

**THE VOICE OF WISDOM. A
TREASURY OF
MORAL TRUTHS FROM
THE BEST AUTHORS**

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The Voice of Wisdom. A Treasury of Moral Truths from the Best Authors by J. E.

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VOICE OF WISDOM

A Treasury of Moral Truths from
the Best Authors

SELECTED AND ARRANGED BY

J. E.

"I love to lose myself in other men's minds."—LAMB



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PREFACE.

THESE extracts have been collected and arranged for the benefit and use of preachers, Sunday-school teachers, speakers, and general readers, and comprise a choice selection of Treasured Truths, Pithy Proverbs, Homely Similes, and Noble Thoughts, gathered from a large number of sources, some well known, some forgotten and yet deserving to be known. Variety has been aimed at, and the alphabetical method has been adopted so as to facilitate easy reference. The range of authors is large, and great care has been taken to include all subjects that are likely to prove interesting and useful. The thanks of the compiler are hereby tendered to those authors who have given permission for the republication of the extracts.

" Abstracts, abridgments, and summaries have the same use with burning glasses, to collect the diffused rays of wit and learning in authors, and make them point with warmth and quickness upon the reader's imagination."--DEAN SWIFT.

" Out of the old fieldes, as men saith,
Cometh all this new corn fro' year to year ;
And out of old bookes, in good faith,
Cometh all this new matter that men lere."

—CHAUCER.

THE VOICE OF WISDOM:

A Treasury of Moral Truths.

A

Ability.

Men are often capable of greater things than they perform. They are sent into the world with bills of credit, and seldom draw to their full extent.—*Walpole.*

Absence.

Love reckons hours for months and days for years, and every little absence is an age.—*Dryden.*

Absent ones.

Speak well of the absent whenever you have a suitable opportunity.—*J. Hall.*

Abstinence.

Against diseases here the strongest fence
Is the defensive virtue—abstinence.—*Herrick.*

Abuses.

There is a time when men will not suffer bad things because their ancestors have suffered worse. There is a time when the hoary head of inveterate abuse will neither draw reverence nor obtain protection.—*Burke.*

Action.

Action is transitory—a step, a blow,

The motion of a muscle, this way or that.—*Wordsworth.*

Suit the action to the word, the word to the action; with this special observance, that you outstep not the modesty of nature.—*Shakespeare.*

The true benefactors of the world have always been eminent for action, and not for dreaming.—*Chalmers.*

When I detect myself in unprofitable reverie, let me make an instant transition from dreaming to doing.—*Chalmers.*

Where you are is of no moment, but only what you are doing there. It is not the place that ennobles you, but you the place; and this only by doing that which is great and noble.—*Petrarch.*

Be great in act, as you have been in thought.—*Shakespeare.*

Action and idleness.

Action keeps the soul in health, whereas idleness rusts the mind, and corrupts as well as benumbs all its active faculties.

Action, a good.

A good action is a treasure

guarded for the doer's need.—
Proverb.

Action, prompt.

Advise well before you begin ;
when you have maturely con-
sidered, then act with prompti-
tude.—*Anon.*

Action, purity of.

No action will be considered as
blameless unless the will was so,
for by the will was the act dic-
tated.—*Seneca.*

Action, right.

Right action is the result of
right faith, but a true and right
faith cannot be sustained, deep-
ened, extended, save in a course of
right action.—*M'Combie.*

Action, true.

Onward while a wrong remains
To be conquered by the right,
While oppression lifts a finger
To affront us by his might.
While an error clouds the reason,
Or a sorrow gnaws the heart,
Or a slave awaits his freedom,
Action is the wise man's part.

Action, value of.

Words are good, but there is
something better. The best is not
to be explained by words. The
spirit in which we act is the chief
matter. Action can be only under-
stood and represented by the spirit.
No one knows what he is doing
while he is acting rightly, but of
what is wrong we are always con-
scious.—*Goethe.*

Action, value of a kind.

There are few joys so great as
that which springs from a kind
act or pleasant deed, and you may

feel it at night when you rest,
at morning when you rise, and
through the day when about your
daily business.

Activity.

Life is a short day, but it is a
working day. Activity may lead
to evil, but inactivity cannot lead
to good.—*H. More.*

Acts.

Act well at the moment, and
you have performed a good action
to all eternity.—*Lavater.*

That best portion of a good man's
life,
His little, nameless, unremem-
bered acts
Of kindness and of love.

—*Wordsworth.*

Admiration.

We always love those who ad-
mire us, but we do not always
love those whom we admire.—
Roche foucauld.

Adoption, wonders of.

When the Danish missionaries
at Malabar set their converts to
translate the text, "Now are we
the sons of God," one of them laid
down the pen, and exclaimed,
"It is too much ; let me rather
render it, 'They shall be permit-
ted to kiss His feet.'"

