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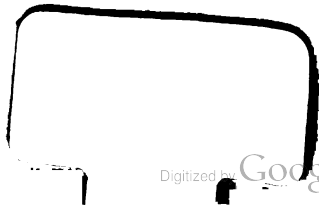
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KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT



AVSTIN O'MALLEY

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KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

KEYSTONES *of* THOUGHT

By

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**"Alles gescheidte ist schon gedacht
worden; man muss nur versuchen
es noch einmal zu denken."—*Goethe***



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LECTORI BENEVOLO

THESE aphorisms are disconnected thoughts, hoarded at intervals, wherein exactness of truth is not seldom whittled away for the sake of point. That point should be a prick to attention, a stimulant to reflection and memory, a glint of wit for the amusement of the reader and the maker.

Bacon said in the *Advancement of Learning*, "The writing in aphorisms hath many excellent virtues whereto the writing in method does not approach. For first, it trieth the writer whether he be superficial or solid; for aphorisms, except they be ridiculous, cannot be made but of the pith and heart of sciences; for discourse of illustration is cut off; recitals of examples are cut off; discourse of connection and order are cut off; descriptions of practice are cut off; so there remaineth nothing to fill the aphor-

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isms but some good quality of observation; and therefore no man can suffice, nor in reason will attempt, to write aphorisms, but he that is sound and grounded. But in method

*Tantum series juncturaque pollet,
Tantum de medio sumptis accedit honoris.*

as a man shall make a great show of an art, where if it were disjointed, would come to little. Secondly, methods are more fit to win consent or belief, but less fit to point to action; for they carry a kind of demonstration in orb or circle, one part illuminating another, and therefore satisfy; but particulars being dispersed, do best agree with dispersed directions. And, lastly, aphorisms representing a knowledge broken, do invite men to inquire further; whereas methods, carrying the show of a total, do secure men, as if they were at furthest."

I have written in such method often

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enough, wrangling with the Schoolmen on questions of morals, life and death, whereof I knew little and they knew less. Now, by your leave, I would talk at my ease, with no eye strained on the target.

If I lack these qualities requisite in a writer of aphorisms (and on that fact let others ponder) I may have, nevertheless, so chanced upon some meat of wisdom for your regaling that my temerity is not altogether devoid of saving grace. Conclusions are set forth here ready found, which spare you the labor of tramping in moist relentment through syllogistic mazes; and should these conclusions be too broad, there is no law in the world to prevent any reasonable clipping of their edges. With my blessing, do with them as you please, for I shall never defend them, nor heed you snipping.

When one writes in method on some question of morals he should be held responsible unto the last syllable of the *Lex Talionis*,

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but when he is affecting a certain aphoristic smartness he may lawfully disclaim all pretense to infallibility; indeed, he may fail further of infallibility than of smartness and be the more cheerfully pardoned. Haply I have missed both; yet if so, my sole regret is that you thus fall short of your meed of amusement.

A. O'M.

Keystones of Thought

A drunkard is like a whiskey-bottle, all neck and belly and no head.

A fallen lighthouse is more dangerous than a reef.

We are plated with piety, not alloyed with it.

A perfection in discord with an object is as evil as politeness in a watchdog.

The modern king has become a vermiform appendix—useless when quiet, when obtrusive in danger of removal.

Some men are like a clock on a roof; they are useful only to the neighbors.

Exclusiveness is a characteristic of recent riches, high society, and the skunk.

A woman, like a cross-eyed man, looks one way, but goes another—hence her mysteriousness.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Style is not the setting of the diamond thought; it is the glitter itself of the diamond.

An Irishman is a human enthymeme—all extremes and no middle.

A charitable man is like an apple-tree—he gives his fruit and is silent; the philanthropist is like the successful hen.

Most reformers, like a pair of trousers on a windy clothesline, go through a vast deal of vehement motion, but stay in the same place.

The cat and the love you give away come back to you.

Some folk never handle the truth without scratching it.

Private interpretation in religion is like cutting your own hair.

Atheism is a disease of the mind caused by eating underdone philosophy.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A goat-Christian is a baptized person that strays about the town six days in the week, but stays in the shed on Sunday eating newspapers.

It's a long snake that has no tail.

A rain-filled gutter makes more noise than the Hudson River.

Busy souls have no time to be busybodies.

The ordinary preacher, like an ice-pitcher, sweats much, but gets nowhere.

If you snub Conscience a few times she will cut your acquaintance.

Talent apprehends, genius comprehends.

Happiness is the harvest of a quiet eye.

The Reformation tried to cure a sore hoof on the Pope's bull by cutting off the whole leg.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A philosopher has strength of discursive intellect, a genius has keenness of direct vision.

Often a convert is zealous not through piety, but because of the novelty of his experience.

Memory is a crazy woman that hoards colored rags and throws away food.

You can neither gather wool from an ass nor truth from a sensualist.

Art knows, life applies knowledge; art feels, life acts.

Physical science reads through its sense of touch like a blind man, and the supply of books in braille type on the spiritual life is very small.

Writers on the spiritual life are constantly mistaking the liver for the devil.

Before yielding to despair concerning your eternal salvation try calomel.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

It usually takes as many generations to make a religious convert as to make a gentleman.

The ideal historian goes to the mouth of the tomb, cries: "Lazarus, come forth!" and sets him that was dead for ages, blinking and passionate, in the sun.

Possess your soul without fussing; your guardian angel does not lose half the sleep over you you think he does.

If the devil went about doing a tenth of what he is accused of doing he would be poor from paying the blacksmith for ox-shoes for his hooves.

The devil moves through a drawing-room without ever hurting his spine, or annoying his friends by catching his tail-barb in the carpet; but some holy clerics are always stumbling over the rugs and smashing the spiritual *bric-à-brac*.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

There are methods better than kicking them
in whereby a pastor may get his sheep and
lambs into paradise.

The Son of the Carpenter made the door of
heaven so low that you must either take off
your plumes or stoop humbly to enter it.

If the pastor would only lead all his rams
into paradise, a barbed-wire fence could not
keep out the ewes.

The haughtier the rule, the meeker the monk.

In the truly good all gout is rheumatism.

The perjurer's mother told white lies.

You and I watch the ocean for the coming
ships with our naked eyes, but the poet sees
with a marine glass.

Some lives are like an ebbing tide in a har-
bor; the farther they go out, the more mud
they expose.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The harder you throw down a football and a good character, the higher they rebound; but a thrown reputation is like an egg.

An agnostic is a street-fakir that shuts his good eyes and holds out the placard: "I am blind!"

All musicians have a deep concha in the pinna of the ear, approaching a rectangular parallelogram in shape.

One group of the so-called Christian churches is now like a funeral returning from a graveyard: it is made up of carriages connected by slight sympathy and the pavement; and every now and then a brougham drops out at a side-street, up go the decorous window-shades, and the occupants throw off restraint. Back in the cemetery they are covering up Faith in her grave.

Persecution is as necessary to religion as pruning to an orchard.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

It is easier to coax a heretic into the church than to drive him in with the butt of a crozier.

If you hold a visiting card or a prejudice before your eyes, they will shut out as much as will the Rocky Mountains.

If you would remove a prejudice, first study your opponent's character, not the prejudice. If the opponent is a woman, never attack the prejudice directly.

Every wheatfield of human thought after a while becomes filled with cockle; then the husbandmen destroy the grain with the cockle and plant anew.

To make the past live again in history is as great a miracle as to revive a dead man; hence the futility of that history which tries to go beyond deduction to creation.

It is as easy to give advice to yourself as to others, and as useless.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

You cannot knock a man down who will not stand up, nor argue with a skeptic.

If you are ignorant enough, you can walk like a cat on the slippery roof-ridge of danger.

Treat kindly every miserable truth that knocks begging at your door, otherwise you will some day fail to recognize Truth Himself when He comes in rags.

The collision of a great man with a great idea strikes fire in dry flax.

The only real change in life comes with the consciousness of old age.

You cannot weld cake-dough to cast iron, nor a girl to an old man.

Well educated persons seldom become insane.

What will be, is.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Many a man has won glory for lifelong temperance through a queasy stomach.

Those that the Lord loves He chastens, but the contrary is not always true.

That the saints were usually in ill luck does not canonize you.

Scrupulosity is a symptom of neurasthenia, not of aridity in the unitive way.

Those that say they despise riches are saints or liars.

Blue blood is the form, but money is the matter, and each needs the other.

If you are liberal intellectually to a religion that is not your own, your religion is a sentiment, not a belief.

The worst misfortune that can happen to an ordinary man is to have an extraordinary father.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The only mysterious part of any man's character is his will.

Cunning is a short blanket—if you pull it over your face, you expose your feet.

The bigger the dam of patience, the worse the flood when the dam breaks.

You cannot chase a dollar and an ideal at the same time.

Truth and eggs are useful only while they are fresh.

There is an opportune blindness which is more valuable than vision.

Myopia and scandal cannot see the difference between the church's buttresses and the parson's shins.

While I was shoeing the king's charger, the beetle held up its own leg; and some men think they are the church.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

One snarling camel is worth three patient asses.

An inscription for a violin: *In arbore vivens silebam, mortua cano.*

The only useful reformer is he that never loses sight of the good in the sinner.

The statesman shears the sheep, the politician skins them.

To make a priest, God puts the crown jewels in a paper bag.

Many a very intelligent conscience has lame feet.

That a mouse of scandal whisks its foolish tail across the church's floor is not sufficient cause for clamorous leaping out of its windows.

Man and the earth move in orbits: what they did before, they will do again.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

At last analysis, cynicism and despair are identical.

The only thing in the world we really possess is our knowledge of the truth.

Take care of your judgment, and your memory will take care of itself.

It is twice as hard to crush a half-truth as a whole lie.

The chief reasons why largely endowed universities do little or no work are, that at first they buy stones instead of learned men; later they make the professorships a possession of a social clique.

Introspection alone never gives a knowledge of self; that is obtained by meditation upon action.

A talented man finds truth only through error; a genius finds it prescinding from error.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

There are few genuine poems of a religious spirit, because poetry deals with emotion as an end, but religion deals with it as a means.

You choose *rouge* or *noir*, sometimes you win, oftener you lose: that is the whole essence of eclectic philosophy.

There's many a slip betwixt the observation and the conclusion.

It is easier to prevent thistles and habits than to uproot them.

The difference between a mongrel and a thoroughbred, whether brute or man, is not in swiftness, beauty, or endurance, but in courage.

One of the most important truths in the world is that there is worth enough in any rascal to cost the spilling of the Precious Blood.

Law is the rudder of the ship of state.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Adam discussed and solved all the real difficulties that are clamorously rediscovered in the magazines.

That despised quality, Utility, is still a necessary ingredient in everything from bread to eternal happiness.

If you cultivate piety as an end and not a means, you will become a hypocrite.

Partial justice may exist with hatred; full justice requires charity.

The reason we constantly discover new truth in Shakespeare is that his complete understanding of the particular includes the universal.

If friendship is not sheer utility, it is nonsense.

The fact that you have been knocked down is interesting, but the length of time you remained down is important.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Chastity is a fluoroscope with which we can see the spirit through the body.

Physical science and a cook are good things in their proper place below stairs.

