

Its Use and Abuse.

It was Brudette that said "An ounce of taffy is worth a pound of epitaphy." There is one thing we can all do but which we all keep stored away as if we were saving it for some great emergency, as if we were afraid in any way to make use of it, and this is our ability to praise.

Why is it that we are not willing to give praise where praise is due? Surely we are always ready and willing to find faults and deficiencies, how much better it would be if we were only half so willing to praise what is good and noble in those about us. When one has accomplished some end has been successful in some undertaking, worked hard and faithfully for some honor that has been obtained it is nothing more than right that he should be praised for his perseverance in these new energies. It makes one a great deal happier gives him higher ambitions, a determination to do still better the next

time, with the thought never to return again to the old standard.

What has been done may be very little but if it deserves praise and praise is given there will be lighter hopes for the future. How often have we found this true in our daily life.

Perhaps we are called upon to do something that we have never done before to fill some position that is strange and new to us and when it is all over we have some one say "Well done" makes us happier for days. We are encouraged and strengthened in our efforts while on the other hand if we were censured and blamed there would be no chance for growth.

We all have a wish for praise and naturally depend upon it more or less. The praise that does the most good is that which is given as if it were meant, given in such a way that we know that our efforts have been appreciated. That which comes when least expected is what we desire. The half hearted praise that is given as if it were

necessary, all form, a civil duty we care nothing about. We often hear the expression "I hade Last" but these are mere compliments soon forgotten have little effect compared with good honest hearty praise.

There is nothing wrong in having this love of praise it is really our duty to live in such a manner that we may obtain the good opinion of others. There are some people having no faith in themselves really need the encouragement of others. Their fear of failing in some attempt will almost make their failure sure. Praise is what they expect and if they do not get it they become disheartened and discouraged. One of the poets Keats is said to have died from lack of praise. His works were not appreciated while he was living all praise being withheld until after his death. Since that time his works have become quite popular enjoyed by many. We dare not think of what height he might have attained if he had but heard what of late

years has been said of his productions. On the other hand there are those that praise has lifted to positions they had little thought of obtaining. Even the words "he speaks well" I gave one young man an incentive to accomplish some purpose, and in the end he was made Chief Justice of the U.S., Minister to France and afterwards United States Senator. He has always claimed that those words were the starting point of his doing better.

I have once said that we live by admiration, hope and joy. Possibly if admiration was given more freely there would be in some cases more to admire.

We need not wait till death comes then let us our praises bid is it not far better to give our words of cheer and commendation while our friends and associates are living. Then we may in some way help them their lives may be brightened by a few words that will cost us but little effort and surely it will do them more good than

all the pleasant things we may say after their death.

There is nothing wrong in doing the only thing we fear for the dead, speaking kindly of those that have been taken from us for - "Praising what is lost makes the remembrance dear." It is natural that we should then see what life was not appreciated, to forget all faults and to see nothing but what has been good in their lives. But before death there are many whose lives are spent always sacrificing and toiling for others that never receive and words of gratitude or thanks until their death. Would it not be better if part of this kindness was shown in words of praise while they were doing their work would they not have been prompted to do more and so gain greater affection for those about them. It seems that in every life there are times of discouragement when every thing seems to "go wrong." Then it is that we may find opportunities to help those about us by showing them

that we do appreciate their work. Perhaps by using these opportunities to praise to them we may make both their lives and our own brighter.

We know not how many plans may be slighted by our unwillingness to praise. For how many families have we noticed that the children never receive one word of commendation. Their ambitions and desires are never encouraged and often quite the opposite.

They are laughed at and criticised in every particular until they give up disheartened not caring to try again. While on the other hand by proper encouragement, praising their efforts they may make better men and women and perhaps be started on a grand career.

There is no danger of our thinking too well of those at odds as a rule we do the opposite, making their faults greater than their virtues.

Praise may be abused by using it as mere flattery given in such a manner and at such times that it

indeed becomes very disgusting. As
well as all things may be carried
to excess, overdone, but as some one
has said - "certainly moderate praise,
used with opportunity, not vulgar
in that which doeth the good".

Bertha Winchips.