

Horace Butler

Apr. 19, 1901.

and some other things
of value

good.

Early Impressions.

Certain things which occurred when I was a mere child still remain in my memory with the vividness of a photographic reproduction. The list is so varied as to exhibit a superiority as to what element determines the persistence of memories.

My very first remembrance and one whose persistence is easy of explanation is of the death of my maternal grandmother. I was barely two and a half years old when she died but I remember as distinctly as if it had been yesterday her appearance in her coffin when one of my aunts held me up to see her for the last time.

Another impression of about the same time, certainly not more than six months later is of a negro coachman, the first colored person in my experience

whom I had ever seen. He brought the carriage to the door and having assisted my mother to enter hurried to put me in, but I drew back and when an explanation was asked remarked that the black would come off upon my dress. About a year later a little boy of exactly my own age died and I distinctly remember picking flowers to adorn his casket. My next vivid recollection is of standing on a step box, being too short to reach without that aid, and brushing the big bay Xanthus while papa watched that he did not push me over. I distinctly remember that I firmly believed my father and the hostlers unable to groom the horse without my valuable assistance.

This somewhat heterogeneous collection represents the events which made most impression on my mind during the first four years of my life. I have no explanation to offer as to the permanence of these ideas, while others equally important have gone.

✓
precision

avoid excessive
if possible