Surgery is by far the worst snob among the handicrafts.

There are more gluttons than drunkards in hell.

The man worried, his son was neurotic, his grandson was an alcoholic, his great-grandson was an imbecile.

Auricular confession is useful because the only person that can effectually tell a woman a disagreeable truth is her father-confessor.

Hospitals are commercial houses, which furnish rooms wherein unpaid physicians exercise the healing art for imaginary personal advantage; and the collusion is called charity.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Get a big thing under your head before you get it under your hands, or it may crush you.

An historian is a man that oftenest mistakes the tail for the dog.

To see clearly in the physical and moral world you must temper light with shadow.

There is as close a connection between youth and faith as between age and compromise.

That a thing is good is not sufficient reason for buying it, but that a thing is true is sufficient reason for stealing it.

If you sit by the wayside waiting for Success, your knees will be too stiff to follow her when she passes.

We smile at the women who are eagerly following the fashions in dress whilst we are as eagerly following the fashions in thought.

A burned old man dreads a coal-yard.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Originality in literature is only a new coat of paint on an old house.

Fletcherize your books or you get mental dyspepsia.

Learned men fall into error oftenest by mistaking knowledge for wisdom.

Power should answer by action, not by speech.

Vanity is the desire all have to get something for nothing.

There is a form of literature that is a deed, and a form that is only talk, and the latter passes away like a conversation.

Charity that excludes yourself is foolish.

Call it the Absolute, the Ideal, Perfection, Sanctity, Decency, or what you will, but strive toward it or you will smother in the morass.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Some men pray only when the world is dark,
as owls hoot at night.

We are mere notes in a piece of music played
by the angel Death—heard and lost.

If the poet would avoid sepsis in his patients,
his scalpel must be as clean as the surgeon's.

English comedy has always been made by
Irishmen.

Tragedy may be masculine or feminine, but
comedy must be both.

We must be laid like a brand in the fire, as
Demeter set Demophoön of Eleusis, if we
would gain immortal youth.

Wit is a quick and unexpected revelation of
relation between things apparently unlike—
a flash of lightning in a darkened room,
showing to an unsuspecting chaperone a male
and female head associated upon one pair
of shoulders.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Imagination and pine-trees thrive best in the north.

A great tragedy passes from crest to hollow of passion, rises and sinks again, as rhythmically as sea-waves.

Paradise Lost is a museum-restoration of an epic.

Æsthetics is a pedantic name for common-sense in art.

Prose is a photograph, poetry is a painting in oil-colors.

A sin is nothing but a deordination of reason, but that is enough.

The only perpetual motion that man can invent is that of a good or evil deed.

If an author appears obscure, perhaps your own reading-lamp needs a new Welsbach-burner.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Half-liberty comes with wisdom, full liberty with death.

No manufacturer has ever yet been able to paste the label "Made in Germany" on a pure comedy.

Music and acting are the only fine arts practised well by sages and fools.

Music is another lady that talks charmingly and says nothing.

Many an operatic voice is a gilt roof on a woodshed.

The best blood will at some time get into a fool or a mosquito.

Music and the drama reach us from the first artist's mind as a homeopathic attenuation.

Mysticism and emotion may be graces in an individual, but they are diseases in a government.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Literary criticism is not an emotional confession of belief, but a judicial exposition of dogma.

The world works by hereditary faith even in mechanical actions; only a few leaders in each age renew this faith by direct knowledge.

Sins of lust leave permanent opacities before the spiritual vision of even repentant saints.

Universality in literature signifies a truth common to mankind expressed with subtle restraint of style—the whole countryside coming to our vision through an opened door.

When you cite the opinion of a physical scientist, a tailor, a journalist, or an old woman as such, concerning a theological or philosophical dogma, you are equally foolish, but not equally insolent.

A black goose may lay a white egg, but a wild goose will never lay a tame egg.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The man that never thinks on ghosts at midnight may be a useful citizen, but he is a poor poet.

There is only one solution of the difficulties between capital and labor, Church and State, the white and the dark races, and that is the Sermon on the Mount.

All things come to him that waits—even justice.

One of the chief reasons for the existence of God, immortality, heaven, and hell, is the square deal.

Justice is slightly surer than death: one man escaped death, but God cannot escape justice.

Judge a layman with mercy, a priest with justice, a woman with favor, a child blindfolded, and all with charity.

Sorrow is the source of literature, joy is the source of virtue.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A common error of historians is to deduce the conclusion of a tragedy or comedy from the climax instead of the exposition.

Happiness is altogether an intellectual state; hence the importance of wisdom.

Talent is a tenant in the house owned by genius.

Some books are so clear that, when you look through the first page, you can see the whole contents.

It is not true that both heresy and hailstones soon roll off the church.

There are ten church-members by inheritance for one by conviction.

Uplifting the masses by free libraries and high schools is a good work because it gives employment to young women; and it is as profitable as storing butter by pushing it into a keyhole with a hot nail.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

You cannot build up a character in a solitude; you need a formed character to stand a solitude.

In art commonly the deeper the knowledge, the clearer the expression.

Truth lives in the cellar, error on the door-step.

A preacher before a mob of civilized savages can with the same breath turn them to arson, murder, or religious sentimentality.

Many a man's alcoholic thirst is in his wife's tongue.

When we were infants our mothers sang hymns for lullabies, now the mothers use *opéra bouffe* songs.

If you say certain religious beliefs are necessary truths, and I say they are not, one of us is a liar; what then is all this talk about the beauty of tolerance?

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Enthusiasm is like a millrace—a good thing for the miller if he stays on the bank.

The stronger a man is morally, the more grateful he can be.

Pedantry is gout in the feet of criticism, which prevents progress.

The great artist is never a lazy man, because real genius works in spite of its possessor.

The only thing on earth that can determine itself is a human soul.

The more ancient a first family in America, the earlier it decayed in Europe.

Men with a wealth of money never know how to use it for others, and poets with a wealth of thought never know how to use it for themselves.

The clever essayist can gather grapes from thorns and figs from thistles.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Those that take science on faith are the first to refuse religion on faith.

Friendship consists in approval rather than affection.

There is much more water than meat in melons and universities.

It is a serious error to confound intelligence with a college-faculty.

If you handle truth carelessly, it will cut your fingers.

Bigotry is a cinder on the cornea, the iritis from which blinds the worse the more light you turn on the eye.

Most mysteries are soluble in time.

The best style is a plate-glass window which shows us the world without obtruding itself; stained glass may be pretty in itself, but you cannot watch the street through it.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

When a man grows very wise, the sympathetic element in his humor so predominates that he forgets to laugh.

The Sioux had the right notion of things: they judged a man by the number of scalps he had taken.

Christ said: "Learn of Me because I am meek"; but He could also have said, "Learn of Me because I am a good fighter."

Good style is a clever accompanist who sustains the great singer with absolute self-abnegation; sometimes style is a brass band which graciously permits us to see the movements of the singer's foolish mouth; oftenest it is a fiddle in the same building with the woman that is abusing her voice.

There is a tendency in the artistic character to stop content at the expression of virtue without going on into act, in which alone virtue consists.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

If you are without an enemy in the world, you may be a lamb or an ass, but you are not a man.

Every evil done us is done by ourselves, not by others; we use others as knives to cut ourselves.

The sentimentalist is a man that thinks it is more impressive to fall from the roof than from the ground-floor window.

Make an international law which will set the men that declare war on the firing-line, and you will need fewer peace societies.

History is an analysis, literature is a synthesis.

Humor is a benign nemesis laughingly checking all assymetry.

If a man is a rascal, do not blame him, but abuse his great-grandfather—that is “scientific,” and it annoys no one.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Comedy smiles from a neutral intellect,
humor laughs from a favoring intellect.

Nature talks, art suggests.

Oratory amplifies, poetry condenses.

Better be a nuisance than nothing at all.

Pity is sympathy, pathos is an image of
sympathy.

Humor fires shot, wit a single bullet; humor
wades across a brook, wit jumps over it.

The shape of a ship and her motion are
worth more than the ore in her hold.

The best man is he that can simultaneously
see the Rose of the Blessed with one eye and
the grocery-bill with the other.

Humor may live down by the wharves, com-
edy never leaves the fashionable quarter of
town.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Art is one of man's few serious activities.

God and art hate a lie.

An essential quality of beauty is aloofness.

The modernity of any art lies in its accidents,
not in its substance.

Truth as philosophy is a gas; as art, it is
visible steam.

Content is not happiness, but contempla-
tion is.

Truth is an uncut diamond, beauty is the
same diamond cut and polished.

Do not despise the lowly: the bloom on a
beauty's cheek was once a dish of pork and
cabbage.

Delight contemplates, love uses; delight
unites, love associates; delight tranquilizes,
love perturbs.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The picturesque is the romantic seen.

Recluses are childlike or childish.

A clipped coin that comes from the mind of an artist may be of value for the metal in it.

Take a quart of nature, boil it down to a pint, and the residue is art.

The evil in your enemy is the feint, the good in him is the thrust.

Do not quit: by trying they tunneled Manhattan.

It is erroneous to think that religion consists altogether in contributing to the support of your pastor.

The learned professions are hole-fillers: the physician exists because of our diseases, the lawyer because of our misfortunes, the priest because of our sins, the poet because of all these.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The wiser the man, the greater the folly.

Civilization is the world with its leg asleep.

Passion is an eroding mountain torrent;
emotion is a passing freshet.

Sentiment is honest, terse, restrained; senti-
mentality is affected, garrulous, licentious.

Pegasus is an unsafe horse unless you use a
curb-bit.

Do not fret over the clergy—if the wine
itself is good, you do not see the spigot.

In the process of making a gentleman the
last flaw that is ground out is a tendency
toward familiarity.

Reputation spreads like the chiming of a
bell, notoriety like the howling of a cur,
reputation like the fragrance of a rose-
garden, notoriety like the fumes of an oil-
plant.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The most evident quality of human life is its loneliness.

Wisdom is also a deeper consciousness of ignorance.

If you would know a man, first learn to love him.

The fine arts are children of one mother, Poetry.

Our notions of God are tinged by our own characters and ignorance.

It does not require a flood of grief to drown a child's heart.

A biography is an uncolored profile portrait of the better side of a man's face.

Some men live altogether outside their own souls; some live altogether within their own souls; some pass out and in: these last are the best men.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A microscope enlarges the world, a telescope diminishes it, a naked eye deepens it.

The worst miser is the learned man that will not write.

Delicacy of conscience is intended solely for home use.

The soul can determine itself, but credit can swallow itself.

Faith is the automobile, needs the gasoline, and you must combine them to go anywhere.

The world as a unit is in neither space nor place.

Some Persian poet said the sky is a bubble on the ocean of God's immensity.

The chief hero of the world, and by far the rarest, is the man that fully understands the responsibility of the priestly office, yet deliberately accepts it.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Revenge is often like biting a dog because the dog bit you.

God's charity does not save pennies, nor investigate the family.

Faith, hope and charity, the supernatural virtues, are also superrational, and at first glance irrational.

Style is the appearance under which an artist's own character makes him see and express the truth.

