

bold navigators as Herwlfson, Eric Rauda, Leif Erickson and others, sailed to the westward, discovered and established settlements in Greenland and explored the coasts of America, while yet the mariners of Southern Europe hardly dared venture out of sight of land into the unknown Sea of Darkness.

But from the time of her annexation to a foreign power, the prosperity of Iceland has been on the decline. During the period of her independence, the population of the island numbered over 100,000, now it is scarcely more than half of that. Then her people were wealthy, now they are sunk in abject poverty. Loss of that independence and spirit of bold activity in her people which characterized her forefathers, famine, pestilence and repeated volcanic eruptions, have all contributed to make Iceland the unattractive place that it is to-day. URIEL.

Frugality.

If even the necessities of life were given to us in abundance, we would by reason of this abundance become slothful, negligent and unhappy, and sink into degeneracy and vice. Therefore, nature has wisely limited the productions to almost the actual necessary demand for the consumption of the inhabitants. We should profit by this example given us from the origin of wisdom, and use with frugality the powers within us, for in none of us are they unlimited, and the comforts and blessings with which we are surrounded, for the number allotted us is small.

Frugality is the first and principal step toward affluence. A competence, at least, is within the reach of everyone in this country, and the failure to take this step is often the only reason why many never attain it. "Take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves." A firm determination, with unflinching perseverance, and steadfast, strict economy, will ensure success ninety-nine times in a hundred.

Frugality carefully preserves the earnings of youth as capital for business, a resource in adversity, or a provision for old age. But economy not only accumulates means, but also inspires confidence, and secures credit, so that profitable openings for business may be entered and retained, and preserves the character and reputation, while prodigality of expenditure alienates credit and confidence, squanders hard earnings, and leads into temptations, and often into gross immoralities. Frugality, therefore, becomes the turning point in the reputations of thousands every year. The neglect of it is often as disastrous to the comfort, respectability, and peace of life, as absolute vice.

Of our time we should be especially frugal. A few minutes frequently and judiciously applied for the acquisition of knowledge would soon give us a vast amount. If we take care of the moments, the hours, days and years will take care of themselves. Diligent use of spare moments precludes many temptations to indolence and vice. Some great author has said,—“Spare moments are the gaps through which vice finds readiest access to the soul. When not provided for they may commit you to spontaneous and casual engagements, and at length confirm these engagements in habits, and finally enslave and debase the soul in mere vagrancy of thought and passion.” The use of time is the test of men. A man who makes good, true, economical use of his time denotes that he is steadfast and reliable, gives proof of character, has discovered the philosopher's stone, and obtained the true secret of happiness; while one who uses time without regard to its rapid flight is generally the opposite. Time once lost can never be recovered, though it will last through all eternity; and lest each moment become an everlasting monument of our negligence, and imperceptibility of its flight, let each, like the patriarch of old,

“Hold the fleet angel fast until he bless thee.”