

"And in general I have no patience with people who talk about the 'thoughtlessness of youth' indulgently. I had infinitely rather hear of thoughtless old age and the indulgence due to *it*. When a man has done his work, and nothing can any way be materially altered in his fate, let him forget his toil, and jest with his fate if he will; but what excuse can you find for wilfulness of thought at the very time when every crisis of future fortune hangs on your decisions? A youth thoughtless when all the happiness of his home forever depends on the chances or the passions of an hour! A youth thoughtless when the career of all his days depends on the opportunity of a moment! A youth thoughtless when his every act is a foundation stone of future conduct, and every imagination a fountain of life or death! Be thoughtless in *any* after years rather than now—though indeed there is only one place where a man may be nobly thoughtless—his death-bed. No thinking should ever be left to be done there." JOHN RUSKIN.

### SAVE THE LEISURE MOMENTS.

It is astonishing what can be done in any department of life when once the will is fixed with a determination to use the leisure time rightly. Only take care to gather up your fragments of leisure time and employ them judiciously, and you will find time for the accomplishment of almost any desired purpose. Men who have the highest ambition to accomplish something of importance in this life frequently complain of a lack of leisure. But the truth is, there is no condition in which the chances of accomplishing great results are less than in that of leisure. Life is composed of an elastic material, and wherever a solid piece of business is removed the surrounding atmosphere of trifles rushes in as certainly as the air into a bottle when you pour out its contents. If you would not have your hours of leisure frittered away on trifles, you must guard it by barriers of solid work, the

"must be done" that cannot be put off. The people who have done the most for their own and the general good are not the wealthy, leisurely people who have nothing to do, but are almost uniformly the over-worked class. Such people have learned how to economize time, and however crowded with business, are always found capable of doing a little more; and you may rely upon them in their busiest season with far more assurance than upon the idle man. It is much easier for one who is always exerting himself to exert himself a little more for an extra purpose than for him who does nothing to get up steam for the same end. Give a busy man ten minutes in which to write a letter, and he will dash it off at once; give an idle man a day, and he will put it off till to-morrow or next week.

There is a momentum in an active man which of itself almost carries him to the mark, just as a very light stroke will keep a hoop going, when a smart one was required to set it in motion.

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