Many noble thoughts that are commonly classified as effects of the Sermon on the Mount were known to rational men before the time of Christ: Plato, in the *Crito*, makes Socrates say: "We must never retaliate by doing evil for evil; and we must never injure any man, though we may suffer ever so great injury from him." No one, however, heeded these thoughts until Christ clothed them with light.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

You can buy life only with life.

When an old man points out to youth that all flowers are weeds, this old man thinks he is citing the authority of experience, but in every case he is really expressing his own feelings in the present; we grow physically unfit for certain kinds of foolishness, and then we prate about experience and wisdom.

The time-server is very like a dog running in a treadmill. The poor beast strives upward, fawning and whining, but he never advances; and, if he rests, he is hurled backward and bruised; whilst off the mill he snaps at flies till Death snaps at him, and makes of him food to fatten weeds.

They often say woman cannot keep a secret, but every woman in the world, like every man, has a hundred secrets in her own soul which she hides from even herself. The more respectable she is, the more certain it is the secrets exist.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A man's life is like a well, not like a snake—it should be measured by its depth, not by its length.

The heart must seek the supernatural in sham, if it rejects the supernatural in reality.

Any black key on a piano may be a sharp or a flat. Chanon said "the first sigh of love is the last of wisdom"—*amantes, amentes*.

It is an ill wind that blows no good. "On the sigh of the orphan is wafted skill to the young surgeon," said a mediæval proverb.

These are three beautiful things: a taper-flame in a dim church, the gray plume over a moving steamship, and black, bare boughs in the rain.

A common sop to one's conscience is to grow eloquent over the shortcomings of the clergy, but it is doubtful if God will judge us by what the clergy do.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The difference between a human being ten years of age and one fifty years of age lies altogether in the matter of toys.

Vox populi, vox Dei, is perhaps the falsest and the most blasphemous aphorism used by the newspapers.

The weaker a man in authority, layman or cleric, the stronger his insistence that all his privileges be acknowledged.

Mrs. Grundy makes fifty men moral where the Ten Commandments make one, but Mrs. Grundy's morality is plated ware.

We should thank God that He did not give us the power of hearing through walls; otherwise there would be no such thing as friendship.

Cicero said: *Libertas est potestas faciendi id quod jure liceat*; man usually thinks liberty is the power of doing what he likes to do. That is license.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Liberty has as many chains as an iron-monger's shop, and as rusty.

Reformation is all very good until it becomes concrete in a reformer.

Give a loaded revolver to an infant and a vote to an ignorant man.

The habits of a young man are, like his coat, removable; the habits of an old man are like the drapery of a statue.

Clever artistic technique in obscene imagining, and good Burgundy on your shirtfront, are both misplaced matter, and therefore dirt—to be washed away, not glorified.

A man morally small resembles a statue in this respect: the higher he is elevated, the more he dwindles. There are men that do well enough on the ground; but, if they are set on a lofty pedestal, we cannot for the life of us determine whether they are men or monkeys.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The laughter of satire is contemptuous; of comedy, courteous; of humor, loving.

It is a mean thief, or a successful author, that plunders the dead.

A poem sings with a bad accent in any language not its own.

If you poison a man from a chalice wrought by Benvenuto Cellini, much good will the high art on the cup do the corpse.

You must use a bit to make a safe horse, a safe man, and a safe artist.

Consider the earth at times: a sheet of brown paper may be better as a wrapper for a loaf of bread than a page from Homer, and we must carry home bread.

Undigested thought is as annoying as undigested food; consequently writers troubled with this malady seek publishers to relieve them with a dose of printer's ink.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A translation of a poem is like a plastercast of a statue.

The essayist is an artisan that can gild old silver.

To make straight the way of the Lord you must not only level the hills of commission, but fill the gullies of omission.

The moralists teach us that love is the final end of every action, but they forget that liberty is the practical end.

Life is a charity ball given by the leaders of society. A few dance, get their charity's worth to the last penny; and the poor stand outside the gate and watch with hungry eyes the glint of jewels in the warm air. Then comes the lackey Death, and he says: "Madam and my Master, your carriage waits." So they go away into the dark in the carriage of the black plumes, and the dancing continues.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A book is like a money-changer: it pays you back in another form what you bring to it.

Too much shrewdness is like using a razor to carve roast beef.

Writers and speakers that have the gift of eloquence are optimistic; writers and speakers that have the gift of irony are pessimistic.

The monk that invented gunpowder did as much to stop war as did all the sermons of his brethren.

Our lives are waves that come up out of the ocean of eternity, break upon the beach of earth, and lapse back to the ocean of eternity. Some are sunlit, some run in storm and rain; one is a quiet ripple, another is a thunderous breaker; and once in many centuries comes a great tidal wave that sweeps over a continent; but all go back to the sea and lie equally level there.

Worry is half impatience and half ignorance.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

No adversity has touched you till you begin to worry.

The worst vagabonds are the healthy tramp and the idle gentleman.

The bridge that endures is more valuable than the locomotive that acts.

An army in peace is like an overcoat in July —not useful, but not to be thrown away.

If all fools wore white hoods, any crowd would look like a field of blooming buck-wheat.

The years enrich a poor wine, and make pensioned heroes of those that were whining conscripts under Sherman and Grant.

Within two centuries, owing to the climate, the United States will be ruled by Italians speaking English, as Central and upper South America are now ruled by Indians speaking Spanish, also owing to the climate.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Pessimism in youth is ignorance; in age it is weakness.

Most colleges trample whole fields of wheat trying to put salt on a sparrow's tail.

What a philosopher thinks, and how a poet thinks, interest us.

Mount Sinai is only a late incident in the history of ethics.

We go to a book as Narcissus went to the fountain, see ourselves therein, and are enamored.

If you would nurse an invalid indefinitely, you must substitute Christian charity for love after the first year.

Human passion is a heavy working charge of electricity, which runs safely and profitably through the cable reason; but, if the cable is broken, the current becomes dangerous.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Justice and the façade of a temple are seen best from the outside.

When an artist sees the full countenance of Content, like the head of the Gorgon it strikes him into stone.

The poet is not only a seer and a maker, he is also God's almoner of the beautiful for us that sit without the gates.

The perfect critic is one, as Sir Boyle Roche would say, that sees with the eyes of posterity.

That art is best which suggests most. Art is like a tone, which is always made up of a fundamental note with its true harmonics and overharmonics out to immensity.

Cardan (*Prudentia Civilis*, cap. xv) says: "In universum nil prosunt literæ ni tympanum pulset aliquis." This is the fundamental cause for the book-reviewer's existence.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Wealth is a tide which flows into one place by ebbing from another.

Critical and wifely consciences are very delicate because they are not obliged to become agents.

Musical expression is like the misty outline of Milton's imagery; poetic expression is like the clearly cut imagery of Dante.

There are folk so enamored of exclusiveness that they keep even speech in the outer court of circumstance.

Our sins are like a carousel where the same decorated dogs, pigs, and goats, ridden by the foolish, come around again and again until the machine wears out.

Critics praise poets and novelists that use marked artistic skill on foul material; but, if you cut open a goat and find his belly stuffed with rosebuds, is the beast any the less a goat?

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Shelley's mind was like a statue by Phidias that had lost its head.

A few griefs have harmonics like a perfect tone, but commonly they are mere noise.

Ninety-nine per centum of persons called amiable are only flabby.

You can squander time and money as basely with grave books as with cards and race-horses.

Religion is a process of turning your skull into a tabernacle, not of going up to Jerusalem once a year.

The worst effect of literary fiction is that it makes us demand perfection in others rather than in ourselves.

The infant-prodigy in music amazes only the ignorant: no child can have technique, emotion, and interpretative insight except in potency.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Some men's brains are so badly crowded with books that nothing can move therein.

The highest beauty has the quality of strength, hence it is masculine.

Chickens, curses, and charity come home to roost.

The rationally agreeable is often beautiful, but not always so; the irrationally agreeable is never beautiful.

The ultimate electrons of every material thing are in proportion, and there is likely to be beauty wherever proportion exists.

Romance and the wild deer withdraw as civilization advances, and we find the tame substitute.

An artist carrying a thought from his mind into expression is like a child bearing a bucket brimming with water from the well to the house—part of the content is spilled.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A classic writer is often a mummified writer who has been set up as a quintain against which only the mightier critics tilt.

We make pleasure and use our own in youth; we make charity and art our own after mid-life.

If you doubt that truth is necessary to beauty as an object of art, consider your sentiments in the presence of a clever actor. The faintest infidelity to truth in the actor's reproduction of nature is noticeable; and, if the actor is excellent, his slight flaws grow as painful to us as are discords in music.

The sculptor expresses a phantasm in marble, and calls it Julius Cæsar, or Alexander the Great by changing its clothes; the historian expresses a phantasm in words and calls it Julius Cæsar or Alexander the Great; and the historian is as far from the truth as the sculptor.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Chronic economy is likely to start early metastases in your charity, and the disease is most violent in a church-pew.

If you intend to use a horse a whole day and a love for a lifetime, keep the reins taut in the morning.

A man that is deeply in love with himself will probably succeed in his suit owing to lack of rivals.

The prose expression of a thought is often a translation into a foreign language; a poetic expression is more likely to be in the mother-tongue.

Love is a boomerang that returns to the thrower's hand.

History is a vast dust-heap of falsehood with a few pennies of truth scattered through it.

Consistency, thou art a jewel not worn on corsages.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Science ends where religion begins.

A small poet repeats himself like a clock.

When there is no will there is a way for the lawyers.

When we pray for death we really desire a fuller life.

One should not even in jest be discordant with the beloved. This is a part of the sanctity of love.

Natural love feeds upon illusion, supernatural love upon reality. Give reality to the former and it starves; give illusion to the latter and it dies.

Here on earth we are close to our friends as the roots of trees are close to one another; then comes death, and for a while, like the trunks of the trees, we are separated; but presently we meet above as do the sunlit boughs.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A gentleman never heard a story before.

Parsimony is addled economy.

He gives a ripe apple for an apple-blossom
that changes an old love for a new.

Many social visits you think paid to yourself
are paid to your bottles.

Possess your soul in peace. A wind-ruffled
pool reflects no star, and a passion-ruffled
soul reflects not the image of God.

A common error is to confuse our com-
placency in receiving affection with love for
the person that gives that affection. Many
women marry under this error.

Critics forget that a true poet comes among
us only once in a generation, sometimes not
once in a century, and that certain civilized
nations never produce a great poet. We
suffer from dearth of poets, not from lack
of love for poetry.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

There is no use in whistling for a good wind when you have thrown away your rudder.

The noblest souls are sad, the ignoblest are melancholy; but cattle and some men are never sad.

A coal fire softens iron, and sorrow softens a man's heart, but both revert to the original hardness.

Love, art, and sanctity have the same fundamental laws. The principles of unity, completeness, selection, and dignity are identical for the three. The unity of the manifold in love is like the unity of the manifold in beauty, but love differs from beauty in having the superadded note of a desire for possession. Love is the beautiful with its quality of goodness so predominant that it excites a will-appetence, and its quality of truth so marked that it satisfies the intellect. This constitutes real or spiritual love, which is unchangeable.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Sorrow may be a good thing for a woman's heart, but it is a poor cosmetic for her face.

