

## Literature, &amp;c.

THE AMERICAN MAGAZINES  
FOR OCTOBER.From the Indicator.  
COUNSELS TO THE YOUNG.

BY HORACE GREELEY.

THREE millions of Youth, between the ages of six and of twenty one, are now rapidly coming forward to take rank as the future husbands and fathers legislators and divines, instructors and governors, politicians and voters, capitalists and laborers, artisans and the cultivators of the vast country, whose destinies are even yet so faintly imagined, much less developed. Not one is so humble that he will not certainly exert an influence—it may be an immense and imperishable influence, on the happiness and elevation of his country and his race. The humblest cottage maiden, now toiling thankfully as the household servant of some proud family by whom she is regarded as nobody, may yet be the mother of a future President—or, nobler still, of some unassuming but God directed man, who as a teacher of righteousness, an ameliorator of human suffering, a successful reprobator of wrong, sensuality or selfishness, may leave his impress on the annals of the world as a lover and servitor of his race. Nearly all our now eminent men, politically—Jackson, Clay, Van Buren, etc., were not merely of poor and humble parentage, but left orphans in early life, and thus deprived of the support and counsel which seems most eminently necessary to success in the world's rugged ways.

In the higher walks of genuine usefulness, the proportion of those enjoying no advantages of family influence, or hereditary wealth, who attain the loftiest eminence is very great. Call to mind the first twenty names that occur to you of men distinguished for ability, energy, philanthropy, or lofty achievement, and generally three fourths of them will be those of men born in obscurity and dependence.

All Literature is full of anecdotes illustrative of these encouraging truths; a single fact now occurs to me which I have never seen recorded; I have often worshipped in a Baptist meeting-house in Vermont, whereon at its construction some thirty years since a studious and exemplary young man was for some time employed as a carpenter, who afterward qualified himself and entered upon the responsibilities of the Christian Ministry. That young man was Jared Sparks, since Editor of the North American Review, of Washington's voluminous Writings, &c., and now recognized as one of the foremost scholars, historians and critics in America.

I propose here to set forth a few important maxims for the guidance and encouragement of those youth who will hearken to me—maxims based on my own immature experience and observation, but which have doubtless in substance been propounded and enforced by older and wiser men long ago and often. Still as they do not yet appear to have exerted their full and proper effect on the ripening intellect of the country—as thousands on thousands are toilsomely, painfully struggling onward in the race for position and knowledge in palpable defiance of their scope and spirit—I will hope that their presentation at this time cannot be without some effect on at least a few expanding minds. They are as follows:—

I. Avoid the common error of esteeming a college education necessary to usefulness or eminence in life. Such an education may be desirable and beneficial—to many it doubtless is so. But Greek and Latin are not real knowledge; they are only means of acquiring such knowledge; there have been great and wise, and surpassingly useful men, who knew no language but their mother tongue. Beside, in our day the treasures of ancient and foreign literature are brought home to every man's door by translations, which embody the substance if they do not exhibit all the beauties of the originals. If your circumstances in life enable you to enjoy all the advantages of a college education do not neglect them—above all, do not misimprove them. But if your lot be different, waste no time in idle repining, in humiliating beggary. The stern, self respecting independence of your own soul is worth whole shelves of classics. All men cannot and need not be college-bred—not even those who are born to instruct and improve their kind. You can never be justly deemed ignorant, nor your acquirements contemptible, if you embrace and fully improve

the opportunities which are fairly offered you.

II. Avoid likewise the kindred and equally pernicious error that you must have a profession—must be a Clergyman, Lawyer, Doctor, or something of the sort, in order to be influential, useful, respected—or to state the case in its best aspect, that you may lead an intellectual life. Nothing of the kind is necessary—very far from it. If your tendencies are intellectual—if you love Knowledge, Wisdom, Virtue for themselves—you will grow in them, whether you earn your bread by a profession, a trade, or by tilling the ground. Nay, it may be doubted whether the Farmer or Mechanic who devotes his leisure hours to intellectual pursuits from a pure love of them has not some advantages therein over the professional man.

He comes to his book at evening with his head clear and his mental appetite sharpened; while the lawyer, who has been running over dry books for precedents, the doctor, who has been racking his wits for a remedy adapted to some new modification of disease, or the divine who, immured in his closet, has been busy preparing his next sermon, may well approach the evening volume with faculties jaded and pallid. There are few men, and perhaps fewer women, who do not spend uselessly in sleep, or play, or frivolous employments, more time than would be required to render them at thirty, well versed in Historical, Philosophic, Ethical, as well as Physical Sciences, &c.

