

**OPPORTUNITY AND  
OTHER ESSAYS AND  
ADDRESSES**

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Opportunity and Other Essays and Addresses by J. L. Spalding

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**J. L. SPALDING**

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# OPPORTUNITY

AND

## OTHER ESSAYS AND ADDRESSES

*John* BY  
**J. L. SPALDING**  
*circula*  
Bishop of Paris

1

It is strange that most students should inquire with much diligence concerning the virtues of plants, the motions of the stars, the transmutations of metals, and other similar subjects, while few or none make it their purpose to acquire a good mind, though all other things are to be esteemed not so much for themselves as for their influence on the right use of reason. — DESCARTES.



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1903

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OPPORTUNITY  
AND  
OTHER ESSAYS AND ADDRESSES

I

OPPORTUNITY <sup>1</sup>

Human happiness has no perfect security but freedom, freedom none but virtue, and virtue none but knowledge; and neither freedom nor virtue nor knowledge has any vigor and immortal hope, except in the principles of the Christian faith and in the sanction of the Christian religion.

JOSIAH QUINCY.

HOW shall I live? How shall I make the most of my life and put it to the best use? How shall I become a man and do a man's work? This, and not politics or trade or war or pleasure, is the question. The primary consideration is not how one shall get a living, but how he shall live, for if he live rightly, whatever is needful he shall easily find. Life is opportunity, and therefore its whole circumstance may be made to serve the purpose of

<sup>1</sup> Address delivered at the opening of the Spalding Institute, Peoria, December 6, 1899.