Jacob did not see the vision of the ladder and the angels until he had laid his head upon a pillow of stone.

Death is an antidote for this life, and it makes another more stable form of life which is insoluble in everything.

The heart is a lake which in spring is covered with drifting petals, shadows of swallows, and bits of azure sky; in winter with ice.

If we leave our graves patiently under sun and rain, God covers them with grass and flowers.

At the end of the *Miserere* comes the *Gloria*; at the edge of the crossed desert are the green grass and the running waters; beyond the salt sea are the delectable islands; April follows the wintry winds; the Passion ended in the Resurrection.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

It is yesterday that makes to-morrow so sad.

All great art is sorrowful, all great artists serene.

The deordination of sin must be ordered at any cost, even by the pain of innocence.

There is no evolution in morality: evil was evil, and good was good, before the *pithecanthropi* lost their mythical tails.

Keep a child's heart so white that our Lady might walk across its snow without staining her sandal.

Although a man's skull has no direct connection with architecture, you cannot have an architect without a skull; and in like manner you cannot have literature without ethics.

It is a popular error to think that the children of holy parents often are bad, because we are likely to mistake the church-going habit in parents for sanctity.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Sorrow like rain makes roses and mud.

Tragedy, from one point of view, is a pathetic display of the virtue of magnificence.

There are no sudden social upheavals; we mark epochs too narrowly.

Letting a boy have his own way merely to keep him quiet is like giving a baby an open razor for the same purpose.

There are three men in the world that should never show natural anger—a judge, a school-master, and a father.

Like an old woman that goes from room to room searching for her spectacles that are pushed up on her forehead, we walk all over the world looking for the peace which God has so set that our feet are constantly stumbling against it.

A father that thinks his whole duty lies in bread-winning is very ignorant.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Natural resentment against parental harshness is not to be called ingratitude.

Through lack of charity ten men preach the law for one that preaches the gospel.

Every street has many parents, but there is only a handful of fathers and mothers in a city.

Blessed are they that are a long time sick, for such find sweetness in the bitterness of death.

Patience is the analogue of God's serenity.

Physical science is truth with her wings clipped.

It is less difficult to understand the priest that handles the chalice thoughtlessly than the father or mother that handles a child's soul thoughtlessly. The priest can repent and repair, the parent can only repent.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The socialist is a physician that tries to cure fever by fire.

Romance is the actual seen from the foretop before it rises for the man on deck.

Think of Saint Austin, who was a Manichean and a libertine, and afterward one of the greatest doctors of the Church; of Saint Paul, the saint-slayer, who was rapt to the seventh heaven; of Saint Peter, who denied Christ before a kitchen-wench, but who as prince of the apostles received the grace of crucifixion for the Master; of Saint Mary of Magdala, the courtesan, who had the hair with which she wiped our Saviour's feet besprinkled with the precious blood on Golgotha; of Saint David, the lecherous suborner of murder, but who became a man after God's own heart; of Eve, who flooded hell with souls, but is now at the feet of the Madonna. There is some reason for the sin of presumption, but the sin of despair is the son of a fool.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

It is often easier to die for your faith than to live for it, and the greatest saints were confessors.

The bachelors and spinsters in Hell will sit on the crag of commission, the fathers and mothers will lie in the gulch of omission.

Public opinion is the pennant on a nation's mast which shows the politician and the editor how to trim the sails.

Some that will hold a creed unto martyrdom will not hold the truth against a sneering laugh.

To get rid of mosquitoes you must drain the pools on the lowlands, and to get rid of socialists you must drain off injustice from the slums.

You can weld admiration to hate by using justice as a flux, love to contempt by using your body as a flux, and charity to anything without a flux.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Small poets set their verses against a melancholy background, as goldsmiths set cheap jewels against black velvet.

The poet and the saint are both artists; the former consciously pursues his ideal, the latter unconsciously possesses his ideal.

The cause of failure in school-teachers is that they mistake what is a mission from God for a trade.

The service of God resembles the window of a cathedral—dull, bleak, ugly, without; but, if we go within, we find a blaze of glory.

An evil thought in a soul is like a water-rat swimming in a pond at evening: the rat destroys the iridescent reflection of heaven in the water.

The saint's soul is like plate glass—it lets God's will pass through with slight deflection; our souls are mirrors that let in God's will, but cast it back.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Profanity is the stench of a shallow and stagnant mind stirred by the wind of anger.

Judge a man in his everyday work, judge a child in his play.

Before you beat a child, be sure you yourself are not the cause of the offense.

A father is a man that has two or more souls to save or lose.

God spreads bitterness over the false good of earth, as a mother puts quinine on the thumb of a baby that sucks it, but we make wry faces and still suck our thumbs.

Plutarch said (*De Educatione Puerorum*, cap. xix) : "The essential things in the education of the young are to teach them to worship the gods, to revere their parents, to honor their elders, to obey the laws, to submit to rulers, to love their friends, to be temperate." These are the only subjects omitted in the modern text-books.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Thank God for His Immensity, because He cannot get away from us if He would.

Only very passionate persons become great saints.

Patience and fortitude are the legs of conscience.

In Lacedæmon they threw misshapen babes into the cavern Apothetai; we should have an Apothetai for our misshapen thoughts, and preserve only those that are fair.

There are parents that nag at children half a lifetime, and then have the stupidity to call this crime "an effect of love." Isaak Walton, in the *Compleat Angler*, also said: "Thus use your frog: put your hook, I mean the arming wire, through his mouth, and out at the gills, and then with a fine needle and silk sew the upper part of his leg with only one stitch to the arming wire of your hook . . . and in so doing use him as though you loved him."

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Good habits are the soul's muscles: the more you use them the stronger they grow.

We are like flies in a church windowpane, striving to gain freedom on the wrong side of the glass.

It is strange that one of the chief uses of that mortal faculty, the imagination, is to make easier for us a belief in immortality. \

If you keep your eyes so fixed on Heaven that you never look at the Earth, you will stumble into Hell.

On Chiabrera's grave in Savona are the words: "Friend, whilst living I sought consolation on Mount Parnassus; do you, better advised, seek it on Mount Calvary."

To laugh sturdily and often, and to wear a long belt, are not incongruous with sanctity. God's image is in every man, high or low—a road puddle holds the moon as well as the sea.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Success and virtue are not always in the same key.

We are buried in the earth like seeds, and at the resurrection some will break through the soil as wheat and some as weeds.

A man's appetite for the good is deeper than the drinking-horn of Thor, for Infinity is the only wine that can brim it.

A man that turns to God in his old age is like a child that eats a peach and generously offers its mother the stone.

Any day-laborer can pull down, but it requires an architect to build up; and fault-finding is this laborer, development of gifts the architect.

A colony of red ants started to burrow at the foot of Mount Shasta. "Is this wise?" asked one of them. "We may cause the mountain, which, after all, is beautiful, to tumble down."

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

God is a good physician who is pitiful when we are delirious.

God is the only banker that pays our usurious interest.

We sow nettles and we blame God because we cannot reap wheat.

Ugliness is a point of view: an ulcer is wonderful to a pathologist.

Conscience is a collector that presents the bills to passion.

Saints and poets are hills touched with the dawn whilst the valley is in darkness.

One of the wisest remarks Emerson ever made is: "'Tis curious that we only believe as deeply as we live."

The Beautiful Gate of the Temple was flung open forever by the head of Longinus's lance.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Lightning and a woman never strike twice in the same place.

There is little pessimism in a successful banker.

Frankness is charming only when it stays at home.

Still water runs deep, but a still mind runs shallow.

We seldom suffer a second attack of genuine typhoid fever or love.

The mere misplacement of matter may be dirt, disease, or crime.

Morality, like a good drama, is all in action.

The man that yields to sensuality with the intention of casting off the habit when it grows irksome, is very like the man that hangs himself with a halter in a cellar in the trust that some one will cut him down in time to save his life.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Do not invest your whole life in one hope.

If you must frankly tell a friend his faults, do not hit him twice in the same place or you will knock a hole in the friendship.

Blessed are the holy nails of the cross, which so wounded His feet that He cannot walk away from you and me!

The Atlantic bears up a garbage-barge as well as a rotten apple; so does the patience of God.

When we speak of a man, we think of his will; when we speak of a woman, we think of her sex.

The more a strong will and a horse-shoe are beaten against the earth the brighter they grow.

Sloth is the last of the deadly sins in enumeration, but usually the first in frequency and malignancy.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Generosity is oftener vanity than charity.

Charity is like the object-glass of a telescope: the broader you make it here on earth the farther you can see into heaven.

The woman that uses love to awaken a man's ambition may succeed, but always at the expense of love, for love is a passion of the idle.

Fallen families and fallen nations spend themselves dreaming of the past; they mistake memories for hopes.

The draft that blows out a match makes a furnace burn better, and what prostrates a coward excites a brave man to action.

Some tricksters counterfeit honesty so well that only fools can blunder upon their real character.

If you place a man under a very great obligation he is likely to look upon you as a liability rather than an asset.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Politeness is a photograph of living charity.

My prudence is your pusillanimity.

When the light is poor we may take an ass
for a charger and timidity for virtue.

The greatest paradox is this, that God is in-
finitely obedient.

Mud with a little gold in it is often more
highly prized than gold with a little mud
on it.

A youth's knowledge is like a cheap shotgun
—likely to do as much damage to the owner
as to the game.

Boards of public charity were invented by
the Devil to prevent real individual charity.

A piece of rag-paper stamped by the gov-
ernment becomes a thousand-dollar bill, and
a lump of clay stamped by the Church be-
comes a priest.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Do not mistake your dyspepsia for sanctity.

Religion is more than a fire-insurance policy.

Some men think they are charitable when they have paid their poor-tax.

A soul without charity is only a disinfectant which keeps the body free from bacteria.

A useless cricket under a blade of grass makes more noise than a yoke of oxen above the grass.

If you combine all the spectral rays into a single beam, you get white light; and, if you combine all the virtues into a single beam, you get charity.

God is not a police-magistrate.

When a man makes a great blunder in life, he says: "I was a fool!" and he thinks the earnestness of this confession atones for the foolishness.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Our souls are waves, and God's providence is the wind.

When in doubt concerning the efficacy of your prayer, put a coin in the poor-box.

There is as much make-believe in the best drama as in the piracy and Indian warfare of a parcel of infants.

The ease or difficulty with which we are scandalized is a test of our faith and common sense.

The glory of innocence is not in lack of knowledge, but in lack of sin. Innocence means harmlessness, not ignorance.

There are as many prick-eared Puritans in all the churches to-day as there were in Cromwell's army.

Most writers of literature draw their ethics from the mental vagaries of the women that influenced their childhood.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Cowardice before the Lord is not the beginning of wisdom.

From the religious Mugwump, *libera nos Domine!*

The merchant that can shrewdly judge whether or not to give financial credit to a man, will select a wife for her singing.

When love takes on the pneumonic type, with high fever, rapid pulse, and fluttering heart, it subsides precipitately by lysis.

The statistics concerning rich widows that have died of heart-break are not worth collecting.

Nothing short of a sacramental sustentation by the hand of God ever justified any attempt at nuptial union.

Life is free lightning; literary fiction is the same lightning tamed and running along a telephone-wire.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Nemo fit repente nocens et a fortiori innocens—except in melodrama.

