

**THINGS LEARNED
BY LIVING**

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Things learned by living by John Bascom

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JOHN BASCOM

**THINGS LEARNED
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John Roseman

Things Learned by Living

By

John Bascom

Author of "Social Theory," "Growth of Nationality in the
United States," "An Historical Interpretation
of Philosophy," etc.



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PREFACE

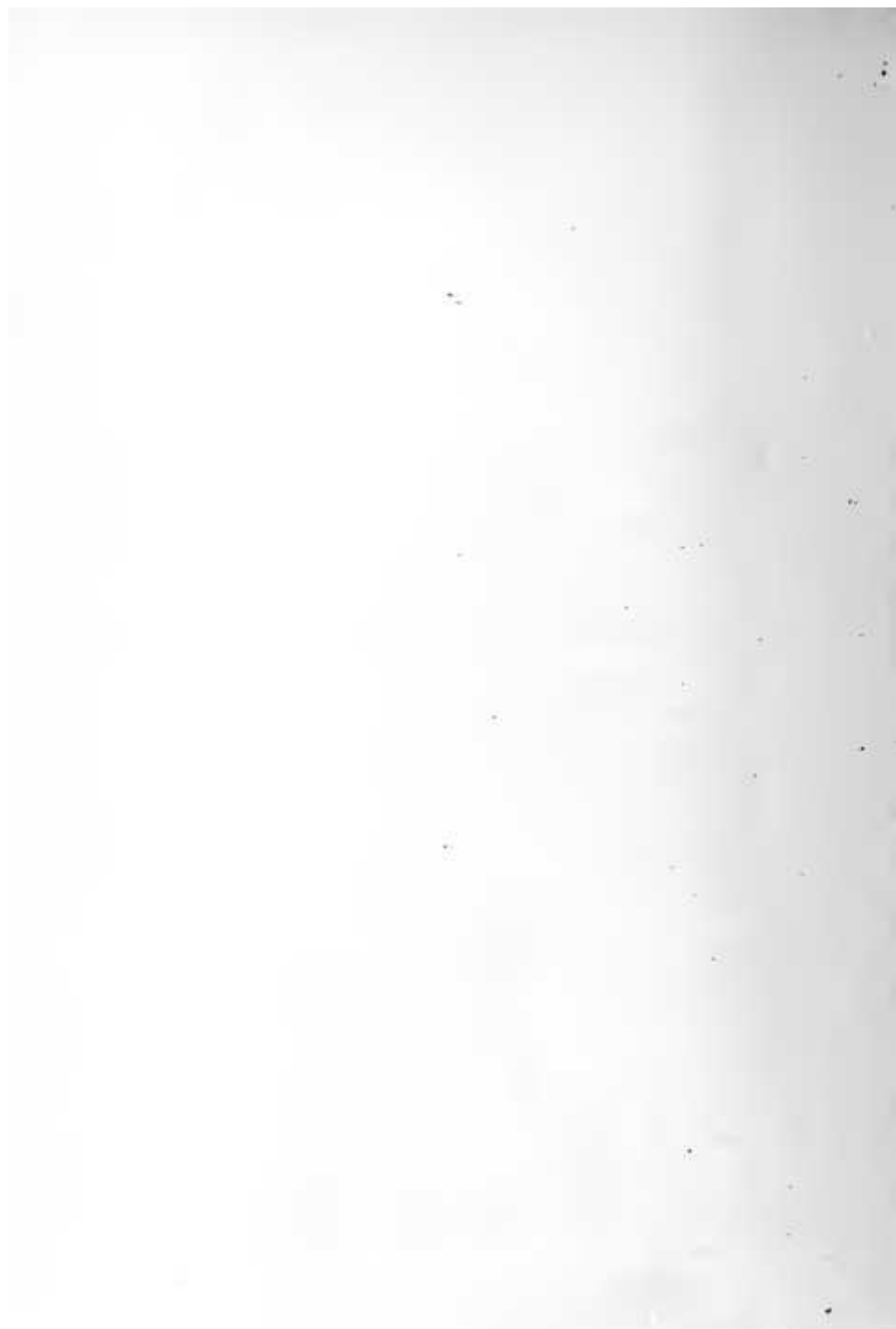
THIS brief volume is so far of the nature of personal memorabilia, that I do not care to introduce it to the public except through an obviously open door. I leave it, therefore, to others to give or withhold as circumstances may make way for it. Clinging to my convictions with that tenacity which belongs to every healthy mind, I do not doubt that there are many truths in my published works of which the world is finding or will find, the need. I am by no means as certain, however, that these principles will be consciously derived from this source. The truths themselves lie on the horizon of many minds, and are ready to find entrance, sooner or later, at many points. So far as my writings shall contribute to this result, they are as likely to do it indirectly, through the medium of more persuasive presentations, as directly, by their own force. If no wide interest shall attach to the work already done, then these further and more individual experiences would make their way with difficulty and impropriety.

They may, in that case, as well be added to those dreamy reminiscences and speculative visions which furnish the familiar occupants of the spiritual and secluded household of a single man. It is enough to have lived by means of them, though the record of life, like the impressions of most lives, be left under the lock and key of actual events, and miss that reflection in words we so often prize more highly than the thing itself. If, however, any principle of philosophy, any law of action, shall have gained clear impulse by my efforts, then these acquisitions of experience, these lessons in the school of life, dropping their purely personal significance, may enter on a somewhat wider service than that which they have already accomplished. Such a sketch may aid those interested in it in a more deft and pleasurable handling of their own powers, and, like a working plan in architecture, yield all the more to the mind because they yield so little to the eye.

J. B.

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INTRODUCTION

POPULAR interest in biography arises chiefly from the fascination of stirring events. This is the pleasure of the senses, the pleasure of boys, the pleasure of men still in possession of their boyish estate of lively sensibilities. No biographies are worth writing on this basis whose heroes have not considerably overpassed the familiar bounds of action, either in the variety or intensity or importance of the events narrated. A more thoughtful interest attaches to biography as a personal experience, a spiritual picture, a rendering of a nobler phase of life in its intellectually significant features. The reflective satisfaction which man takes in man, his delight in any enlargement of the area of human activity as a part of his own possessions, are appealed to, when he is made partaker in new and vigorous experiences. Here, however, the interesting biography must be the record of one of unusual force and freshness of life. It must give, in some direction, a positive expansion to our intellectual outlook.