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### PRICE.

The element of price enters into everything that we do, think, feel or have. The people who believe that something may be had for nothing, or for less than its real value, are the people who trust appearances who are duped and misled all through life. They are the suckers—people who have no understanding of values, and are consequently no judge of price.

Money is only one representative of price. It is often the cheapest way of paying for things. Money represents labor—somebody's labor. It may not be yours if you are a shirker. Every life is a cost to someone. If he or she prefers to exchange self-reliance, the opportunity for self-growth and development, for a life of vanity and ease, he or she may find the way to accomplish this by twining his or her life about that of some hardier, more self-reliant person, but the price is paid just the same, and in the final reckoning it is a dearer one than the trials and hardships of ordinary experience in the struggle of life.

Spiritual helplessness and adversity, mental bondage and darkness, are more terrible to face than questions of self-support and self-guidance, because the two latter problems become increasingly easy with experience and discipline, while despair, like a blank wall, faces the person morally weak and unused to responsibility.

Our virtues are our costliest possessions. It requires long years of right thinking and right doing to make a man courageous. It takes years of self-denial and self-sacrifice to make him honest. Honesty, courage, justice, are all forms of unselfishness. A man may inherit these qualities, but the price has been paid for them, just as the coin, which we tender in payment for our debts, was bought by the toil and sweat of the miner.

Nature exacts more from the man who inherits spiritual wealth than from his more animal brother. It is an un-failing law of nature that everything that is not fed and used shall atrophy and die. This is as true of human qualities as it is of the physical members or the fruit and foliage of the vegetable world.

The price demanded for any kind of possession, material, mental, moral or spiritual, is first effort, then responsibility. We struggle to acquire it, then we must use it wisely in order to hold it.

When men come to understand this question of price thoroughly, there will be little room in the world for vice or crime. Every feeling, every thought, every act has its price. Whether we enjoy or sorrow, something is sub-