Reputation is an interpretation, more or less exact, of character.

Precepts of literature are like butterflies impaled on pins in an entomologist's cabinet: useful but dead.

If you carry in a child suddenly killed to a mother in real life, she faints, or she squeals horribly, like a stabbed beast; if you do the same thing on the stage, she recites verse.

Genuine love between man and woman is possible, but very rare; and, when it does exist, it is nine-tenths reason and the grace of God and one-tenth sentiment.

A modern romance set in the Middle Ages carries its armor and manners as a descendant of many peaceful grocers, wrapped in tin and foolishness at a masquerade ball, personates Sir Brian du Bois-Guilbert.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Humor is allied to justice, therefore it can laugh at itself.

The father of humor was wit, but its mother was charity.

Comedy sometimes forgets laughter in speculation, humor sometimes forgets it in tears.

Contempt and satire curve the lip downward and say: "You fool!" Humor curves the lip upward and says: "You dear brother fool!"

The mother of prudence is reason, but fear is its cousin.

We bury out of sight dead friends and dead loves.

Once the scholar was an archangel reviewing the passing march of the worlds; now he is a coral actinizoön, spending his life in the dark to add a fraction of an inch to a barren, dangerous reef.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A snake and a lie grow bigger with age.

The commonest sin in a democracy is envy.

A classic writer is a ghost who occasionally haunts the scene of his former life.

Shame is the turnkey that keeps our evil desires in jail.

There never was a great saint that lacked a sense of humor.

What is called fortitude in adversity is commonly nothing but a faulty gold filling over a pugging tooth-nerve.

The saint seeks the good, the artist contemplates the good; pity is the saint, pathos is the artist.

A mulatto is half white and half black, a mestizo is half white and half red, and a Scotch-Irishman is half white and half orange.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Patience is moral elasticity.

We form our faults, and reform our virtues.

Yesterday and To-Morrow are zephyrs;
To-Day is a bitter wind.

Patience is an excellent consoler, but a large legacy is quicker.

Reproof is commonly nine-tenths sin and one-tenth virtue.

What you do not know does not bother you, and the fearless man is one that does not know.

Swallowing whole the assertions made by great men is a cause of much moral indigestion.

The great artist's imagination is a jewel secured in the safe of reason; the half-artist's imagination is a jewel dropped by the way-side.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A strong body often palms itself off as a strong soul.

Vanity is the ill wind that blows good to all the imperfect.

Nequeo is good Latin for *I won't*.

Jealousy is as blind as love.

The deeper a love is, the easier it is to tell it, because words are unnecessary.

Never carry your shotgun or your knowledge at half-cock.

In much of our lifework we are like a puppy that chases its own tail.

We are grains of incense burned in the thurible that Death swings before the throne of God.

The consolation offered by some friends is like the dusting of a chronometer's works with a whiskbroom.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Ex magnificentiâ Dei a hundred suns go to
redden one poor rose.

If wise men were hairs, the world would need
a wig.

If you spank the boy, the police will not
club the man.

Do not drive with a curb-bit a boy who will
run without a bridle.

As every eye has a blind spot on the retina,
the Italian mind has no imagination, the
German mind no wit, the English mind no
modesty, the French mind no maturity, the
American mind no reverence.

Reason clears and plants the wilderness of
the imagination to harvest the wheat of art.

A politician is like quicksilver: if you try to
put your finger on him, you find nothing
under it.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A second love is a stew warmed up from the left-over bits of the first.

When a man asks, "What's the use?" he is a weakling whether he be old or young.

An Englishman thinks seated; a Frenchman, standing; an American, pacing; an Irishman, afterward.

Some men, like a wet dog, sprinkle a shower of advice over you when you are least prepared for the bath.

Our fiftieth year is the summit of the Great Divide, and we are then going toward the sunset with the best of the country behind us.

You may live in the fashionable quarter of town, but there is a dark slum somewhere on your property.

The three most important events of human life are equally devoid of reason—birth, marriage, and death.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Charity is the only lubricant that keeps the axle of the world from creaking.

One can both attack and intrench with the bayonet of wit.

Most education is placer-mining which destroys an acre of wheat land for a few grains of gold.

Ordinarily when a man in difficulty turns to prayer, he has already tried every other means of escape, even the ward-boss.

A homeopathist dilutes every drug a hundred times raised to the thirtieth power; that is, to one with fifty-eight ciphers; if you counted one every second, day and night, for 1,300 years you would nearly arrive at this ten novemdecillions; and if you threw sugar, lemonpeel, and whiskey into the Gulf Stream off Key West and later in your life drank a glass of seawater off Ireland, you would have a homeopathic punch.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Wit and money are seldom partners.

The ass that brays is not working.

If the needle of deeds passes, the thread of habit will follow.

A good man's enemies are stones cast at a laden tree to bring down fruit.

The neighbors volunteer to water a rich man's grass even whilst the rain is falling.

Some men are like hens that eat the family grain but lay eggs for the neighbors.

Sanctity is reached by reason riding the horse of the passions straight onward, and art by reason riding the horse of the imagination in a ring.

The Mediterranean-Basin man and the Celt are the folk most likely to feed a hen with the right hand and steal her eggs with the left.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The smaller the head the bigger the dream.

Beware of a silent ford and a silent man.

The cock and the politician that crow at an untimely hour are likely to lose their heads.

There is as much snobbery in any scientific society as in fashionable society.

A situation in a drama is always an action; in business it is often a rest.

A labor union is commonly a division of artisans.

Politics, like all Gaul, is divided into three parts—governmental, social, and ecclesiastical.

Absence makes the heart ponder.

The trinity on earth should be: Christ, my fellow-man, and myself—three persons, yet one in God.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Truth and dreams are twins.

A publican is a medium between drunkards and spirits.

The oldest thing in the world is sorrow; it is older than youth.

Youth is a fledgling that flies toward the sky, but strikes the mud.

Delight is a bird that is sometimes caught by sitting still, never by chasing; and it soon dies in captivity.

Poe played on one key-bank of a church organ, Whittier on a meeting-house melodeon, Walt Whitman on a Salvation Army bass drum.

A board of education is a committee of citizens appointed to dispose of intellectual garbage, such as scraps of science, literature, and modern languages, by spreading it as a fertilizer over children's minds.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Nature is an unbroken, art a broken colt.

We are imprisoned here, but we can hear God talking beyond the cell-bars.

Every April God rewrites the Book of Genesis.

In your admiration for truth do not forget that truth can sometimes be as foul as a lie.

Death is a fixative for the specimen Love in the cabinet of the heart, but even fixed specimens decay.

The truth is fetters and a locked door, but so is liberty; therefore the truth will make you free.

Education should be a conscious, methodical application of the best means in the wisdom of the ages to the end that youth may know how to live completely; actually it is an effect of the vertigo caused by the sudden elevation into office of the last county superintendent.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

In dealing with a foolish or stubborn adversary remember your own mood constitutes half the force opposing you.

A professional humorist is a circusman that cruelly goads a great elephant into playing the buffoon.

The swing of art is circular, from form to formalism, from formalism to formlessness, from formlessness to form again.

In art austere beauty endures longer than the more corruptible sensuous beauty, as the spirit outlasts the body, because there are more of the passing accidents of the age in sensuous beauty.

Most art-criticism takes itself too seriously: nine-tenths of the world do not know of the existence of art, and of the other tenth the vast majority deem a cast of the Capitoline Venus an excellent catchpenny dummy for advertising corsets and stockings.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

We break all the gods but the One we did not make.

Our lapses in morality repeat themselves like the hour-hand of a clock.

A cause of social evil is to mistake an agitator for a reformer: the reformer drains moral cesspools, the agitator only stirs up their contents by jumping around in them whilst perorating. The agitator is neurotic and sincere, or not neurotic and a hypocrite; if he is neurotic he is an assistant labor-leader, an unsuccessful politician, an amateur socialist, or a clergyman that the bishop would like to send to another diocese; in America he is commonly Irish or German, always lean, somewhat rufous, temperate except in speech, mentally so crooked he cannot sit down, but calling this bias liberality. An agitator that is not neurotic is a philanthropist for revenue, seldom a politician: a politician is a settler, not an agitator, except whilst he is out of office.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A child is an uncut diamond.

Judgment bears up under debility as valiantly as a seasick marine among sailors.

La verità é figlia del tempo, and the keenest contemporary critic lacks the necessary documents for exact judgment.

When Solomon wrote his dissertation on vanity, he would have been deeply grieved if a critic had censured his style.

It is strange that the critics in discussing Poe have not chanced upon the obvious explanation of his peculiar character: his father's family was de la Poer, *Irish* from the twelfth century.

History is not a record of human life in past centuries, but only of the circumstances of life; human life has no past, it is an unchanging thing, lasting forever; our clothing, vehicles, knowledge of our environment change.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Hate is as wise as love is foolish.

Some temperance workers spend in words
what they save in whiskey.

Civilization sails prettily like a child's rubber
balloon until it hits a sharp object; then it is
likely to collapse like the balloon.

There should be more in American liberty
than the privilege we enjoy of insulting the
President with impunity.

The historical novel is commonly the work
of a scribbling tailor who tries to conceal
by describing forgotten and curious raiment
his inability to create a human being.

After thirty-five a man begins to have
thoughts about women; before that age he
has feelings.

When a man forgives us we say: "How good
he is!" When God forgives us we say:
"How good *we* are!"

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

We are all chameleons taking color from our surroundings.

That your pew is near the sanctuary rail is no proof of sanctity.

The Church and the State exist for the average man.

Why do the census-takers neglect the sect of the Pharisees, one of the largest in the world?

Full wheat ears and humble men bow the head; empty ears and proud men hold the head erect.

Few men will lend their hearts to God short of twenty-five per cent. interest on the investment.

Passion is, like a nervous system, cumulative in its action: petty stimulation effects great evil when passion has degenerated into a diseased condition.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

In levying taxes and in shearing sheep it is well to stop when you get down to the skin.

The worst hypocrite is the person that lives short of a holy vocation.

Distance lends enchantment to the view and a statue to the militia general.

Injustice to others makes a man in youth indignant and reckless; in middle age, indignant and prudent; in old age, indifferent.

Each man's soul is a menagerie where Conscience, the animal-tamer, lives with a collection of wild beasts.

Intensity of emotion has a reason for existence only as it deepens the tranquillity of the soul through knowledge.

Modern progress away from the old standards of ethics is a backward and foolish advance, like riding an ass with your face turned toward its tail.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The Land of Death is the only democracy.

Falstaff's speech shows manner, Pistol's mannerism.

Character, like wine or cold tea in a bottle, takes its shape from the environment.

We put counterfeiters of money in prison and counterfeiters of literature in palaces.

Some critics can rule a town ward very well, but they cannot manage a whole county.

Grief chants, or, if violent or sudden, its utterance is exactly like that of physical pain.

The essence of happiness is the quiescence of desire through union with sufficient good; but only infinite good can adequately overlap our desires, and possession of that good can be attained only through mental union; therefore happiness is in the everlasting contemplation of God.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Undigested hatred causes autointoxication.

Life is water in a stream, fiction is water in a canal.