III. Neither is an advantageous location essential to the prosecution of ennobling studies, or to an intellectual life. On this point misapprehension is very prevalent and very pernicious. A youth born in some rural or but thinly settled district, where books are few and unfit and the means of intellectual culture apparently scanty, feels within him the stirrings of a spirit of inquiry, a craving to acquire and to know—aspirations for an intellectual condition above the dead level around him. At once he jumps to the conclusion that a change of place is necessary to the satisfaction of his desires—that he must resort, if not to the university or the seminary, at least to the City or the Village. He fancies he must alter his whole manner of life—that a persistence in manual labor is unsuited to, if not absolutely inconsistent with the aspirations awakened within him—that he must become, if not an author, a professor, a lawyer, at least a merchant or follower of some calling unlike that of his fathers.

Wrapped in this delusion, he takes himself to the City's dusty ways, where sooner or later the nature and extent of his mistakes breaks upon him. If he finds satisfactory employment and is prospered in the way of life which he prefers, the cares and demands of business almost constrain him to relinquish those pursuits for which he abandoned his more quiet and natural life. If he is less fortunate, anxieties for the morrow, a constant and difficult struggle for the means of creditable subsistence, and to avoid becoming a burthen or a detriment to others who have trusted or endeavored to sustain him, these crowd out of being the thought or the hope of mental culture and advancement. Nay, more, and worse—in the tumultuous strife of business and money getting, whether successful or otherwise, the very desire of intellectual elevation is too often stifled or greatly enfeebled, and that death of the soul ensues in which satisfaction of the physical appetites becomes the aim of life—the man is sunk in the capitalist, or trader, and the gathering of shining dust made the great end of his being.

IV. But what shall the youth do who finds his means, of intellectual culture inadequate to his wants? I hesitate not to say that he should create more and better just where he is. Not that I would have him reject any real opportunity or proffer of increased facilities which may open before him. I will not say that he should not accept a university education, the means of studying for a profession, if such should come fairly in his way and be seconded by his own inclination. But I do insist that nothing of this sort is ESSENTIAL to the great end he has or should have in view—namely, Self-Culture. To this end it is only needful that he should put forth fully the powers within him and rightly mould the circumstances by which he is surrounded. Are the books within reach few and faulty? Let him purchase a few of the very best, and study them intently and thoroughly. He who is truly acquainted with the writings of a very few of the world's masterspirits can never

after be deemed ignorant or undeveloped. To know intimately the Bible and Shakspeare, with the elements of History and the Physical Sciences, is to have imbibed the substance of all human knowledge. That knowledge may be presented in a thousand varied, graceful and attractive forms, and the variations may be highly agreeable and useful—nay, they are so. But, though they may improve, refine and fertilize, (so to speak,) they do not MAKE the MAN. If he has the elements within him, no future hour of solitude can be lonely, or tiresome, or profitless. The mild moon and the calm high stars are companionship and instruction, eloquent, of deep significance, and more impressive than the profoundest volumes.

But grant that greater or more varied means of culture than the individual's narrow facilities can supply are desirable, has he not still modes of procuring them? Is he a solitary, and our goodly land his Isle of Juan Fernandez? Are there not others all around him, if not already of kindred tastes and aspirations, at least in whom kindred aspirations may be awakened? May he not gather around him in the rudest township or vicinage some dozen or more of young men in whom the celestial spark, if not already glowing, may be kindled to warmth and radiance? And by the union of these, may not all their mutual mental wants be abundantly supplied?

And herein is found one of the pervading advantages of the course I would commend. The awakened youth who has withdrawn to the seminary or the city may have secured his own advancement; but he who has remained constant to his childhood's home, its duties and associates, will probably have attracted others to enter with him on the true pathway of life. The good thus accomplished, Time may not measure. Doubtless many a Village Lyceum, many a Township Library, owes its existence to the impulse given by some poor humble youth inspired by the love of Knowledge and of Wisdom.

V. The great central truth which I would impress on the minds of my readers is this—promising a genuine energy and singleness of purpose—the circumstances are nothing, the Man is all. We may be the slaves or toys of circumstance if we will; most men perhaps are so; and to these all circumstances are alike evil—that is, rendered so, if not by rugged Difficulty, then by soft Temptation. But that man who truly ruleth his own spirit,—and such there is, even among us—readily defies all material influences or bends them to his will. Be hopeful, be confident, then, O friend! if thou hast achieved this great conquest, and believe that all else shall follow in due season.

From the New York Youth's Gazette.  
CHARACTER AND HABITS OF  
WASHINGTON.

