

Being told I would be expected to talk here, I inquired what sort of talk I ought to make. That of course, is putting it rather stronger than necessary; still while I cannot go quite so far as that, I do maintain, and I believe I am right, that the young ought to be temperate in the use of this great art until practice and experience shall give them that confidence, elegance, and precision which alone can make the accomplishment graceful and profitable...Patience, diligence, painstaking attention to detail--these are requirements; these in time, will make the student perfect; upon these only, may he rely as the sure foundation for future eminence. I have a few things in my mind which I have often longed to say for the instruction of the young; for it is in one's tender early years that such things will best take root and be most enduring and most valuable. If a person offend you, and you are in doubt as to whether it was intentional or not, do not resort to extreme measures; simply watch your chance and hit him with a brick. Many a young person has injured himself permanently through a single clumsy and ill finished lie, the result of carelessness born of incomplete training. They said it should be something suitable to youth--something didactic, instructive, or something in the nature of good advice. I will say to you my young friends--and I say it beseechingly, urgingly-- Always obey your parents, when they are present. Most parents think they know better than you do, and you can generally make more by humoring that superstition than you can by acting on your own better judgment. Be respectful to your superiors, if you have any, also to strangers, and sometimes to others. Leave dynamite to the low and unrefined. That will be sufficient. But a lark is really the best thing to get up with. Very well. First, then.