning is not character. Largeness of mind, love of truth and honesty, delicacy of manner, tact and energy, may all be lacking in a person who is well educated. Reputation is not character. You may be held in very high esteem, by the world, still your character be worthless.

Character, therefore, is not what a man has in the way of wealth, learning or fame. It is what the man really is. In other words, it is the image which he cuts upon our life.

Now, there are some things which are essential to the building of genuine character. One of these is industry. Idleness is the author of all mischief. In the race of life, industry always wins.

Another element in the building of character is cheerfulness. It is a fine art to be able to get comfort and sweetness out of all circumstance, and he who has formed the habit of looking at the bright, happy side of things has a great advantage over the person who is always finding the dark side.

Purity and truth are still other elements in this building of character. Everything that corrupts the heart should be avoided. Pure thoughts refine the countenance, and there is nothing which the world admires so much as truth, for it at once shows the strength of character in which all are willing to confide.—Ex.