Adversity.

Spread your sail when the
breeze of adversity blows, and let
it drive your vessel onwards in
its course.—*M'Cheyne.*

Prosperity is no just scale ; ad-
versity is the only balance to
weigh friends.—*Plutarch.*

As the seed is more fruitful

that hath been covered with snow, and the fire burneth faster that hath been pressed down with the wind, so are the hearts and souls of true Christians bettered by adversity.—*Spencer*.

Adversity beareth fruit.

Adversity is like the period of the former and the latter rain—cold, comfortless, and unfriendly to man and to animal, yet from that season have their birth the flower and the fruit, the rose and the pomegranate.—*Sir W. Scott*.

Adversity, value of.

Prosperity is a great teacher, adversity is a greater; possession pampers the mind, privation trains and strengthens it.—*Hazlitt*.

Advice.

There is nothing of which men are more liberal than their good advice, be their stock of it ever so small, because it seems to carry in it an intimation of our own worth, influence, or importance.—*Young*.

Never give advice unasked.

Have more than thou showest,
Speak less than thou knowest,
Lend less than thou owest.

Advice and example.

He that gives good advice, builds with one hand; he that gives good counsel and example, builds with the other; but he that gives good admonition and bad example, builds with one hand and pulls down with the other.—*Bacon*.

Affectation.

Some would be thought to do

great things who are but tools and instruments, like the fool that fancied he played upon the organ when he only blew the bellows.

Affectation, beware of.

Affectation in any part of our demeanour is lighting up a candle to our defects, and never fails to make us to be taken of either as wanting sense or as wanting sincerity.—*Locke*.

Affections, the.

The affections are immortal; they are the sympathies which unite the ceaseless generations.—*B. Lytton*.

Affliction.

David's pen never wrote more sweetly than when it was dipped in the ink of affliction.—*Hart*.

Affliction is the wholesome soil of virtue,

Where patience, honour, sweet humanity,

Calm fortitude, take root and strongly flourish.—*Thomson*,

Man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward.

Sanctified afflictions are spiritual promotions.—*M. Henry*.

Affliction opens the Bible at the right places.—*J. Parker*.

As threshing separates the wheat from the chaff, so does affliction purify virtue.—*Burton*.

Had this bullock contented himself and remained quietly within his own bounds, his owner had never put such a heavy clog upon his neck; but I see the pru-

dent husbandman chooses rather to keep him with his clog than lose him for the want of one. What this clog is to him, that is affliction and trouble to me. Had my soul kept close with God in liberty and prosperity, He would never have clogged me with adversity. Yea, and happy were it for me if I might stray from God no more, who has thus clogged me with preventive afflictions, if with David I might say, "Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now have I kept Thy word."—*Flavel*.

Like as, if a sheep stray from his fellows, the shepherd sets his dog after it, not to devour it, but to bring it in again; even so our Heavenly Shepherd, if any of us, His sheep, disobey Him, He sets His dog of affliction after us, not to hurt us, but to bring us home to consideration of our duty towards Him. Now, His dogs be poverty, banishment, sickness, evil rulers, dearth, death, war, loss of goods or friends.—*Spencer*.

Affliction a blessing.

A smiling face and a rod are not fit companions. God bares the back that the blow may be felt; for it is only *felt* affliction that can become *blest* affliction.—*C. H. Spurgeon*.

Affliction, end of.

It is not *going into* the furnace, but the *coming out*, which demonstrates the metal.

Affliction, gain of.

Afflictions are God's most effectual means to keep us from los-

ing our way to our heavenly rest. Without this hedge of thorns on the right hand and on the left, we should hardly keep the way to heaven. If there be one gap, how ready are we to find it and turn out of it! O blessed day when I was afflicted!—*Baxter*.

Affliction justified.

The eternal stars shine out as soon as it is dark enough.—*Carlyle*.

Affliction misunderstood.

Troubles are usually the brooms and shovels that smooth the road to a good man's fortune, of which he little dreams; and many a man curses the rain that falls upon his head, and knows not that it brings abundance to drive away hunger.—*Basil*.

Affliction, time of fruit-bearing.

God will be sure to plough His own ground, whatsoever becometh of the waste, and to weed His own garden, though the rest of the world should be let alone to grow wild.—*J. Napp*.

Affliction, use of.

Virtuous men are like some herbs and spices, they give not out their sweet smell till they be broken or crushed.—*Bacon*.

Fire and hammer and file are necessary to give the metal form; and it must have many a grind and many a rub ere it will shine; so in trial character is shaped and beautified and brightened.—*S. Coley*.

Never was goldsmith more careful of his gold, that it should not