

that many of them did so by seizing and turning to account bits and fragments of time, even odd minutes, just as most men who have become rich did so by economizing their expenditures and saving petty earnings which thoughtless men squander. One man, observing that his wife always delayed ten to twelve minutes before she came down to dinner, used his time in writing and at the end of fifteen years had completed a book of three volumes which was held in high repute. Another, a physician, committed to memory the whole of Homer's Iliad by using only the time spent in hurrying from one patient to another. Matthew Hale did much of his literary writing while traveling on horseback. Henry Kirke White learned Greek while walking to and from a lawyer's office. Lord Bacon's fame is mainly due to his works written in his leisure hours while England's chancellor. Lord Macaulay, in leisure moments, whether resting or walking for exercise, had always a book in his hand.

Every one of us wastes every day from fifteen to twenty minutes in bed, in loitering, or in idle talk. This time, if devoted to self-improvement, would make an ignorant man wise in a few years. A continual dropping wears away the stone. The large buildings in our cities were built by laying one brick at a time on others.

David Hume said that he would rather have a cheerful disposition, inclined always to look at the bright side of things, than with a gloomy mind to possess an estate of 10,000 pounds a year. Cheerfulness in an indispensable condition of the very best work, and the most effective work comes from the head and hand of him whose heart is glad. It was Carlyle who, though a chronic growler, exclaimed, "Give us, Oh, give us the man who sings at his work;" or as John B. DeMott says, "'Tis better to whistle than whine; 'tis better to laugh than to cry.'" The soldier is hardly sensible to fatigue while he marches to music. A cheerful man is a great blessing to society. He is a moral tonic to all with whom he comes in contact. No matter how black the sky he can see a gleam of sunshine in some part of it. He laughs at the bitter, lets the crows do the croaking, and gives care to the winds.

A good many of our great philosophers, poets, and deep thinkers, have not been cheerful men, but there are some exceptions. Jeremy Taylor, when his house had been plundered, his family turned out of doors, and his estate seized, wrote cheerfully that they had left him the sun and moon, a loving wife and many friends to pity and relieve him, and that they had not taken his merry countenance, his cheerful spirit and his good conscience. Sidney Smith was all his life a memorable example of cheerfulness. His sunny disposition did not forsake him even in ill-health and old age and he wrote to a friend just before he died, "I have gout, asthma, and several other maladies, but am other-