

**1845**

**PUNCTUALITY**

***Lewis Carroll***

Carroll, Lewis (pen name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) (1832-1898) - English novelist, poet, photographer, and mathematician, best known for his fantastical childrens' classics. He was a mathematical lecturer at Oxford. Punctuality (1845) - One of Lewis Carroll's poems. Opening lines: Man naturally loves delay, / And to procrastinate;...

**PUNCTUALITY**

MAN naturally loves delay, And to procrastinate; Business put off  
from day to day Is always done too late.

Let every hour be in its place Firm fixed, nor loosely shift, And  
well enjoy the vacant space, As though a birthday gift.

And when the hour arrives, be there, Where'er that "there" may  
be; Uncleanly hands or ruffled hair Let no one ever see.

If dinner at "half-past" be placed, At "half-past" then be dressed.

If at a "quarter-past" make haste To be down with the rest.

Better to be before your time, Than e'er to be behind; To ope the  
door while strikes the chime, That shows a punctual mind.

Moral Let punctuality and care Seize every flitting hour, So shalt  
thou cull a floweret fair, E'en from a fading flower.

**THE END**