



A FEW
SCATTERING THOUGHTS

DEDICATED TO THE READERS OF THIS PAMPHLET

BY A YOUNG TEACHER,

ENTERTAINING THE SLIGHT FAITH THAT THEY MIGHT
NOT BE WITHOUT SOME GOOD EFFECT.



PLEASE PRESERVE THIS.



THOUGHTS TO YOUNG PEOPLE.

Might I offer counsel to the young people with whom it has been my pleasure and profit during the past year to come in contact with in the class-room, on the street, amid hours of social life, or elsewhere, I would write for them with a heart that yearns for their welfare as they hope and strive, and fail or win, these words:

“This above all—To thine own self be true;
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.”

We ought to hate sham. Men *do* hate sham! Be yourself and not somebody else. Somehow we reverence honest individuality. It is strangely true that many people like eccentricity, but do they respect it? No! 'Tis the lovely trait of character—Simplicity, we both admire and respect. It wins word-applause! It wins soul-applause!! Never violate your word and you will have the honor and confidence of your fellows. Live and act in the sweet heavenly atmosphere of sympathy, and do not wound the feelings of man or beast. Read books that are wholesome, and seek the society of those who despise the superficial in character. Remember that the highest glory of manly character is the conscientious performance of individual duty. Wherever you are, let me beseech you, be a full-length portrait of yourself, and not a *bust*. Let energy and resolution urge you to act in the present, for those who act serve as well as those who stand and wait. Again, know you that many of earth's most illustrious men sprang from humblest life. Let their brilliant examples stimulate you to the highest sense of helping self. Do not forget that this sentiment involves the helping of our neighbors. Laziness and idleness are infamous. *Labor is honorable*. Be a stalwart reformer! One of the meanest vices in human nature is prejudice. In the name of those things which are lovely and

just, let us war against the Lion—Prejudice as he goes about roaring in business, politics, society and religion. There is one virtue above many others I honor. It is the high, grand, holy spirit of liberality, broad-mindedness in thought, speech, and action. Pity the being who entertains the hope of a future and better life by climbing a denominational ladder. Love your Church, but not more than the whole Christian Church, and the good of other men's souls. *Study the Bible.* It teaches spiritual, practical truths. Learn of Christ's words and works and teachings. Be a christian after the example and life-work of the Saviour of souls without respect of previous and present condition or nationality. Christ is the sublimest character in the dream of ages gone! Lastly, do not place too high an estimate upon talent and under-rate goodness. In this grand hour of human progress, men are bowing too low to Intellectuality. Smartness dazzles some people and enslaves their souls in a kingdom of splendid ruin. Human genius and speculation must founder on the rock of despair! Abandon the Gospel—you are gone!! About the holiest hour in the history of human experience is that hour we possess the courage of our convictions. Never, oh! never, surrender convictions to ephemeral excitements, the passing passions of the hour. For if character is purchased at the price of worldly reputation, the applause of the masses, somebody is guilty of arrant cowardice. Heaven forbid! that we should sacrifice principle or trample on conscience for the world. Young people, *let us be honest with ourselves regardless of human criticism.* Human nature is pretty much the same everywhere. It cannot be re-created.

If these scattering thoughts are worthy of your consideration please think upon them.

JOHN STANLY THOMAS.

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