

**FRUITS OF LEISURE: OR,
ESSAYS WRITTEN IN THE
INTERVALS OF BUSINESS**

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Fruits of Leisure: Or, Essays Written in the Intervals of Business by Arthur Helps

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ARTHUR HELPS

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FRUITS OF LEISURE:

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or,

ESSAYS

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FIRST AMERICAN, FROM THE FOURTH LONDON EDITION.

NEW-YORK:
ANSON D. F. RANDOLPH,
669 BROADWAY.
1861.

KD 6918



ADVERTISEMENT TO THE AMERICAN EDITION.

THIS volume, which has already passed to a fourth London Edition, is now first issued from the American press; and it is thought that it cannot fail to commend itself to those who desire constant instruction in the duties which they owe to themselves and to their fellow-men, and to be governed by the highest principles of conduct in the various departments of public and social life. While the essays composing the Second Part are addressed mainly to business men, and will be found especially valuable to young men, who need wise counsels most of all in a country where commercial transactions involve great risks and demand the utmost prudence, it is believed that they will be found eminently suggestive, and, in their practical character, generally adapted to every class of readers.

**JOHN A. GRAY, PRINTER,
75 FOLIOW ST.**

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THE FIRST PART.

"AND he that knows how little certainty there is in humane discourses, and how *we know in part, and prophetic in part*, and that of every thing whereof we know a little, we are ignorant in much more, must either be content with such proportion as the thing will bear, or as himself can get, or else he must never seek to alter or to persuade any man to be of his opinion. For the greatest part of discourses that are in the whole world, is nothing but a heap of probable inducements, plausibilities, and witty entertainments; and the throng of notices is not unlike the accidents of a battel, in which every man tells a new tale, something that he saw, mingled with a great many things which he saw not; his eyes and his fear joyning together equally in the instructions and the illusion, these make up the stories."—JEREMY TAYLOR'S DOCTOR DUBITANTIUM.

On Practical Wisdom.

PRACTICAL wisdom acts in the mind, as gravitation does in the material world ; combining, keeping things in their places, and maintaining a mutual dependence amongst the various parts of our system. It is for ever reminding us where we are, and what we can do, not in fancy, but in real life. It does not permit us to wait for dainty duties, pleasant to the imagination ; but insists upon our doing those which are before us. It is always inclined to make much of what it possesses ; and is not given to ponder over those schemes which might have been carried on, if what is irrevocable had been other than it is. It does not suffer us to waste our energies in regret. In journeying with it, we go towards the sun, and the shadow of our burden falls behind us.

In bringing any thing to completion, the means which it looks for are not the shortest, nor the neat-