

**BREVIA: SHORT
ESSAYS AND
APHORISMS**

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Brevia: Short Essays and Aphorisms by Arthur Helps

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ARTHUR HELPS

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BREVI A

SHORT ESSAYS AND APHORISMS

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BY THE AUTHOR OF

"FRIENDS IN COUNCIL"

Sir Walter Raleigh



BOSTON

ROBERTS BROTHERS

1871

CHISWICK PRESS:—PRINTED BY WHITTINGHAM AND WILKINS,
TOOKS COURT, CHANCERY LANE.

TO
HIS DAUGHTER ALICE,

THIS WORK
IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED

BY
THE AUTHOR.

1. The number of people who have been vaccinated is 100.

2. The number of people who have not been vaccinated is 100.

3. The number of people who have been vaccinated and are also infected is 10.

4. The number of people who have not been vaccinated and are also infected is 10.

5. The number of people who have been vaccinated and are not infected is 90.

6. The number of people who have not been vaccinated and are not infected is 90.

7. The number of people who have been vaccinated and are also infected is 10.

8. The number of people who have not been vaccinated and are also infected is 10.

9. The number of people who have been vaccinated and are not infected is 90.

10. The number of people who have not been vaccinated and are not infected is 90.

11. The number of people who have been vaccinated and are also infected is 10.

12. The number of people who have not been vaccinated and are also infected is 10.

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21. The number of people who have been vaccinated and are not infected is 90.

22. The number of people who have not been vaccinated and are not infected is 90.

23. The number of people who have been vaccinated and are also infected is 10.

24. The number of people who have not been vaccinated and are also infected is 10.

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Tappan First Issue,
1-26-1933

 MOST of these Essays were originally published in "Good Words," but they have been carefully revised and corrected in this re-issue.

November, 1870.

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SHORT ESSAYS AND APHORISMS.

NO time for it.—That seems to be the thing that we all fail to consider sufficiently in this brief life of ours. Now, if we had the length of life that the patriarchs enjoyed,—after we had learnt everything that was to be learnt, and had made a few discoveries of our own, and had arranged all our affairs most comfortably, there would then be time to spare for carrying on a good, wholesome feud with any of our neighbours, and for annoying the world generally by vexatious diplomacy and long wars. One could then afford to expend a trifle of time, say twenty or thirty years of our lives, in pleasures

of this kind. But with our present short period of existence, there is no time for indulging in these luxuries of mischief.



THERE is not greater nonsense talked about anything than about inconsistency. The truth is, no man ever is inconsistent. His utterances are inconsistent; but, did we know all about him, and about the circumstances which he has to encounter, we should not speak of the man as inconsistent.

A curious illustration of what I mean may be given in this way.

There shall be a father and a son advocating opposite views. The world says, How unlike are these two men; whereas the opposition of their views shows, perhaps, the similarity of their characters: if they agreed now, their ages and their experience of life being so different, it would be a proof of great dissimilarity of character.



WHEN the tourist goes over some old castle or palace, and his attention is arrested by horrible dungeons, torture-chambers,