

WORK.

By *Elbert Hubbard.*

I am fully convinced that the most important thing in the world is earning a living.

And there is a difference between earning a living and getting a living.

You can get a living in several ways—borrow, beg, steal, by hook or crook—mostly crook.

But when it comes to earning a living, you turn the trick in just one way and no other—you work.

And the more intelligence and love you put in your work the bigger your reward.

And congenial work—work you do through choice—is joyous work and joyous work is just play.

And always for honest labor there is a return beyond the money.

The money is tangible gratitude and must be paid. But the money isn't all.

To earn a living is the natural and safe way of utilizing human energy.

Life is energy focused and individualized.

Human energy unused makes for disease.

Human energy wrongly used is vice and crime.

Vice is direct injury to yourself.

Crime is direct injury to society.

Both tend to disease, dissolution, death.

Work tends to health, happiness, progress, prosperity.

And be it known that health, happiness, progress and prosperity are not only contagious but infectious.

All good things are "catching." Life is motion. You keep good things by giving them away.

Money will buy practically everything, except a few little details like health, happiness and self-respect.

It is by doing our duty that we learn to do it.—*E. B. Pusey.*

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed under this heading.

WAR CONDITIONS.

Editors of *The Civilian*:

I read, in the last issue, the report of the Civil Service Savings and Loan Society. Great stress is laid on the fact that the society has been able to make a good showing, notwithstanding "the gruelling trial to which it was put by the war."

Will some of the members of the society kindly explain how on earth the war affects its affairs—except favorably? Every civil servant is getting as much salary as he was before the war started (not so, many clerks and other employees in commercial life, some of whom have had cuts of 10 and even 20 per cent. in salary).

In fact the war makes the lot of the civil servant better, on account of the slaughter prices which obtain everywhere. Clothing, haberdashery, groceries; does not one see tremendous bargains in almost every shop window? Rents, too, have come down in many cases.

We might as well act sanely in this matter, and acknowledge that the war has reduced the cost of living in almost every commodity—except, perhaps, whisky, which I think the C. S. S. and L. S. do not use.

Yours,

"COMMON SENSE."

Ottawa, March 9, 1915.

Charged it Up.

"A man, on receiving his doctor's bill, hurried to the doctor's office and protested:

"What does this mean, doc? Besides the stipulated fee you have charged me \$100 extra for instruments!"

"Yes, I know," said the doctor. "That's for a very valuable saw that I left in your wife after her operation through inadvertence."