



THRIFT.

SMILES.

BJ1533

.B2

65



1080010684

S.1544-5

2726

BIBLIOTECA "RODRIGO 'DE LLANO"
SECCION DE ESTUDIOS HISTORICOS DE LA
UNIVERSIDAD DE NUEVO LEON

THRIFT.

By SAMUEL SMILES.

AUTHOR OF "CHARACTER," "SELF-HELP," ETC.

"Be thrifty, but not covetous : therefore give
Thy need, thine honor, and thy friend his due.
Never was scraper brave man. Get to live,
Then live, and use it: else it is not true.
That thou hast gotten. Surely use alone
Makes money not a contemptible stone."
GEORGE HERBERT.

"To catch Dame Fortune's golden smile,
Assiduous wait upon her;
And gather gear by ev'ry wile
That's justify'd by Honor :
Not for to hide it in a hedge,
Nor for a train attendant ;
But for the glorious privilege
Of being Independent."
ROBERT BURNS.

CHICAGO:
DONOHUE, HENNEBERRY & CO

407-425 DEARBORN STREET

1899

BJ1533

.E2

S5



FONDO
RODRIGO DE LLANO

DONOHUE & HENNEBERRY,
PRINTERS AND BINDERS,
CHICAGO.

A FABLE.

A GRASSHOPPER, half starved with cold and hunger, came to a well-stored bee-hive at the approach of winter, and humbly begged the bees to relieve his wants with a few drops of honey.

One of the bees asked him how he had spent his time all the summer, and why he had not laid up a store of food like them.

"Truly," said he, "I spent my time very merrily, in drinking, dancing, and singing, and never once thought of winter."

"Our plan is very different," said the bee: "we work hard in the summer to lay by a store of food against the season when we foresee we shall want it; but those who do nothing but drink, and dance and sing in the summer, must expect to starve in the winter."

PREFACE.

THIS book is intended as a sequel to "Self-help" and "Character." It might, indeed, have appeared as an introduction to these volumes; for Thrift is the basis of Self-help, and the foundation of much that is excellent in Character.

The author has already referred to the Use and Abuse of Money; but the lesson is worthy of being repeated and enforced. As he has already observed, some of the finest qualities of human nature are intimately related to the right use of money—such as generosity, honesty, justice, and self-denial—as well as the practical virtues of economy and providence. On the other hand, there are their counterparts of avarice, fraud, injustice, and selfishness, as displayed by the inordinate lovers of gain; and the vices of thoughtlessness, extravagance, and improvidence on the part of those who misuse and abuse the means intrusted to them.

Sir Henry Taylor has observed that "industry must take an interest in its own fruits, and God has appointed that the mass of mankind shall be moved by this interest, and have their daily labor sweetened by it." The earnings and savings of industry should be intelligent for a purpose beyond mere earnings and savings. We do not work and strive for ourselves alone, but for the benefit of those who are dependent upon us. Industry must know how to earn, how to spend, and how to save. The man who knows, like St. Paul, how to spare and how to abound has a great knowledge.

Every man is bound to do what he can to elevate his social state, and to secure his independence. For this purpose he must spare from his means in order to be

independent in his condition. Industry enables men to earn their living; it should also enable them to learn to live. Independence can only be established by the exercise of forethought, prudence, frugality, and self-denial. To be just, as well as generous, men must deny themselves. The essence of generosity is self-sacrifice.

The object of this book is to induce men to employ their means for worthy purposes, and not to waste them upon selfish indulgences. Many enemies have to be encountered in accomplishing this object. There are idleness, thoughtlessness, vanity, vice, intemperance. The last is the worst enemy of all. Numerous cases are cited in the course of the following book, which show that one of the best methods of abating the curse of Drink is to induce old and young to practice the virtue of Thrift.

Much of this book was written, and some of it published, years ago; but an attack of paralysis, which compelled the author to give up writing for some time, has delayed its publication until now. For much of the information recently received he is indebted to Edward Crossley, Esq., Mayor of Halifax; Edward Akroyd, Esq., Halifax; George Chetwynd, Esq., General Post-office; S. A. Nichols, Esq., Over Darwen; Jeremiah Head, Esq., Middlesborough; Charles W. Sikes, Esq., Huddersfield; and numerous other correspondents in Durham, Renfrewshire, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Staffordshire, and South Wales.

The author trusts that the book will prove useful and helpful toward the purpose for which it is intended.

LONDON, November, 1875.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

INDUSTRY.

Private Economy.—Useful Labors.—Our Birthright.—Results of Labor.—Necessity for Labor.—Industry and Intellect.—Thrift and Civilization.—Thrift Industry.—Thrift Economy. Page 13

CHAPTER II.

HABITS OF THRIFT.

