

# **THE PLEASURES OF LIFE**

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The Pleasures of Life by Sir John Lubbock

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**SIR JOHN LUBBOCK**

**THE PLEASURES  
OF LIFE**



*J. W. Bond*

4.29.88.

THE

PLEASURES OF LIFE.

BY

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F.R.S., D.C.L., LL.D.

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"Some murmur, when their sky is clear  
And wholly bright to view,  
If one small speck of dark appear  
In their great heaven of blue,  
And some with thankful love are filled,  
If but one streak of light,  
One ray of God's good mercy gild  
The darkness of their night.

"In palaces are hearts that ask,  
In discontent and pride,  
Why life is such a dreary task,  
And all good things denied.  
And hearts in poorest huts admire  
How love has in their aid  
(Love that not ever seems to tire)  
Such rich provision made."

TRENCH.

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## PREFACE.

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THOSE who have the pleasure of attending the opening meetings of schools and colleges, and of giving away prizes and certificates, are generally expected at the same time to offer such words of counsel as the experience of the world might enable them to give to those who are entering life.

Being myself naturally rather prone to suffer from low spirits, I have at several of these gatherings taken the opportunity of dwelling on the privileges and blessings we enjoy, and I reprint here the substance of some of these addresses (omitting what was special to the circumstances of each case, and freely making any alterations and additions which have since occurred to me), hoping that the thoughts and quotations in which I have myself found most comfort may perhaps be of use to others also.

It is hardly necessary to say that I have not by any means referred to all the sources of happiness open to us, some indeed of the greatest pleasures and blessings being altogether omitted.

In reading over the proofs I feel that I may appear in some cases too dogmatic, but I hope that allowance will be made for the circumstances under which they were delivered.

HIGH ELMS,

DOWN, KENT, *January 1887.*

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in the context of public administration and financial management. The text notes that without reliable records, it is difficult to track the flow of funds and ensure that resources are being used as intended.

2. The second part of the document addresses the challenges associated with data collection and analysis. It highlights that gathering accurate and timely data can be a complex task, especially when dealing with large-scale operations or multiple stakeholders. The document suggests that investing in robust data management systems and training personnel in data analysis techniques can significantly improve the quality and reliability of the information used for decision-making.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the role of technology in enhancing operational efficiency. It discusses how digital tools and automation can streamline processes, reduce errors, and free up resources for more strategic tasks. The text also touches upon the importance of cybersecurity in protecting sensitive data and ensuring the integrity of digital systems.

4. The fourth part of the document explores the impact of external factors on organizational performance. It notes that economic conditions, regulatory changes, and market fluctuations can all have a significant influence on an organization's ability to achieve its goals. The document advises that organizations should maintain a flexible and adaptive strategy to navigate these uncertainties effectively.

5. The fifth and final part of the document provides a summary of the key findings and offers recommendations for future action. It reiterates the importance of a holistic approach to organizational management, one that considers both internal processes and external environments. The document concludes by encouraging a culture of continuous improvement and innovation to drive long-term success.

# THE PLEASURES OF LIFE.

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## CHAPTER I.

### THE DUTY OF HAPPINESS.<sup>1</sup>

"If a man is unhappy, this must be his own fault : for God made all men to be happy."—EPICTETUS.

LIFE is a great gift, and as we reach years of discretion, we most of us naturally ask ourselves what should be the main object of our existence. Even those who do not accept "the greatest good of the greatest number" as an absolute rule, will yet admit that we should all endeavor to contribute as far as we may to the happiness of our fellow-creatures. There are many, however, who seem to doubt whether it is possible, or even right, that we should be happy ourselves. Our own happiness ought not, of course, to be our main object, nor indeed will it ever be secured if selfishly sought. We may have many pleasures in life, but must not let pleasures have rule over us or they will soon hand us over to sorrow; and "into what dangerous and miserable servitude does he fall who suffereth pleasures and sorrows (two unfaithful and cruel commanders) to possess him successively?" I cannot, however, but think that the world

<sup>1</sup> The substance of this was delivered at the Harris Institute, Preston.

<sup>1</sup> Seneca.