

**RESOURCES: AN
INTERPRETATION OF THE
WELL-ROUNDED LIFE**

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Resources: an interpretation of the well-rounded life by Stanton Davis Kirkham

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Stanton Davis Kirkham

Author of "The Philosophy of Self-Help," "The Ministry of
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PREFACE

IN the present race for money, the virtue of quiet and contemplative hours is apt to be lost sight of: indeed, the specious idea is gaining ground that money is the only resource. It suffices to intimate in this connection that we can buy neither health nor happiness; and as for substitutes for these, a few will answer as well as a great many.

Intellectual and spiritual resources, however, condition happiness, inasmuch as they make for a well-rounded life. The fact is worthy of emphasis that they are acquired only in the plastic years of the mind. It is then we foster the love of nature, of books, of music, and with it fashion a brain which shall serve our purpose. Age acquires no assets of this kind, and if it has laid up no treasure in its youth, must presently find itself bankrupt. While it may not be amiss to sound a warning against a possible spiritual and intellectual bankruptcy, it is surely more to the point to encourage the cultivation of the

mind's estate, that no such Nemesis may overtake us.

That which we derive from our resources will depend always upon what we are. It is ever a coefficient of character, and furthermore, a matter of perception, of a delicate as well as a disciplined response of the inner to the outer—an ear for music, an eye for nature, a feeling for books and for solitude, a love for people.

No true resource is superficial, for it must spring from a love sufficient to animate the will. It is real, not an affectation, and here is the difference between resources and fads. If it be reading, it is not to take the place of thought but to stimulate us to think for ourselves; if travel, we are to journey out of ourselves, to arrive at something foreign to the narrow world we call our own, the meagre idea we know as self; if nature, the mountains must yield mountain thoughts as well as air, the woods something of more value than lumber, even companionship; society must afford sincere relations with men and women, and that rarest of stimulants—conversation; while solitude must be, not isolation, but an inner joy and peace.

Society is haunted with ghosts—men who

have died to the spiritual life, men who have died to the intellectual life, and whose physical apparitions are left to monopolise the world. The rich are popularly supposed to be they who have money—commonly men of one resource only; whereas true wealth consists in the number and variety of our resources and the extent of their cultivation. He is blessed who has found his vocation; but twice blessed is he who has discovered, in addition, his avocation. Not only does age approach him slowly, but while he lives, he has life more abundantly.

S. D. K.