Workmen and Capital.—Habits of Economy.—Self-indulgence.—Results of Thriftlessness.—Uses of Saved Money.—Extravagant Living.—Bargain-buying.—Thrift and Unthrift.—Johnson on Economy.—Self-respect.—Self-help.—Uncertainty of Life.—Laws of Mortality.—Will Nobody Help Us?—Prosperous Times the Least Prosperous.—National Prosperity.—Moral Independence. 23

CHAPTER III.

IMPROVIDENCE.

Misery and Wealth.—The Uncivilized.—The East End.—Edward Denison.—Thrift in Guernsey.—Improvvidence and Misery.—Social Degradation.—Fatalism of Improvidence.—Self-taxation.—Slowness of Progress.—A Gratifying Contrast. . . 43

CHAPTER IV.

MEANS OF SAVING.

Earnings of Operatives.—Colliers and Iron-workers.—Earnings of Colliers.—The Revelers.—Lord Elcho and the Colliers.—

High Wages and Heavy Losses.—High Wages and Drink.—Sensual Indulgence.—Indifference to Well-being.—Hugh Miller's Experience.—Mr. Roebuck's Advice.—Survival of Slavery.—Extinction of Slavery.—Power Unexercised.—Earnings and Character.—Ignorance is Power.—Results of Ignorance.—Increase of Knowledge.—Education not Enough.—Words of Sir Arthur Helps.—Divine Uses of Knowledge.—Public-school Education.—Words of William Felkin.—Self-dependence. 55

CHAPTER V.

EXAMPLES OF THRIFT.

Spirit of Order.—Examples of Economy.—David Hume.—Rev. Robert Walker.—Self-application.—Distinguished Miners.—George Stephenson.—James Watt.—Working for Independence.—Working for Higher Things.—Work and Culture.—Richardson and Gregory.—Results of Application.—Distinguished Artists.—Canova and Lough.—Lough's Success.—Words of Lord Derby.—James Nasmyth.—Bridgewater Foundry.—Advice to Young Men 79

CHAPTER VI.

METHODS OF ECONOMY.

Keeping Regular Accounts.—Generosity and Forethought.—Prudent Economy.—A Dignity in Saving.—Self-improvement.—Causes of Failure.—The Price of Success.—Power of Combining.—Principle of Association.—Savings of Capital.—Loss by Strikes.—Money Thrown Away.—Industrial Societies.—Co-operative Companies.—Equitable Pioneers.—News and Reading Rooms.—Darwen Co-operatives.—Spread of Co-operation.—Thrift Conservative.—Uses of Investments.—Building Societies. 104

CHAPTER VII.

ECONOMY IN LIFE-ASSURANCE.

Co-operation in Assurance.—Improvvidence Cruel.—Compensation of Assurance.—Benefit Societies.—French and Belgian Thrift.—Workmen's Societies.—Manchester Unity.—Duty and Dinners.—Low Rates of Contribution.—Failure of Friendly Societies.—Improvement by Experience.—Defects will Disappear. 126

CHAPTER VIII.

SAVINGS-BANKS.

Direct Saving.—Uses of Saved Money.—Beginnings of Savings-Banks.—Dr. Duncan of Ruthwell.—Establishment of Savings-banks.—Classes of Depositors.—Magic of Drill.—Military Savings-banks.—Savings of Soldiers.—Soldiers Abroad.—Deposits in Savings-banks.—Savings at Bilston.—Savings of Working-men.—Penny Banks.—Charles W. Sikes.—Mechanics' Institute Banks.—The Poor Man's Purse.—Depositors in Penny Banks.—Influence of Penny Banks.—Bradford Savings-bank.—Influence of Women.—Early Lessons in Thrift.—Belgian Schools.—Facilities for Saving.—Extension of Savings-banks.—Money-order Offices.—Post-office Savings-banks.—Thriftlessness of the Masses.—Formation of Penny Savings-banks.—Mechanics' Savings-banks.—Savings of Artisans.—Savings in Preston. 138

CHAPTER IX.

LITTLE THINGS.

Luck and Labor.—Neglect of Little Things.—"It will Do!"—Spending of Pennies.—The Thrifty Woman.—A Helpful Wife.—A Man's Daily Life.—The Two Workmen.—Rights and Habits.—Influence of the Wife.—A Penny a Day.—The Power of a Penny.—Roads and Railways.—Joseph Baxendale.—Business Maxims. 175

CHAPTER X.

MASTERS AND MEN.

Want Sympathy.—Masters and Servants.—Christian Sympathy.—Competition.—What Capital Represents.—Workmen and Employers.—The Ashworths. New Eagley Mills.—Improved Work-people.—Public Spirit of Manufacturers. Mr. Lister, of Bradford.—Mr. Forster's Speech.—Great Men Wise Savers.—Sir Titus Salt.—Saltaire.—Its Institutions.—Music and Sobriety.—Other Generous Employers.—Mr. Akroyd, Halifax.—Yorkshire Penny Bank.—Origin of the Bank.—How to Help the Poor.—Saving Helps Sobriety.—Drunkenness Put Down.—"Childish Work." 196

CHAPTER XI.

