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WORK AND ITS BLESSINGS

Work is man's greatest blessing. There is no one thing which has done more for humanity, that has given so much happiness, saved so many people from despair; no one thing which has called forth so much hidden capacity, developed and strengthened so many powers of mind and body, as has work. It is said that no person can be healthy, happy, or useful, unless engaged in some kind of necessary productive work, work that will be of service to mankind.

A good many folk have a sort of idea that a happy, constructive life is a thing apart from work. The material from which success and happiness are built is right in our own hands. The building of both is in the work of every day. It consists in living up to the greatest possibility for good. It is simply a matter of honest, earnest, persistent effort every day—always trying to do our very best and to make our highest effort permanent.

The idle life is never a happy life. You must feel satisfied with yourself before you can be happy, and you are not satisfied with yourself unless you are doing the best thing possible for you. Have you ever known an idle person to approve or think very much of himself? Such people seem restless, discontented, unhappy, always hunting for new sensations, new excitement. No-one has ever found greater happiness or contentment than in the normal vigorous exercise of their faculties along the line for which they are best fitted. The only genuine satisfaction that can come to a human being is to be a real man, or a real woman, and one can not be that and live an idle, useless life.

This human machine of ours is made for action, was designed to perform useful work, and there can be no happiness for an able-bodied man or woman outside of an industrious life. Work, love, and play are the great balance wheels of man's being.

There is something inside of each of us that condemns and everlastingly protests against our taking the good things of life as we go along—things which we have done nothing to produce or earn. There is something within us that tells us that it is mean and contemptible if we do not do our parts in performing the world's work.

But for the blessing of work the human mind would go to pieces. It is good, honest, regular work that preserves the physical and mental balance and keeps us in normal condition. Our best medicine lies in work that we love. Man's development, his growth, physical power, and resourcefulness all come through work.

It is the desire to attain, the struggle to realize our dreams, which unfolds our powers, calls out our reserve strength, forms our characters, makes of us real men and women. There is no other way possible by which this great end can be realized than through this process of exercise and work.

Growth and happiness are found only in work, yet how many grumble at having to work so hard for everything they get. How little do the majority of us realize that everything which is desirable is so only because of its cost in effort. Our lives are planned for glorious achievement and self-development through work.

Ceaseless activity characterizes all life. No fitting substitute for activity has yet been found, for every substitute for personal effort has been a failure. People who are endeavoring to get the good things out of life without paying for them—without giving an equivalent in work—are generally selfish, idolent, greedy, overbearing, undeveloped, and without much character. We get the things worth while only through personal effort. The chief ingredients for contentment and a right spirit and wholesome employment and we have the right spirit when we are in harmony with our environment. When we add to this the doing of good work we feel a satisfaction because we are using this human machine in a way that it is intended to be used. Where the heart is there is no friction, no discord—friction and discord are what wears life out. These are what exhaust the vitality and waste brain power. No-one can make a real masterpiece of life until he sees something greater than bread and butter and shelter. Even if circumstances require you to do something that is not congenial, do it and make the best of it. Throw your whole soul into it. Do it with a manly or womanly

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