You cannot overpolish a tool, a swordblade, a stone column, or a man.

Some men habitually use a twenty-dollar reel to catch bullheads.

Practical prayer is harder on the soles of your shoes than on the knees of your trousers.

Your heart is not a houseplant: if you never set it out in the sun and rain, it will wither.

Variety in unity is the basis not only of beauty, but of the Holy Trinity.

We build cities on quaking ground, or in the path of the tide or the cyclone; we cause floods by squandering forests; we bring on wars; we let in plagues; then we write editorials about the visitations of providence.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Tragedy is a matter of utter finality; comedy does not attain finality.

It takes a weak man to be brave; a strong man does not need bravery.

Most virtues and flowers bloom best on poor soil.

Asceticism is the only antiseptic that will keep the soul from rotteness.

The aboriginal Americans used ochre and red warpaint on their faces; the better half of their successors have discarded the ochre.

The chief political liberty is the power to make laws, and in the United States only a few professional politicians have this power.

Locality is sometimes very important: if you shift a metal ring from a hole in the nose cartilage to one in the lobe of the ear you change an animal from a boar, a bull, or an African savage into a civilized lady.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

When an optimist becomes a professional calciminer, he is useless.

The chief evil in pessimism is a lack of charity.

True patriotism is a charity so wide that it covers a nation.

Where genuine love sees few faults, only a few faults exist.

When there is a rush of tradesmen to a nation's head, it is high time for the phlebotomy of war.

Christianity is the only magic that can make a free and hungry cat and a mouse to lie down together with the mouse on the outside.

The difference between Paganism and Christianity is not that between a consideration of surfaces and introspection, but that between introspection of self and of our brethren.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Materialism is the obverse of the tapestry of life.

Evolution has stepped from the balloon into the parachute.

A paradox is commonly a lie of the intellect; a history, a lie of the imagination.

The confessor is not he that does ordinary things well, but he that does ordinary things heroically.

When contemplating the nobility and dignity of the human soul do not mistake your vanity for your soul.

When a man or a people become thoroughly conscious of their strength, the decadence has begun.

Many a man wins glory for prudence by seeking advice, then seeking advice as to what advice would be best to take, and finally following appetite.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Invariable certitude is always suggestive of mania.

Insanity is reason without any reason for its existence.

God and Christianity hate the crime, materialism hates the criminal.

The existence of God is so overwhelmingly evident that we cannot look at it except through the dark glass of sorrow.

The resurrection of ethics from its present death will take place when it begins to re-discover the obvious.

Show me a genuine case of platonic friendship, and I shall show you two old or homely faces.

Most American medical and philosophical schools are haunted by the ghost of bad Science after its corpse has been buried in Europe.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The good and a gas are normally diffusive.

One of the chief evils of to-day is that great wars are too far apart.

The world is a temporary scaffolding to be used in building the everlasting dwelling.

Our souls are round, but this world is a square hole.

The world is almost as ripe for Christianity as it was in the days of Cæsar.

You are the beach, your charity the tide: what ebbs weakly flows in strongly.

Love lives on its capital, friendship on its dividends.

The word *Evolution* in the mouth of the quack scientist covers every foolish diagnosis as well as the terms *Grippe* and *Malaria* cover the criminal blunders of the quack physician.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

One may be sad, but it takes two to be glad.

When history is as interesting as a romance,
it *is* a romance.

The religious question concerning the tropical peoples is not: "What has Christianity done for them?" but: "What are they without Christianity?"

The greatest physical scientist in the world has no real knowledge of electricity, magnetism, ether, chemical affinity, gaseous expansion, light, heat, sound, life, death, but the smallest physical scientist knows all about theology.

A chief fault of our primary schools is that they confuse education with acquisition of knowledge; consequently they attain neither.

Education is an apprenticeship to a craft, knowledge is a product of the craft, wisdom is a correct use of the product.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Do not hold God as a threat over a child.

To define man as a rational animal does not mean that he is always rational.

No autobiography ever written went deeper than the author's Sunday clothes.

The tears of penitence are sweet, the tears of remorse are bitter.

Childhood has no necessary connection with age.

Christianity uses happiness as food, sadness as a condiment; paganism, ancient and modern, lives on sadness.

We are all regulars in the service of ourselves or the devil, and only militia in the service of God.

Education is only a ladder to gather fruit from the tree of knowledge, not the fruit itself.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Humiliation is a poor kinsman of humility.

Some men are worse than what they write, some better; but no one is just the same.

Those that think it permissible to tell white lies soon grow color-blind.

A home-made friend wears longer than one you buy in the market.

The soul's vitality after death is proportionate to its vitality before death.

Monks and university professors use the enclosure as a path to a paradise, or a feather-bed, or a cyclone-cellar, or a penitentiary.

Artistic recoil away from the ordinary man is one part refinement and ninety-nine parts whining neurasthenia.

The best mannered youth in the Western world is the Mexican, the worst mannered is the American.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A true friend, with an annual oiling, will run a lifetime, like a good watch.

Love is the glitter of charity, but patience is the substance.

To inflict capital punishment and to beat a child require very nearly the same authority, deliberation, and jury.

Faith is a pair of spectacles fitted by God in a dispensary for the poor, whereby the near-sighted can see truth at a distance, and get rid of pain from eye-strain.

Of all the ignorance in the world the crassest is that which lets an undergraduate choose the courses that are supposed to educate him: if he could choose them, he would not need education.

Because some men have an habitual admiration for the practical or the righteous, they fancy they are practical or saintly themselves.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Aconite and the erudite woman are most useful in minute doses.

Punishment of your child is a form of vicarious and cheap remorse for your own crimes.

Since a child is the only human being that has perfection of state, any baby is better than you are.

A man's mother, like an old table, patiently holds up for him what he needs, from his nursing-bottles and puppy love-letters to his senile spectacles.

The convention which pretends that physicians and lawyers are philanthropists and not tradesmen is valuable, because it prevents a few members of these professions from being tradesmen always.

Sin is standardized by the lie: as every perfect thing is good and true, every imperfect thing is evil and false; and the best moralist is likely to underestimate falsehood.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Ignorance is as bad in honesty as elsewhere.

When you are dealing with a child, keep all your wits about you, and sit on the floor.

If you have forgotten how to be a child you cannot teach children.

Gold is so heavy it settles down upon the lowest souls.

Avarice is wider than injustice, and all fallen nations lost liberty through avarice which engendered injustice.

If we could punish men for what they are rather than for what they do, we should be forced to move the jail to the fashionable quarter of town for convenience.

One of the greatest evils of wealth is the opportunity it gives for exclusion, for hedging off its holder from salutary friction with his brethren, and from the consequent obligation of patience.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Nations die first in the big cities.

A religious institution is the most difficult to convince of its own senile decadence.

Vinegar from a sweet wine and the anger of a good-natured man are very sour.

Do not offend a man that is a close observer—he never forgets.

A government is the complexion of the people—healthy as they are healthy, diseased as they are diseased.

The Prussian differs from the Bavarian, the Piedmontese from the Neapolitan, the Yankee from the Virginian, almost as much as the Russian differs from the Turk.

Life is a bubble in a lake, that glitters for an instant, bursts, and leaves not even a blur on the water; it is the leap of a minnow, which sends a tiny ripple trembling for a few inches.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Love dwindles by pairing.

Often the only reason we have for disliking a man is that he is a kinsman of ours.

There may be excess in charity and justice, but I never saw it.

Justice is much better than faithfulness, even in commerce and politics.

Sell anything for justice, but look out for counterfeits.

The public is a deaf cyclops, and it sees only one thing at a time.

On the first Good Friday the earth rolled on its axis through space a funeral car for the slain God.

Scull or paddle your boat: if you row with your back to the bow, you will not see the ducks of opportunity until they have passed out of gunshot.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Pathos is a pen-and-ink sketch of sympathy.

Generosity is northern kindness riding, with more or less display, in a Roman chariot.

The father of all ethics is Socrates; the father of modern ethics is Thomas Aquinas.

We play the music of the spirit after patient study, that of the flesh by ear.

Symptoms are rivulets; diagnosis is the lake into which they flow.

When you have been ill for a long time, you first understand the symbolism of a crucifix.

When the heart is crowded, it has most room; when empty, it can find place for no new guest.

There is a better method of removing barnacles from the bottom of the ship of state than rasping them off on the rocks beside the channel.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Love is an appreciation, a delight in the object, a craving of its presence, with a tendency to please or to do good to this object.

It is half selfish and half altruistic: the more the selfish element prevails, the lower the passion sinks toward appetite and lust; the more the altruistic element prevails, the nobler the love.

When the artistic spirit passes beyond benevolence to beneficence, it rises from mere art to love or charity.

Most public speakers talk so badly that a sudden quotation from a poet appears in their babble like a lady in a slum.

Few or no children in a family are not a convincing proof of vice, nor are many children always a proof of virtue.

In the process of making a gentleman of a Hebrew the last fault to go is conceit, and this because of his racial resiliency.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The Socratic notion that wisdom and virtue are identical is good philosophy, if you do not confuse wisdom with knowledge.

The best groove-director to guide your scalpel when opening a moral abscess is justice.

Blood does not always tell: some of the crudest boors come of families that have been "noble" for centuries.

Northern European people in America become American in mind, not in body: families that survive, do so in spite of the impossibility of acclimatization under a southern sun.

By far the most powerful and perpetual force in shaping the history of nations that moved northward or southward is sunlight, but no historian ever yet has shown consciousness of this obvious fact.

Charity is the note that resolves the discord.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The deeper the faith, the firmer the hope.

There will be castes in heaven, but birth will have nothing to do with them.

Chronic poverty is as much a matter of ethics as of economics.

The immortality of thought is a half-proof of the soul's immortality.

Physical science is the dermatology of material things.

Sanctity is more an acquisition than an elimination.

The ordinary physician is scientific, not scientific.

Physics, because it is the science of the senses, has nothing to do with the suprasensual truth of morality, religion, philosophy, or theology.

Cunning is the treachery of wisdom.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Success covers a multitude of sins.

Abstinence is the most positive negation in the world.

The good is the only thing that grows more abundant the more you give it away.

The small artist is an acquaintance, not a friend of nature.

The ordinary use of a sheet is not to cover a corpse, nor of charity to cover sins.

Some men can live up to their loftiest ideals without ever going higher than the basement.

Justice without charity is at best a dutiful stepmother.

The greatest blessing to physicians in modern times was the revival of influenza, because "a touch of the grippe" covers any bad diagnosis made from early autumn to late spring.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Fortitude is a flower that blooms at night;
temperance is a flower of the sun.

Superstition turns sacramentals into sacraments.

If you would have your enemy soundly slandered, get his female married cousin to do the talking.

When the liturgy grows more important than the sacrifice, religion degenerates into paganism or superstition.

When unwatched, kind thoughts steal out of the coops of some men's souls these men at once cluck them back again, as peevish hens call in stray chicks.

Yesterday at twilight, above the hills the Angel of Death left lying on the wan green meadow of Heaven his dewy reaping hook, the crescent moon; then the Madonna passed, crooning to her Babe, and dropped near it the plucked blossom of the evening star.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A statesman is an acute liar; a politician, a chronic liar.

