

JUST TALKS ON COMMON THEMES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649178919

Just talks on common themes by Arthur G. Staples

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ARTHUR G. STAPLES

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COMMON THEMES**

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BY
ARTHUR G. STAPLES



LEWISTON JOURNAL PUBLISHING CO.
LEWISTON, MAINE
1919

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PREFACE

This book is a selection from articles appearing each day in the columns of the Lewiston Evening Journal, a newspaper published in Lewiston-Auburn, Maine. This accounts for the many local allusions and Maine colloquialisms.

No apology is needed for the publication of this book—or if such apology be required, it should not come from the writer. One hundred readers (more or less) contend for the distinction of being the first to suggest that these familiar essays be put in a book. Left later, to the discrimination of the same public, one thousand readers professed by letter a desire to have copies of this book when published. Whether they will regret it, is a matter for the future to determine; but it leaves the publishers comfortable, since they have no critics to appease and no large market to seek.

It will be seen that many of the sketches are autobiographical. Autobiography is always a matter of taste. It is true that there is little of interest in common lives; yet, there is value in the sum total of human experience. For instance, a certain man who lived a quiet life once wrote two books. One of them was to be his monument; in it he "solved" all the problems of life. In the other book were told the simple annals of his own life. The former book is forgotten—out of print; the latter is read by thousands, daily. The world may thus find something of interest in any commonplace life—especially if it be told with fidelity to truth. It is the fond belief of the writer that if there is any virtue in any portion of this book, it lies in the fact that these sketches were written out of a feeling of intimacy with his public, in a purely spontaneous enjoyment of the themes, and in belief in their truth.

One word more, the material for many of these sketches came from many sources, to all of which thanks are due without further notice. It is hoped that the book will do no harm and there is a faint hope in the miraculous—that it may get a smile, or a tear or a second thought in a busy world.

Arthur G. Staples.

LEWISTON, MAINE, *May, 1919.*

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