

LOOK TO THE FUTURE.

And Do Not Let the Past Spoil the Days That Are to Come.

There is nothing more depressing than dwelling upon lost opportunities or a mispent life. Whatever your past has been, forget it. If it throws a shadow upon the present or causes melancholy or despondency, there is nothing in it which helps you, there is not a single reason why you should retain it in your memory, and there are a thousand reasons why you should bury it.

The future's your uncut block of marble. Beware how you smite it. Don't touch it without a programme. Don't strike a blow with your chisel without a model, lest you ruin and mar forever the angel which lives within the block. But the past marble, which you have carved into hideous images which have warped and twisted the ideals of your youth and caused you infinite pain, need not ruin or mar the uncut block before you. This is one of the merciful provisions that every day present to every human being, no matter how unfortunate his past, a new uncut block of pure marble, so that every day every human being has a new chance to retrieve the past, to improve upon it if he will.

Nothing is more foolish, more positively wicked, than to drag the skeletons of the past, the hideous images, the foolish deeds, the unfortunate experiences of the past into today's work to mar and spoil it. There are plenty of people who have been failures up to the present moment who could do wonders in the future if they could only forget the past and start anew.—Success.

A SOCIABLE COMPANION.

The Chatty Traveler Who Charmed
Ralph Waldo Emerson.

It is related that Ralph Waldo Emerson was once on his way to California when he was joined by a man who was altogether so sociable and chatty that an otherwise tedious journey was rendered quite cheerful. This man's name was Sackett, and he told Mr. Emerson that he resided in San Francisco. Mr. Sackett indicated all the points of interest along the way, related a lot of amusing anecdotes and, best of all, was also an attentive listener. The consequence was that Mr. Emerson came to the conclusion that Mr. Sackett was as charming a man as he had ever met, and it was in this positive conviction that he accepted Mr. Sackett's invitation to dine with him immediately upon their arrival in San Francisco. The next morning Mr. Emerson was astonished and annoyed to find in all the local papers this startling personal notice: "Professor

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the eminent philosopher, scholar and poet, is in our city as the guest of J. Sackett, the well known proprietor of the Bush Street Dime museum. Matinees every half hour. Admission only 10 cents. The double headed calf and the dog faced boy this week!"

Helping an Invalid.

A trained nurse mentions as among the little things that help make an invalid feel comfortable and rested the frequent brushing of the hair and bathing of the hands and face. "I don't know what it is, whether these actions just divert the invalid's mind or really do effect some physical change for the better, but they certainly help the sick one to get through the day. Eau de Cologne and the various toilet waters are very refreshing when added to the water or used independently. I once heard a man say that if he couldn't both wash his hands and face and comb his hair in the morning when he got up he would choose to comb his hair. It would wake him up better. He felt something of the same sense of physical comfort as the average convalescent or invalid."

COFFIN WOOD MINES.

The Chinaman Digs For Wood Prized For Burial Caskets.

There exists no object which the average Chinaman exhibits more regard for than the narrow box which is destined to contain all that is mortal of him. He is never happy until it is in his possession. It occupies a conspicuous position in his house, and the richer he is the more he expends on its acquisition and adornment.

The coffins most esteemed by the Celestials are manufactured from a peculiar resinous wood, possessing quite extraordinary preservative properties and found only in one small district in Tonquin, buried in the earth, no living specimens of the tree now being in existence.

The natives search for it quite as eagerly as elsewhere gold and precious stones are run after, and, indeed, the deposits, for such they are, are to all intents and purposes mines of wood, the origin of which has never been satisfactorily explained.

Local legends have it that in a far distant past vast numbers of these trees existed in the dense forests with which the whole region was covered and that as a result of some tremendous cataclysm they were uprooted and precipitated into the ravines. Whether this account is true or not, the buried trees are today a source of quite considerable wealth to the lucky person who finds them. For a coffin made of this special wood a Chinaman does not consider £50 or £60 at all too high a price to pay.—Grand Magazine.

R. M. RICHARDSON

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