## Che (Dregon Statesman



## THE MASTERPIECE

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How marvelous and perfect is the universe' And this
old world of ours, how wonderful it is; the heavenly blue old world of ours, how wonderful it is; the heavenly blue
of its endless skies matching the blue of its oceans! How grand and inspiring its mountains, how beautiful its plains
and smiling valleys, its rivers and meadows, its trees and flowers, its birds and glorious sunshine, and all of its other
varied forms of life! varied forms of life!
Yet God's masterpiece is man.' You are the most won-
derful of all His creations. Even your body is a most wonderful and perfect mechanism, capable of building itself up with all of its organs, activities and capacities. Your fore, for example, how it can sweep the heavens, and without readcan riot in the wealh of form and color with which the World abounds! And the heart in your bosom has never
missed a beat since you first drew the breath of life. Night and day it has sent your blood to every part of your body to build it up in strength and symmetry, to remove the waste
matter and keep it well and strong. Even though you may poison it with aicohol or nicotine or some other deleterious
substance, it still keeps pounding on until it wears itself or your ignorance or reckless dissipation destroys it. How wonderful and perfect it all is!
$\begin{aligned} & \text { Xet God has given you something even more wonderful } \\ & \text { and perfect than your body. He has given you your mind }\end{aligned}$
with all of its powers and possibilities; with its wonderful
capacity for acquiring knowledge, for ascertaining truth, for
$\begin{aligned} & \text { reasoning and for using and applying the things which it } \\ & \text { acquires; with its ability to project itself into the }\end{aligned}$
measure with its ability to project itself into the heavens,
earth and fathom its mysteries; to learn the laws of the
universe and to use them for man's own convenience, pleas-
mind accomplish? What cannot the trained, developed human
than body or given to you a more wonderful and precious gift
$\begin{aligned} & \text { than body or mind He has given to you a part of His own } \\ & \text { of a divinity, which we call the soul. The life } \\ & \text { of the body and the physical mind is }\end{aligned}$
of the body and the physical mind is limited to a few short
human form returns to the elements that composed it; the
$\begin{aligned} & \text { soul of yours is for eternity; its life is endless; the possibili- }\end{aligned}$
$\begin{aligned} & \text { ties of its development are infinite. } \\ & \text { God has also bestowed upon you the power to do what }\end{aligned}$
$\begin{aligned} & \text { you will with all these great and beautiful gifts. You can } \\ & \text { throw away your body; you may weaken or destroy it by }\end{aligned}$
ignorance, sin, dissipation. You may, if you choose, let the
leaving you still a mere child when you come to the end of
willfully violating the laws of your being.
if you tive to no purpose and put aside the promptings of the
divine in you. Yes you may waste, squander, throw away
that spark of divinity with which you were born, and even

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$\underset{\substack{\text { HOMOR } \\ \text { PUA } \\ \text { WORE }}}{M}$
a merely physical beefing without, responsibility or choice or
power, like the trees, the birds and the beasts.
What are you doing with this masterpiece of the Creator,
yourself? Are you keeping your body clean, pure, strong
and perfect, so that it may be a fit dwelling place for a child
of God? Or, forgetful of its Giver and of His purpose in
giving it, are you weakening, abusing, defiling, polluting in?
Are you developing that mind which God bestowed upon you
and filling it with the highest truth that you can reach, or
are you burying your talents in a napkin, like the unprofit-
able servant? Are you striving to give your soul a chance
for growth by giving it action and supplying it with daily
spiritual food; or are you burying it under a load of world
liness, selfishness, bestiality and sin? These are serious
questions that every adult human being may well be asking
himself.
Casting aside all considerations of duty to your Creator
or of religion, be sure that intelligent self-interest dictates
that you strive to understand the purpose of God in creat-
ing you, and that you conduct your liff in harmony with this
purpose. Thus you may escape the sorrow, suffering, disap-
pointment and failure that always overtake him who violates
the laws of his being, be they physical, intellectual, moral or
spiritual. Thus you will come into strength, success, har-
mony, peace and heaven.
"He liveth long who liveth well; ;
All other life is short and vain.
He liveth longest who can tell
Of living most for heavenly gain.
Waste not thy being, back to Him
Who freely gave it freely give;
Else is that being but a dream,
'Tis but to be, and not to live.
"Be thou in truthfulness arrayed,
Hold up to earth thy torch divine;
Be what thou prayest to be made;
Let steps of charity be thine.
Fill up each hour with what will last;
Buy up the moments as they go;
The life above when this is past
Is the ripe fruit of life below.
"Sow truth if thou the truth would'st reap,
who sows the false shall reap the vain.
Erect and sound thy conscience keepp;
From hollow words and deeds refrain.
Sow love and taste its fruitage pure;
Sow peace and reap its harvest bright;
Sow sunbeams on the rock and moor,
And find a harvest home of light."

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