

**BITS OF WISDOM;
OR, DAILY
THOUGHTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649532315

Bits of Wisdom; Or, Daily Thoughts by William McKinley

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WILLIAM MCKINLEY

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BITS OF WISDOM

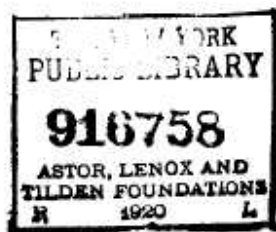
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DAILY THOUGHTS, McKINLEY

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BALTIMORE
R. H. WOODWARD COMPANY
1901



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PREFACE.

THE compiler of this little book offers to the public some of Mr. McKinley's most noteworthy and epigrammatic sayings. They have been selected with care from his speeches and writings. Possibly no more suitable preface could be furnished than an extract from Ex-President Cleveland's address, which was delivered at Princeton, New Jersey, on the day of President McKinley's burial. The Ex-President said, in part :

"The whole nation loved its late President. His kindly disposition and affectionate traits, his amiable consideration for all around him, will long remain in the hearts of his countrymen. He loved them in return with such patriotism and unselfishness that in this hour of their grief and

humiliation he would say to them: 'It is God's will; I am content. If there is a lesson in my life or death, let it be taught to those who shall live and have the destiny of their country in their keeping.'

"Let us seek for the lessons and the admonitions that may be suggested by the life and death of this great man.

"First in my thoughts are the lessons to be learned by the young men. These lessons are not obscure nor difficult. They teach us the value of study and mental training, but they teach us impressively that the road to usefulness and to the only success worth having will be missed or lost except it is sought and kept by the light of those qualities of the heart which it is sometimes supposed may safely be neglected.

"The man who is universally mourned acquired the highest distinction which this great country can confer on any man, and he lived a useful life. He was not deficient in education, but with all you will hear of his grand career and his services to his country

and his fellow-citizens you will never hear that either the high place he reached or what he accomplished was due entirely to his education. You will, instead, constantly hear, as accounting for his great success, that he was obedient and affectionate as a son, patient as a soldier, honest and upright as a citizen, tender and devoted as a husband, and truthful, generous, unselfish, moral and clean in every relation of life. He never thought any of these things too weak for manliness.

“Make no mistake, he was a most distinguished man, a great man, a useful man, who has been distinguished, great and useful because he had and retained unimpaired qualities of heart which I fear university students sometimes feel like keeping in the background or abandoning.

“What is there left behind for our people by the President we mourn? He has left us a priceless gift in his example of a useful and pure life, of his fidelity to public trust, and his demonstration of the kind of virtue

that not only ennobles mankind, but leads to success. It is for us to remain to enforce this example and make it a saving influence for good in all our progress as a nation, and in every vicissitude that awaits our future.

“We are in church to-day, and the churches throughout the land are open to memorial exercises. These services should be but the beginning of strenuous exertions on the part of our churches to arouse our people to their obligations in the fulfilment of civic duty and to the enforcement of the fact that the laws of God, if kept and obeyed, are sufficient for all our needs and vicissitudes. God still lives and reigns, but He will not turn His face from us who have always been objects of His kindness.”