

**SKETCHES AND
LESSONS
FROM DAILY LIFE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649705900

Sketches and Lessons from Daily Life by Felix Friendly

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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FELIX FRIENDLY

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"TAKE CARE OF THAT PLANT."

[page 120.]

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FROM

DAILY LIFE.

BY

Felix Friendly.

"As every little present has its little future, for which we live; so the whole present of this life has its great future, which must all the way through be made the supreme object of thought and solicitude." -ECLIPSE OF FAITH.

LONDON:

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, AND CO.

MDCCLXIX.

141. K. 519.

PREFACE.

“Live and learn;” “learn and teach;” “teach and love;” are counsels worthy to be treasured up in the memory, and acted out in the life. To live without learning is folly; to learn without teaching is selfishness; and to teach without being loving is frequently labour lost. One has well said “that love is the divine qualification for all works of human service. Much love with little talent will, under God’s blessing, be sure to do some real good.”

One who has lived some years in the world, and seen a good deal of daily life, ventures to send forth these sketches and remarks in hopes that they may be of service to some who are toiling along the highway of life. The world is full of stern facts, great follies, and sad failures; and all these are found mixed up with every-day life. It is important to try to teach young people this, and to impress on their minds that in the relations, business, and trials

of life, with which they must have to do, there are found spheres of usefulness, fields of enjoyment, opportunities of glorifying God, tests of character, material for temptation, a road to heaven, and avenues to dishonour. Should any one be more fully impressed with the truth and importance of these things by what is here written, the labour will not have been in vain.

The following remarks on common sense are worthy of notice, but require to be connected with Bible truth and Christian principles:—

“Common sense is the application of thought to common things, and it is rare, because most persons will not exercise thought about common things. If some important affair occurs, people try then to think, but to very little purpose; because not having exercised their powers on small things, their powers lack the development necessary for great ones. Hence, thoughtless people, when forced to act in an affair of importance, blunder through it with no more chance of doing as they should, than one would have of hitting a small or distant mark with a rifle, if previous practice had not given the power of hitting objects that are large and near.”

To promote habits of thoughtfulness and prayer, or the exercise of sound common sense in connection with Christian principles, is the design of this little book. A part of what is here presented has already

appeared in various periodicals, and it is hoped may be of further service in the present form. While in the following short sketches the writer has sometimes exposed follies and mistakes, he has not done so from the love of finding fault, but with a sincere desire to prevent sin and suffering, and to increase holiness and happiness. He has often drawn upon personal experience, as well as from observation; and deeply feels that no one should lay lower in the dust before God than himself on account of mistakes and shortcomings. He would fain be God's instrument of preserving some, especially the young, and those just entering on life's relationships and business, from the state of mind so touchingly described by Jane Taylor in the following lines:—

“ But when by conscience, memory's eye is cast,
Pained and reluctant, at the guilty past;
And sees life's path bestrewed on every side,
With sins and follies thick and multiplied;
Follies for which our shame arrives too late;
Sins, that heaven only can obliterate;
And what slight efforts had restrained their power;
How bitter the remembrance to the hour.”

How wise too, and weighty are the following lines:—

“ It seems at last experience does but show,
What sense and conscience witnessed long ago.

Decides the whole dispute 'twixt heaven and earth,
Proving *her* promise to be nothing worth ;
And that *He* knew our hearts and wants who spoke
Of a light burden and an easy yoke.
Could we but credit heaven's unerring pen,
We need not wait till three-score years and ten.
He says his ways are pleasant—not alone
To pure bright spirits bending round the throne ;
But pleasant, peaceful, suited to the powers
Of such poor sordid earthly souls as ours ;
We doubt—and all experience claims to do,
Is simply this—to prove this statement true."

Some there are who, under God's blessing, learn useful lessons from the teachings of truth and the experience of others, without having to buy wisdom by bitter experience. "By the words of God's lips they keep themselves from the path of the destroyer." They look on beacons and shun the dangerous spot ; they study the course of the good, and become their earnest followers. May God increase the number of such, and make their example very influential on those who shall come after.

F. F.

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