The perfection of justice implies charity, because we have a right to be loved.

When a man complains about the church collection, he has just squandered on religion the price of one or two mugs of beer.

The most vicious newspaper reporter is he who is under the delusion that curiosity is a harmless itch.

The critic is the physician of literary society: he soothes the infantile fevers of youthful poets by sedatives since phlebotomy is in disfavor; he prescribes cholagogues for atrabilious novelists and dramatists; abstinence for those addicted to the historical romance; and a change of occupation for the anæmic essayist.

The world is so foolish that many of its rulers have nothing on their minds but their hats.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The present life is the infancy of the soul.

Economy like eyestrain is congenital.

Wisdom is rather a food of virtue than virtue's self.

Pessimism and chickenpox should be infantile diseases.

Humor is both the laughter of charity and the tail that steadies the family kite.

You can swim in life and seawater, but both are hard to swallow.

To shape your heart aright, it is not necessary to break it.

The more important any word of God, the easier to understand.

A sane man often reasons from sound premises; an insane man commonly reasons as well, but the premises are unsound.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Most women wear their books like trousers.

Life is like a century plant: it blooms once.

The milk of human kindness should be brought fresh to the table every morning.

An art critic is an instructor in a correspondence school.

In dealing with criminals, it is best to save both the cabbage and the goat.

When the bait costs more than the fish, it is time to go back to work.

If you plant men or trees very close together, they do not thrive.

Man is an apple with the useless rind of childhood and the useless core of age.

Do not throw away a broken heart: a cracked windowpane lets in as much light as a sound one.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Some men are more double than an onion.

The hardest fact in the world to accept is the inevitable mixture of evil with good in all things.

A bad conscience practises the ostrich's trick of burying its head in the sand to conceal itself from the understanding and will.

A weakness of your will is a cur that will bite you if you run from it, but will turn tail if you face it.

The nearer to completeness the vacuum in a high frequency electrode and a man's skull, the paler the light given forth.

Like most difficulties, the Loathly Lady grew beautiful after Sir Gawain accepted her.

You might more wisely hire a servant to do your praying than hire a boarding school to rear your son.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Gift is a synonym of *trade*.

A physical scientist is likely to set facts together in a mechanical mixture rather than in solution.

Some parents think the larger the fee they pay to a school, the better their duty to the child is fulfilled.

A critic is a devil's-darningneedle that eats superfluous mosquitoes without affecting the supply.

No man can have a reasonable opinion of women until he has long lost interest in hair-restorers.

Economy, which is a drinking of imaginary champagne, is as often a superstition as a martyrdom.

There is no objection to private interpretation of even the Bible, if you are an interpreter.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

You cannot transplant a man or a tree frequently and expect fruit.

Some poets are stars in the sky; others are images of these stars in a pond.

Life is an ore-dump where the loaded scoops go up and the empty come down.

Hope is like religion: it has more female than male devotees.

There is more in the education of children than the everlasting iteration of the word "don't!"

At the coronation of our living poets the etiquette prevails that words take precedence of thoughts.

Worse than the dull conscience is the conscience that must mind its neighbor's business.

The American is likely to spend himself on the means to the neglect of the end, even when he is building a church.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

When love is a disease, it never becomes chronic.

You can lose time walking, standing, sitting, or lying down, but not kneeling.

The most inexorable thing in the universe is order, and it always prevails.

You cannot gather much truth by searching the fields; you must sink shafts.

The real difference between men is not sanity and insanity, but more or less insanity.

There is still a plenty of quack scientists that think the brain exudes thought as a mule secretes sweat.

Humility and wisdom are hard to differentiate.

Mankind is a great river—always the same yet never the same.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Humility is the pliability of the heart which saves it from breaking in the gales of passion.

Art is awkward until technique has become an unconscious habit.

Keats makes the truth lovely, Shakespeare makes it lovable.

If you want anything better than leaves from a fruit-tree or a man, do not go to them in the spring.

A season of dryness and burning heat is required to mature and ripen the fruits of the earth and the soul.

When our friends are present, we conceal from even ourselves the evil opinion we have of them.

An Irishman can be worried by the consciousness that there is nothing to worry about—*vix tenet lacrymas quia nil lacrimabile cernit.*

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A true man is an Antæus—he gathers more strength every time he is flung to the earth.

We eat the kernel of life and fling God the shell.

A rose gets its color and fragrance from the root, and man his virtue from his childhood.

The better of two strained eyes gets the working pain, and the horse that draws oftenest feels the whip.

A quality that sets Shakespeare above Dante, Michelangelo, and Beethoven, is the elimination of bitterness from his soul.

Those of us that know how to paint the picture of a saint on our soul quit after we have made the studies.

An insane man is a competent musician trying to play on a broken violin: the instrument is out of order, but the man is as good as any one.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Friendship extends about four city blocks.

The best historian lies like a mirror.

Some men are worn smooth by frequent falling, others are roughened.

In the garden of prayer the spiritual tree-toad croaks only before rain.

Most of our virtues are gouty from lack of exercise.

Nobility is a cerebral, not a sanguineous diathesis.

Weeping over a child you have spoiled is like watering an uprooted rosebush.

Do not pull the check-rein too tight on a horse or a boy.

When the early Christians were overthrowing the idols, they missed some of Venus and Plutus.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Youth tells, age retells, asininity foretells.

The novel you like is like you.

A woman does not have the last word, but God does.

You do not have to live, but you have to live well.

Many an artist is a farmer that sows old seed to raise new tobacco, which goes up in smoke.

Novels are the pastry and candy of literature.

Dante is a great storm-cloud: lightning and rain below, the glory of heaven above.

You are not obliged to put on evening clothes to meet God.

The juxtaposition found in the multiplicity of material beauty is the correlative of the consecutive activity in spiritual beauty.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

We commonly choose the sites of our air-castles in the land of our besetting sins.

A college can bluff as well as any poker player.

Every Mississippi has a muddy Missouri emptying into it.

What we call evil is often a dark ground illumination, which alone makes the good visible under the objective of our mind.

A pebble on the ridge of the Alleghanies can turn a river toward a puddle or the Atlantic Ocean, and a touch can turn a child from destruction to God.

A drama is life in a shuttle: it is tossed into the comprehension of a dramatist, out through his power of expression, in again through an actor's comprehension, out again through his power of expression, and finally into one ear of the audience and out the other.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

One drop of rational determination to reform is worth a saucerful of tears.

When a sinner is having a good time the devil is fattening a goose for roasting.

Self-defence is not the first law of nature, but of corrupt nature.

There are no self-made men: a man is finished by some one else before he is seven years of age.

We may be surrounded by beauty and remain very slightly affected ethically, because we do not love beauty, but the good underlying beauty; and the good is often invisible from excessive light.

Any native, two-legged, white or black, male animal of twenty-one years of age, except a monkey, which can borrow two dollars for poll-tax, and temporarily conceal insanity, is an American citizen, and an elector of the ruler of a hundred millions of people.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Beauty is style added to the good.

Delay is a bitter tonic, but it increases appetite.

Asceticism is carbon that turns the soft iron in character into steel.

A cad had rather be suspicious of every class of men than cheated by any.

A thief is only a thief; a man that does not pay his debts is also a swindler.

A journalist is a dead reporter that has received Christian burial in a biographical dictionary.

The reputed evil in death is as much a delusion as the heartbreak of a rich man's heirs.

When you go close to a difficulty you find that what you took for a ghost is only a white cow.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The only good fighter is the long fighter.

Physical science as often as journalism is so "yellow" that it is jaundiced.

When racing along the track of discussion most orators wear a fur overcoat of words.

It is easier to forgive an enemy than a friend.

Secrecy, like oil on the body of a wrestler, makes an opponent slippery.

Justice is commonly so slow in following an offence that retribution often takes on an air of treachery.

Scientia inflat, and it therefore not seldom mistakes for parturition what is merely mental colic.

Ninety-nine per centum of all doubts against religious faith are caused by ignorance: the more you know, the easier faith becomes.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Faith is a padding against the jolting of doubt.

Reason is the miner's lamp used in bringing up ore from the mind.

Attention is the planted seed and knowledge the sequent ear of corn.

If saying were doing, every pulpit would be a saint's shrine.

Physical science is likely to be myopic—to see more or less clearly nearby, but ill at a distance.

Saint Yves is the patron of a few lawyers, Mercury of the others; Saint Luke is the patron of a few physicians, Charon of the others.

Physicians do twice as much work for nothing as any other class of men, including the clergy, and much of it is *for nothing* in every sense of the word.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Pride is as bad a tree-scale as sensuality in the orchard of faith.

There are commentators so trifling that they are bacteria on the book-worms in the Bible.

Government and liberty just because they are kin frequently quarrel.

Profound knowledge, which gives light in the will's darkness, drives out fear.

Many a man that wears the halo of martyrdom from pain is merely a rheumatic from old gluttony.

A religion drawn from one's own private interpretation and a cobweb spun from a spider's belly may glitter prettily in the sun, but they hold nothing but dust and dead flies.

A little learning striving to explain a great subject is like an attempt to light up a cathedral with a single taper, which does no more than to show for an instant one foolish face.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The great military geniuses of the world, Alexander, Cæsar, and Napoleon, were witty men.

The reason many good men are unhappy is that they have not been in the business long enough to be used to it.

After you have reached the north pole, you are likely to be called a liar for your pains, but that is not an argument one way or the other.

The stream of time carries chips and straws, but lets solid things sink; therefore we remember trifles that happened in our childhood and forget important facts.

The truth of being differs from the truth of knowing because of the imperfection of the recipient; again, the truth of knowing differs from the truth of expression because of imperfection in style; hence, human truth is always soiled with falsehood—*omnis homo mendax*.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The popular opinion that righteousness is associated with suffering is as absolutely false as the notion that scoundrels are happy.

A man that refuses a heavy responsibility because he thinks he is unworthy, thinks correctly; good men are never quitters.

Sanctity supposes deep knowledge even in the apparently ignorant saints; one can love corporally but not spiritually what one does not know.

Men halt on the road to sanctity because they think love of God should be a thing of thrill and tears, but we do not *feel* the spiritual.

Many a saintly renunciation is really a case of stage-fright.

Volition is the railway carriage, intelligence is the locomotive; but often intelligence is a mere donkey-engine which cannot control the heavy car on gradients.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Wisdom grows in quiet places; the knowledge of the mart is mere cunning.

What is called a weak will is commonly a flabby intellect.

Free will does not extend to thinking; it stops with willing. You think the truth or you do not—there is no choice.

“A fat kitchen makes a lean will,” as poor Richard says, but much good will your will do you, whether fat or lean.

Law, medicine, and the arts are the arms and legs of learning, but philosophy is the brain.

The duller the razor, the more likely it will cut your face; and the duller the man, the more damage he does.

Scientific schools deal so much with matter that they mistake laboratories and apparatus for intellect and wisdom.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Suspicion is an owl that flies when the light is bad and catches only vermin for food.

When you are far in the woods, do not waste cartridges on crows.

There is a wide difference between ignorance and foolishness: ignorance thins a fault, foolishness fattens it; ignorance is lamblike, foolishness is mulish; ignorance is deflated, foolishness is inflated; ignorance is sullen, foolishness giggles.

