

MOTTO: "For God, and Home, and
Native Land."



Thrift Teaching
in the Home.



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Thrift Teaching in the Home.

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Thrift means more than just the accumulation of wealth. There may be everything in the house that money can buy, but no real home. It takes different qualities to make a thrifty home. There must be a keen sense of the difference between right and wrong, and a great deal of independence. A child must be taught while young that it is wicked to buy what cannot be paid for, and that a thing which has not been paid for is not really his own; and because a playmate has a certain toy or garment is no reason he should have one like it. A child who has learned at the age of fifteen to appreciate what he has, and formed habits of thrift, has a better capital with which to begin his career in life than one who has inherited thousands of dollars, and does not possess these qualities.

One needs to learn independence and that ridicule is of no real consequence. A noted reformer has said that the sneer "Oh, you think you are too good to take a social glass" has probably made more drunkards than any other one thing. Boys should be taught that it is no disgrace to be called the "goody-goody" kind.

Another essential in a truly thrifty home is the family altar. One has more strength to take up the work, cares and anxieties which must come through the day, if he has given it all to the care of Him who is willing to carry the burdens for us. I heard a man say that if anything happened in the morning to prevent family worship that everything seemed to go wrong through the day. Godliness is profitable.

Each member of the family should have some part in making the home thrifty. It seems a mistake to hire a child to do some little task to help in the family. They are partners, and at an early age should feel an interest in their home. "It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth." Some parents in their great love for their children, try to save them from all hardships of life, and do not realize until too late,

that it is a mistaken love; for it weakens them for the obstacles they must of necessity meet in life, if they really accomplish anything.

Thrift requires patience. One needs to learn to submit without murmuring to the unavoidable trials of life, and not be discouraged over the little unexpected annoying things that are sure to happen. What a lesson we have when we remember the patience and faith of Garrison during those dark years before the Civil War. When he published his little paper, the "Liberator", it was said that at times, for lack of money, he lived entirely on rice. After his office was destroyed by his enemies he carried his type from place to place, and set up his paper wherever he could. Yet that little paper was called the father of the Emancipation Proclamation, issued by Abraham Lincoln. No one realizes what our country owes to good, patient, common place fathers and mothers.

There can be no thrift without self-sacrifice. The wife of the man whose time, influence and money did the most toward building the first church in this town, wore the same silk bonnet fourteen years without any retrimming, or change of any kind. That was a happy day

when the church was dedicated. They looked into the future and knew how essential it was in a rapidly growing town to have some place for meetings of all kinds that were for the benefit of the place. It was even used for town meetings. If there had been twenty-eight new bonnets bought in the fourteen years it would have made quite a little difference in the amount they could have invested in the church, and there could have been no interest accumulating on it. Probably there is more lack of economy in the way of dress in America, than anywhere else. There needs to be careful thought to dress well economically. Two nicely dressed teachers in Massachusetts were conversing on the subject. One said she could not dress on less than three hundred a year. The other exclaimed in astonishment "Why I have never used more than ninety dollars a year since I have been teaching". The first one expressed her great astonishment, adding "How can that be possible as you dress fully as well as I do?" The reply was "I never buy a garment until I know what fashion is to be generally adopted, and then buy a good article that I know I will not tire of." One teacher was saving two hundred and

ten dollars more each year than the other and dressing equally as well. There is pleasure in using economy in dressing. A mother who has never taken a little girl's faded, soiled school dress, washed, turned, ironed and made it some different way from what it was before, and heard the child exclaim when it was done, "Oh, Mamma it is prettier than before" has missed a real pleasure in life.

Bishop Potter says the wives and mothers of our day are inferior to the grandmothers. Perhaps his opinion has been largely formed from his observation of the wealthy, though there is no doubt that the example of thrift teaching in the homes of the present day is greatly needed. But there are many homes scattered over our country where frugal Christian fathers and mothers are giving their lives to bring up children who will make good citizens after their parents have entered into that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

There is nothing lost, but a great deal gained by hospitality in the home. Entertaining cultivated people who have traveled is a means of education.

Thrift and penuriousness can never go together. How many are mourning over the loss of health and pleasure they

gave up to pay for the farm, or some other thing, sooner than they ought. We need to keep in mind that there is a withholding that tends to poverty.

The old saying that "a penny saved is a penny earned" should be taught more than it is. While one is saving the penny he is forming habits of thrift. A mother in a home cannot easily earn money, but there is no limit to her ways of saving. To be thrifty one must "take care of the minutes, the hours will take care of themselves." Now that books are so plentiful and cheap, one has to consider what not to read or they will be sure to misuse their time. It is a temptation to hurry through a number of books instead of reading one book intelligently and learning the real lesson that it teaches.

The thrifty home must be cheerful and happy. There should be no lack of recreation. That should be taken in the true sense of the word, recreation, something that will build up, give strength as well as pleasure. Change of work will often give as much rest and recreation as something that would be considered pleasure, and children enjoy and find recreation in instructive games as well as in those that are a waste of time.

In the thrifty home the word duty should be spelled with a capital D. Some of the best work ever done has been with set teeth from a firm sense of duty. Scott's novels were written not for the love of writing, but to earn money to pay debts that some one else ought to have paid. Where will we find better novels?

Louisa Alcott said she wrote her funniest story with her head bandaged and one foot terribly swollen with rheumatism, to pay the expenses of her family. Some people will say if you cannot do from love, don't do at all. If one can do from love it is better, but it is a duty to be frugal, and if one cannot be from any higher motive they should be from a sense of duty, and then as Philips Brooks says "forget the burden and bear away the song."