THE CROSSLEYS—MASTERS AND MEN (CONTINUED).

John Crossley.—Martha Crossley.—A Courtship Begun.—A Courtship Concluded.—John Crossley Begins Business.—Dean

Clough Mill.—The Crossley Family.—Sir Francis Crossley.—Martha Crossley's Vow.—People's Park, Halifax.—Martha's Vow Fulfilled.—Co-operation of Colliers.—Partnership of Industry.—Other Co-operative Schemes.—Jeremiah Head.—Newport Rolling-mills.—Bonuses to Workmen.—Mr. Carlyle's Letter.—A Contrast.—A Hundred Years Ago.—Popular Amusements.—Improvement of Manners.—English Mechanics and Workmen.—English Engineers and Miners.—Swiftmess of Machinery.—Foreign Workmen.—Provident Habits of Foreigners. 223

CHAPTER XII.

LIVING BEYOND THE MEANS.

Hypocrisy and Debt.—Conventionalism.—Keeping up Appearances.—Exclusive Circles.—Women and Exclusiveness.—Women and Extravagance.—Running into Debt.—The Temptation of Shop-keepers.—Temptations to Crime.—How Crime is Committed.—Love of Dress.—"Gentlemen."—Reckless Expenditure.—Knowledge of Arithmetic.—Marriage.—Happy Tempers.—Responsibilities of Marriage.—Marriage Not a Lottery.—The Man who couldn't Say "No."—The Courage to say "No."—"Respectable" Funerals.—Funeral Extravagance.—John Wesley's Will.—Funeral Reform. 252

CHAPTER XIII.

GREAT DEBTORS.

Greatness and Debt.—Seedy Side of Debt.—Running up Bills.—Loan Clubs.—Genius and Debt.—Fox and Sheridan.—Sheridan's Debts.—Lamartine.—Debts of Men of Science.—Debts of Artists.—Italian Artists.—Haydon.—The Old Poets.—Savage and Johnson.—Sterne.—Steele.—Goldsmith's Debts.—Byron.—Byron's Debts.—The Burden of Debt.—Sydney Smith.—De Foe and Southey.—Sir Walter Scott.—Scott's Debts and Labors.—Great Poor Men.—Johnson's Advice.—Genius and Debts.—Literary Men. 279

CHAPTER XIV.

RICHES AND CHARITY.

Helping the Helpless.—Dr. Donne.—Rich People.—Love of Gold.—Eagerness to be Rich.—Riches and Poverty.—Riches in Old Age.—Riches no Claim to Distinction.—Democrats and Riches.—Saladin the Great.—Don José de Salamanca.—Compensations of Poverty.—Risks of Richness.—Honest Poverty.—Poverty and Happiness.—Charity.—Evils of Money-

giving.—Philanthropy and Charity.—How to help the Poor.—Rich People's Wills.—Stephen Girard.—Girard and Helm.—The Girard College.—Thomas Guy.—Educational Charities.—Benefactors of the Poor.—The Navy's Home. 306

CHAPTER XV.

HEALTHY HOMES.

Healthy Existence.—Necessity for Pure Air.—The Fever Tax.—The Arcadians.—The Rural Poor.—Healthy Homes.—Influence of the Home.—Intelligence of Women.—Unhealthy Homes.—Health and Drunkenness.—Wholesome Dwellings.—Edwin Chadwick.—Expectancy of Life.—The Poor-laws.—The Sanitary Idea.—Fever in Whitechapel.—The Sanitary Inquiry.—Sanitary Commission.—Sanitary Science.—Results of Uncleanliness.—"Irish Fever."—That Terrible Nobody!—Somebody is to Blame.—Wholesome Homes Necessary.—Home Reform.—Domestic Improvement.—Dirt and Immorality.—"Dangerous Classes."—Worship in Washing.—Common Things at Home.—Knowledge of Physiology.—Domestic Economy.—English Cookery.—Worthlessness of Ill-managing Wives.—Foreign Inns.—Morals and Cookery.—Work for Ladies.—Joseph Corbet's Story.—Instruction of Women. 336

CHAPTER XVI.

THE ART OF LIVING.

Art of Living Exemplified.—Taste an Economist.—Contrasts in Cottage Life.—Difference in Workmen.—Living at Home.—Home and Comfort.—Comfortable People.—Beneficence of House Thrift.—Organization and Method.—Industry and Punctuality.—Management of Temper.—Good Manners.—Habitual Politeness.—French Manners.—Happiness in Good Manners.—Amusement.—Recreation.—Influence of Music.—Household Elegance.—Elegance of Flowers.—Common Enjoyments.—The Beauty of Art.—Portraits of Great Men.—Art at Home.—Final Art of Living. 376

INDEX. 401

BIBLIOTECA "RODRIGO DE LLANO"
SECCION DE ESTUDIOS HISTORICOS DE LA
UNIVERSIDAD DE NUEVO LEON