

Literary.

(ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.)

The only way to have a friend is to be one.

Be humble, and seek less to shine than to serve.

The truly great are those who conquer themselves.

It is a secret worth knowing that lawyers rarely go to law.

We get impatient, and there crops out our human weakness.

If we be honest with ourselves, we shall be honest with each other.

The great end of all human industry is the attainment of happiness.

The poorest arguments will find their way, when delivered with firmness and decision.

Justice is the beginning of political equality, but brotherly love is the completion of it.

There is no blessing that can be given to an artisan's family more than a love for books.

Judas was not the last man who professed sympathy for the poor to hide his own meanness.

There are too many people in the church who won't march unless they can be at the head of the procession.

If some people would be a little more careful where they step, those who follow them wouldn't stumble so much.

Let fortune do her worst, whatever she makes us lose, so long as she never makes us lose our honesty and independence.

How much trouble he avoids who does not look to see what his neighbor says or does or thinks, but only to what he does himself, that it may be just and pure!

Anger is the most impotent passion that accompanies the mind of man; it reflects nothing it goes about; and hurts the man who is possessed by it more than any other against whom it is directed.

The most powerful influence in the world is love. Christ says: "Love is the fulfilling of the law." If all that we do were done in a spirit of love and unselfishness, do you think there would be as much sin and suffering as there is now?

The small stones that fill up the crevices have almost as much to do with making a fair and firm wall as the great blocks; so the right and wise use of spare moments contributes not a little to the building up, in good proportion with strength, a man's mind.

There is no evil that we cannot either flee from or flee to but the consciousness of duty disregarded. A sense of duty pursues us ever. It is omnipresent. Duty performed or duty violated is ever with us, for our happiness or our misery.

Every man who would be religious, and not merely so, is an artist; the difference being that the material which he labors, and which he strives to fashion into a perfect form, is not marble or stone, but his own character.

Man's proper business in this world is mainly into three divisions—first,

to know themselves and the existing state of things they have to do with; secondly, to be happy in themselves and in the existing state of things; thirdly, to mend themselves and the existing state of things, as far as either are marred or mendable.

When we expect of any individual more than he can perform, and let him feel that we do, we do him a serious injury and weaken our whole influence over him. It is a species of oppression which produces discouragement, and often leads the one who has depended on this stimulus to give up his efforts in despair. Of what use is it to try to satisfy one who demands impossibilities? he says, and the endeavor ceases.

One of the best compliments that can be given to any work of literary or other art, is that it is well worth criticising. The mass of such productions is not worth having its own defects and its merits pointed out. But the higher it rises in the scale of excellence, the better it is worth the bettering. It takes a very little to injure a work of art, and one has often to regret that the person who has done so well has not done better. The true artist is always complimented by true criticism, and sets a value upon that which makes value more valuable.

Great wealth pursued as an end is a curse to any member of the human family. There is no more soul-dwarfing, hell-inciting, suicidal occupation on earth than the selfish piling up of surplus wealth as the object of life. The possessor of millions who goes on adding to his store as a gratification of his insane ambition to accumulate, and lives without a conscientious regard for his obligations to his fellow-men, is surely kindling within himself that torment which Dives experiences, because he is defying the supreme law of his nature. It is not the fact of the millions, for money is useful, but that their selfish possession will eventuate in a self-made hell in the human soul. Bion once said of a niggardly rich man: "That man does not own his own estate, but his estate owns him."

Life, altogether, is but a crumbling ruin when we turn to look behind; a shattered column here, where a massive portal stood; the broken shaft of a window to mark my lady's bower; and a smouldering heap of blackened stones where the flowing flames once leapt; and, over all, the tinted lichen and the ivy clinging green. For every thing looms pleasant through the softening haze of time. Even the sadness that is past seems sweet. Our boyish days look very merry to us now, all nutting, hoop and gingerbread. The sufferings and the toothaches and the Latin verbs are all forgotten, the Latin verbs especially. Yes, it is in the brightness, not the darkness, that we see when we look back, the sunshine casts no shadows on the past. The road that we have traversed stretches very far behind us. We see not the sharp stones; we dwell but on the roses by the wayside, and the stray briars that stung us are, to our distant eyes, but gentle tendrils waving in the wind. God be thanked that it is so—that the ever-lengthening chain of memory has only pleasant links, and that the bitterness and wounds of to-day are smiled at on the morrow.

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