

CHOICE THOUGHTS OF THE BEST AUTHORS.

Doing good is the only certainly happy action of a man's life.—Sidney.

The certain way to be cheated, is to fancy one's self more cunning than others.—Chaucer.

The censure of those that are opposite to us is the nicest commendation that can be given us.—St. Evremont.

As they who, for every slight infirmity, take physic to repair their health, do rather impair it; so they who, for every trifle, are eager to vindicate their character, do rather weaken it.—Burke.

To be happy, the passion must be cheerful and gay, not gloomy and melancholy. A propensity to hope and joy is real riches; one to fear and sorrow, real poverty.—Hume.

A tender conscience is an inestimable blessing: that is, a conscience not only quick to discern what is evil, but instantly to shun it, as the eyelid closes itself against a mote.—T. Adams.

It is very often more necessary to conceal contempt than resentment, the former being never forgiven, but the latter sometimes forgotten.—Chesterfield.

To make others' wit appear more than one's own, is a good rule in conversation; a necessary one, to let others take notice of your wit, and never do it yourself.—Sir W. Temple.

Some men are as covetous as if they were to live forever; and others as profuse as if they were to die the next moment.—Aristotle.

Where necessity ends, desire and curiosity begin, no sooner are we supplied with everything nature can demand, than we sit down to contrive artificial appetites.—Johnson.

It is certain that either wise bearing or ignorant carriage is caught as men take diseases one of another; therefore, let them take heed in their company.—Shakespeare.

Nothing is so great an instance of ill-manners as flattery. If you flatter all the company, you please none. If you flatter only one or two, you affront the rest.—Swift.

A shrewd observer once said that in walking the streets of a slippery morning, one might see where the good natured people lived, by the ashes thrown on the ice before the doors.—Franklin.

There are a set of malicious, prating, prudent gossips, both male and female, who murder characters to kill time; and will rob a young fellow of his good name before he has years to know the value of it.—Sheridan.

If you cannot be happy in one way be in another, and this facility of disposition wants but little aid from philosophy, for health and good humor are almost the affair. Many run about after felicity like an absent man hunting for his hat, while it is in his hand or on his head.—Sharp.

If Satan ever laughs it must be at hypocrites. They are the greatest dupes he has. They serve him better than any others, but receive no wages. Nay, what is still more extraordinary, they submit to greater mortification than the sincerest Christians.—Colton.

Faults of our School System.

We school the children too much. That is to say, we keep them at school all the year round; we continually force their perceptive and memorizing faculties, and give no time for the play of their reflective faculties. In other words, they don't reflect upon what they have learned or attempt to apply it in their own minds. We cram them with too many studies. How else in the fact to be accounted for that a child in the country, having but four months' schooling in the year, will come to Boston more matured in his education than one who has had nine months' schooling in the year? In our city schools there is too much teaching and too little learning. By that I mean to say that the great mass of studies placed upon the young mind by oral teaching for a few minutes at a time, and a different study every hour in the day, tend to break up the continuity of the pupil's thought, and the oral addresses and lectures receive but little attention from the tired minds of the pupils.—B. F. Butler.

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