The following are recollections of Washington, derived from repeated opportunities during the three last years of his public life. He was over six feet in stature, of strong, bony, muscular frame, without fulness of covering, well formed and straight. He was a man of extraordinary physical strength. In his house his action was calm, deliberate, and dignified, without pretension to gracefulness or peculiar manner, but merely natural, and such as one would think it should be in such a man. When walking in the street, his movements had not the soldierly air which might be expected. His habitual motions had been formed long before he took command of the American armies, in the wars of the interior, and surveying wilderness lands, employments in which grace and elegance were not likely to be acquired.

At the age of sixty five, time had done nothing toward bending him out of his natural erectness. His deportment was invariably grave, it was sobriety that stopped short of sadness. His presence inspired a veneration and feeling of awe rarely experienced in presence of any man. His mode of speaking was slow and deliberate, not as though he was in search of fine words, but that he might utter those only adapted to his purpose. It was the usage of all persons in good society to attend Mrs. Washington's levees every Friday evening. He was always present. The young ladies used to throng around him in conversation. There were some of the well remembered belles of the day who imagined themselves to be favorites with him. As these were the only opportunities they had of conversing with him, they were disposed to use them. One would think that a gentleman and gallant soldier, if he could ever laugh, or dress his countenance in

smiles, would do so when surrounded by young and admiring beauties. But this was never so; the countenance of Washington never softened or changed its habitual gravity.

One who had lived always in his family said that his manner in public life, and in the seclusion of most retired life, was always the same. Being asked whether Washington could laugh, this person said that this was a rare occurrence, but that one instance was remembered, when he laughed most heartily at her narration of an accident in which she was a party concerned; and in which he applauded her agency. The late General Cobb, who was long a member of his family during the war, and who enjoyed a laugh as much as any man could, said that he never saw Washington laugh, excepting when Colonel Scammel—if this was the person, came to dine at head quarters. Scammel had a fund of ludicrous anecdotes, and a manner of telling them which relaxed even the gravity of the commander in chief.

General Cobb also said, that the forms of proceedings at head quarters were exact and precise, orderly and punctual. At the appointed moment Washington appeared at the breakfast table. He expected to find all the members of his family—Cobb, Hamilton, and Humphreys were among them—awaiting him. He came dressed for the day, and brought with him the letters and despatches of the preceding day, with a short memorandum of the answers to be made, also the substance of orders to be issued. When breakfast was over, these were distributed among his aids, to be put into form.

Soon after he mounted his horse to visit his troops, and expected to find on his return before noon, all the papers prepared for his inspection and signature. There was no familiarity in his presence, it was all sobriety and business. His mode of life was abstemious and temperate. He had a decided preference for certain sorts of food, probably from early associations. Throughout the war, as it was understood in his military family, he gave a part of every day to private prayer and devotion.

While he lived in Philadelphia, as President, he rose at four in the morning and the general rule in his house was that the fires should be covered and the lights extinguished at a certain hour, whether this was nine or ten is not recollected.

He devoted one hour every other Tuesday, from three to four, to public visits. He understood himself to be visited as the President of the United States, and not on his own account. He was not to be seen by anybody and everybody; but required that every one who came should be introduced by his secretary, or by some gentleman whom he knew himself. He lived on the south side of Market street, just below Sixth. The place of reception was the dining room of twenty five or thirty feet in length, including the bow projecting into the garden. Mrs. Washington received her visitors in the two rooms on the second floor, from front to rear. At three o'clock, or at any time within a quarter of an hour afterward, the visitor was conducted to his dining-room, from which all seats had been removed for the time. On entering, he saw the tall manly figure of Washington, clad in black velvet his hair in full dress powdered and gathered behind in a large silk bag, yellow gloves on his hands, holding a casket hat with a cockade, in it, and the edge adorned with a black feather about an inch wide. He wore knee and shoe buckles, and a long sword, with a finely wrought and polished steel hilt, which appeared at the left hip, the coat worn over the blade, and appearing from under the folds behind. The scabbard was white polished leather.

## LIGHT.

LIGHT has a great effect upon the health and appearance of animals as well as plants. This is very apparent in the poor creatures who toil in our coal mines, and the squalor and dwarfishness to be seen in the narrow courts of the metropolis, may be traced as much to the absence of light as to the imperfect ventilation of the place, and the insufficiency of food. The animals found in the polar regions are almost destitute of colour, being of a dingy whiteness, but the reverse obtains among the inhabitants of the tropic. There the birds have a plumage rich and varied in color; indeed, the animal and vegetable productions of those countries where light and heat are most abundant, are more numerous, precocious, and extensive in their dimensions. We must not omit to mention the different effects of light upon the different colors, of the living and the dead plant. That very agency which gave to the leaf or