

### No Opportunities But Present Ones.

An old man sat weeping over what he might have been and was not, and what he might have done and did not. A young man lay on his bed dreaming of the future, and he dreamed such great things, as he thought of what he would some day be and some day do, that the tears filled his eyes and he wept himself. Vain tears! The old man's chance was gone: the young's never came. For practical life there is no future and there is no past.

Surely there are no such things as past and future opportunities. Opportunity is purely a present term. We cannot go back one second in time. We cannot go forward one second. All the time there is the one instant that flashes across one's will and is gone. All the real opportunities lie in that instant.

In that instant they are always lying, while the old man cried over the unchangeable past, and the young man over the future that would never be, the golden opportunities that were slipped by. The old man might have redeemed his life and begun anew. The young man might then have been in his real character the great dream that he dreamed. Each had in the living time the only real opportunity, and might have in that time been what he was not.

We should live better if we would give our attention to living. Don't repine over past unkindness. Be kind now. Let us embrace our present opportunities. There are no others.—Ex.

Have you ever noticed how much you can learn if you keep your mouth shut and your eyes open? When Solomon spoke the proverb in regard to a fool being counted wise when he holds his

peace, he spoke a great truth, and yet, in itself it is a contradiction, for a man who keeps his mouth shut is a wise man, not a fool, for a fool does not do this.

Whenever you feel like talking, then is the time to refrain. A great many men have regretted refraining from speech. If there is anything you particularly feel like telling, don't tell it, or put off the telling of it till next day; by that time you will see the uselessness of it. If you talk all the time you will have no time to think, and it is the thinkers who gain their end in this world. If you hear someone talking and you know about the subject, say nothing, but look wise, and it's two to one that he will have the impression that you know as much about it or more than he does. Never display your knowledge, for either the ones who hear or see you will know more about the subject than you do, and the things that seem hard for you will be easy for them; they will hold you in contempt; or they will know nothing about it and will praise you to your own undoing, for "pride goeth before a fall."

A man who can control his tongue and is a willing listener is welcome everywhere.—Ex.

### A Cheerful Smile

When it drizzles and drizzles,

If we cheerfully smile,

We can make the weather,

By working together,

As fair as we choose in a little while,

For who will notice that the clouds are  
drear

If pleasant faces are always near,

And who will remember that skies are  
gray

It he carries a happy heart all day?

—Ex.