

*President Roosevelt*

commends **“THE SIMPLE LIFE”**

**BY CHARLES WAGNER**

(Translated from the French by MARY HENDEE. With Biographical Sketch of the Author.)

Extract from a speech delivered by President Roosevelt at Bangor, Me., Aug. 28th, 1902 :

“The other day I picked up a little book called ‘THE SIMPLE LIFE,’ written by an Alsatian, Charles Wagner, and he preached such wholesome, sound doctrine that I wish it could be used as a tract throughout our country. To him the whole problem of our complex, somewhat feverish modern life can be solved only by getting men and women to lead better lives. He sees that the permanence of liberty and democracy depends upon a majority of the people being steadfast in that good, plain morality which, as a national attribute, comes only as the result of the slow and painful labor of centuries, and which can be squandered in a generation by the thoughtless and vicious. He preaches the doctrine of the superiority of the moral to the material. He does not undervalue the material, but he insists, as we of this nation should always insist, upon the infinite superiority of the moral, and the sordid destruction which comes upon either the nation or the individual if it or he becomes absorbed only in the desire to get wealth.”

Of these essays the Rev. Dr. Van Dyke says :

“The book is good to read, pleasant to remember, blessed to put in practice. Its message is the one that this perplexed age most needs.”

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