Modern education stows its knowledge in far-off notebooks instead of nearby memory (paper is cheap, but memory is dear), and the bass escapes whilst the fisherman returns to his house to consult extracts from Walton on angling, or death leaks in through a cut artery whilst the young surgeon is hunting for a notebook to caulk the gap.

The imagination at best is a pagan that sets up false images for worship.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Despair is vinegar from the wine of hope.

Our sins are always in proportion to our size.

Every man is a mariner that sooner or later sails away from the Cape of Good Hope.

Fools' names are scribbled on public monuments and on the backs of other men's notes.

You can often love your neighbor as yourself more effectively across a high fence.

The best argument against socialism is a raised salary.

It is easier to preach from a pew than a pulpit.

Righteousness is right reason, and that never caused suffering; when the saint is in misfortune he is paying for his old rascality, not for his new righteousness; and Christ's passion had nothing to do with His sanctity, it was caused by our rascality.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Hope and milk sour by standing.

To laugh at yourself is real life, never acting.

Envy is a gun with a faulty breech-block which flares back and burns the gunner.

Time is an oculist that can do a successful cataract operation on the blindness of love.

A very small fold in a silk stocking hurts a sore foot.

When the shoe is handsome, the corn pains less.

Farewells are commonly more sincere than welcomes.

You can learn the nationality of a painter of war subjects by looking at the uniforms of the pursuing troops, or the religion of an historian of the Reformation by his portrait of Luther; but you must go elsewhere for the whole truth.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Better be old than mold.

Distance lends amity to cousins.

One rotten wound can infect a whole hospital ward.

We borrow compliments at twenty per cent. interest.

A habit of debt is very injurious to the memory.

Moral progress is a process of isolation; the mountain tops are lonely.

There may be as much childishness behind an Old Testament beard as behind an infant's chin.

A college senior reads German at sight, and Latin (an easier language) in hope, because his professors do the same thing; hence the ignorant unpopularity of the old classical course.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

In holding an eel a gentle grip is foolishness.

Love is not captured by dreams.

Almost every one is a saint once in life, but it is the habit that counts.

The man that leaves no will after his death had little will before his death.

If you cannot control the ball, keep out of the pitcher's box.

It is hard to make a good emulsion of anger and common sense.

A bad argument is a cast-iron chisel which breaks on hard wood.

A beard confined to the cheeks denotes eccentricity; confined to the chin, Wesleyanism; to the upper lip and the chin, harmless romanticism; to the upper lip and the cheeks, eclectic medicine or loyalty to Franz Joseph; to the neck, clerical hypochondria.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Well begun is not only half done, but often fully cooked.

We apply a funeral to our neighbors as we apply a sermon.

Unchastity in a youth's soul is like a pencil mark on white paper: you may rub out the blackness, but the scratch remains.

A college should expand a boy from the neck upward, like a cabbage; but it often expands him from the neck downward, like a turnip.

"It is well to take counsel of one's pillow," that is, it is well for the physician that later will treat you for insomnia.

A strong argument loses no more from courtesy than the kick of a camel loses from the softness of the beast's foot.

An arc light throws a deeper shadow than a tallow dip, and the ignorance of a wise man is worse than that of a fool.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Death is the spirit-level of the Great Artificer.

A State government is a cook that gathers a cord of wood to roast one oyster.

The fear we throw about danger is always disproportionate as a paternal shirt on an infant.

Social elevation, as readily as physical, causes vertigo; but moral elevation leaves the head steady.

What is best in speaking or writing is said on the spur of the moment; but this is true only of literature.

American universities are suggestive of old Fortescue's man, who "scheryd his hogge and gat moche crye and no wull."

A hundred-dollar bill falling into a contribution-box makes much less noise than a five-cent piece.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A fee-hunting physician is no better than a clerical simoniac.

America is a drunken sailor ashore: it squanders in a day the earnings of ages.

Speed is more a matter of advancement than of time.

The best writer is he that uses verbs most skilfully.

We belong to a "stock" company, and if we object to the part assigned us, we effect only disturbance.

A difference between literature, including the drama, and all the other fine arts is that it sometimes induces beneficial action beyond emotion, but these stop at emotion.

The old masters of music, Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, strove solely to please the intellect; the modern composer tries to please the intellect and the body.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Paradise Lost is a child that always looks like its father.

In marriage the eye finds, the heart chooses, the hand binds, and death looses.

You can mold a mannerism, but you must chisel a character.

Newman and Kingsley—Saturn and a billiard-ball.

The thirty shekels for which Judas sold our Lord were worth eighteen dollars and thirty-six cents, but you often sold Him for less.

A snob is a person that openly admires what we pretend to despise, and irritates us by affecting superiority through this very shamelessness.

When a literary man begins to think that the reports on the influence of poetry in the world are grossly exaggerated, he is growing old—and correct in his opinion.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Life is being, not having.

Deep drinking makes shallow thinking.

What is so rare as a stuttering woman?

You must be just yourself to like a just man.

Marriage is commonly a meal wherein the soup is better than the dessert.

It does not take long to say the Creed when we believe only what we can understand.

The perfection of art is to conceal the sources.

Most readers judge a book like an electric coil by the shock it can give.

Some men are so good they are good for nothing.

The modern imperator makes his triumphal march up to the Temple of Fame through the avenue of the magazines.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A rolling stone gathers polish.

Friends made fast seldom remain fast.

Distance lends enchantment to the virtue.

Where there's no smoke, there may be fire.

The crosses of even the saints are hewn by themselves.

A little earning is a dangerous thing to marry on.

A dyspeptic is a man that can eat his cake and have it too.

We use religion like a trolley-car—we ride on it only while it is going our way.

As long as you give cheerfully, you are young.

It is a convenient religious ecstasy that prevents you from seeing the passing collection-box.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A spanking in time saves nine.

Too much coal smothers the fire.

Wisdom should lead, not follow, the deed.

Caution first, courage second—never the reverse.

If you cannot gild your pocket, gild your tongue.

Those that live in stone houses should not throw glass.

Sermons are like pie-crust, the shorter the better.

Charity is “a grain of planted rice that shoots a green feather gemmed with fifty pearls.”

After life's loneliness, its most obvious quality is its emptiness: to most men positively nothing ever happens.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Philosophy is heady, art is cordial.

Gentlemanliness is kindly justice.

Children and fools look for flawless objects.

Where there is a choice of two evils, most men take both.

Justice is a beautiful virtue when it gives, not when it takes.

“I forgot” is so poor an excuse that it aggravates the fault.

Milton’s prose style is a church-cope worn for a business overcoat.

An amateur art-critic is a mixture of art and affectation, and a little shake rattles out the art.

The most dangerous savages live in cities.

A hypocrite catches suckers with a prayer-book for bait.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Artistic fame is commonly a tombstone over an uninterested corpse.

Art is a chemical extract of the active principle of life.

Poetry is an electric car on rails; prose is an automobile.

When an artist is very melancholy, it merely means he has trouble in paying his board bill.

When sculpture or painting are conscious of drapery, they cease to be art, and become ethics.

If there were a prohibitive import tariff levied by the American government on foreign literary raw material, we should have an artistic panic here in a month.

The harder you rub a true man or gem, the more they shine; the harder you rub a parvenu and a false stone, the more scratched they become.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Life is a homely old woman, art is a pretty girl.

A good description is a magician that can turn an ear into an eye.

An earnest man is a nuisance until he learns to be also a just man.

When you are conscious of your stomach or your will, you are ill.

A lyric poet is a man not ashamed to walk about the streets in swimming-tights, no matter how crooked his legs.

Shakespeare brought down an eagle with a single arrow; our poets use a handful of loosely tamped buckshot to bring down a sparrow.

A chief difficulty with modern artists is that in childhood their parents did not cuff them often enough; they therefore confuse freedom with revolt.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The liar is the thief's brother.

The Devil is not afraid to sit on an altar.

Conscience after an evil act is like pulling stockings over muddy boots.

O woman, so live that even your sister-in-law will approve you.

When the tree of faith is sickly, examine the root for the grub of sensuality.

A gentleman acts in keeping with a rationally correct estimate of the great worth in every human being, including himself.

One of the greatest merits of Greek art and literature is that the Greeks themselves created them.

The only original part in a work of art is the infusion of the artist's own character, if he has one; originality has little to do directly with invention.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Beauty sometimes has the evil eye.

Humor is the rainbow of the world's tears.

The chief fact in the world, and the source of all life's mysteries, is free will.

Leather that makes a good sole may make a very bad upper.

If you lie in a pest-house, you will rise with the plague.

The prayer of humility is as strong as the prayer of faith, because at last analysis they are identical.

Most college courses are like a kettledrum—a matter of resonant air topped with a sheepskin.

The modern workman is a part of the machine that repeats special parts of a product; hence his labor is a mere burden, not a gratification of mental energy.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A little oil may save you an automobile.

Some men will steal to pay for stained-glass windows in churches.

Overwork breaks down ten stomachs for one brain.

When you are feeding a pig, the brute never looks at you.

The virtues are a chain; and, if you break one link, the whole chain is useless.

When you throw mud, you befoul your own hand.

All crime is weakness; therefore weakness is criminal, not an excuse.

A grocer who is your friend is better than a bishop who is not; and better an ass that will carry you than a horse that will run away from you.

Banter is always an extravagance.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

It is as easy to drive three horses as two.

The stronger a force, the more damage it does when it strays from its proper orbit.

Keep diffidence out of humility, and you become a sharer in the divinity of Christ.

The most grave fact connected with any human act is that whatever is, forever will be.

Home rule in politics is often more valuable and valued as a luxury than as a necessity.

A hole is nothing at all, but you can break your neck in it.

The mountain peaks, the stars, leaders of men, and God are silent.

A quart of hot water will sometimes do more practical work than a barrel of cold water.

The greater the grief, the quicker the consolation; boiled water freezes first.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Hope is the shadow of faith.

An effective preacher should be an accompanist, not a prima donna.

Three persons say they like to teach in a classroom—the fool, the liar, and the saint.

You can see order anywhere if you do not stand too near.

Rain enough will make even the Sahara fruitful.

Faith, free will, and the weaning force of sorrow are three of the most important facts in the world.

Happiness on earth means an attainment of some share in the Peace of Christ, and it means nothing else.

Faith is trust, philosophy is mistrust; yet faith is philosophy and philosophy faith, or both fail.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Peace is a test of religion.

Righteous indignation commonly becomes unrighteous.

Men that cannot reform one toper, talk most of reforming the whole tenderloin.

Some minds are so unclothed that they are indecent.

The oculist thinks there are no sound eyes in the world.

A practical conclusion contains as many layers of assertion resting one on the other as there are coats on an onion.

Falsehood is no more than an imaginary picture of a knot in the devil's tail, but most people make a religion of it.

The same nomad spirit that makes one Irishman a soldier of fortune makes another a Christian missionary.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

All false religions are sad.

Children and women should be seen, but not heard.

Religion often gets credit for curing rascals when old age is the real medicine.

The physician begins where the text-books end.

Put your purse in your head and you will not be robbed.

A priest, physician, or lawyer with an Irish *clientèle* thinks all vices and virtues are especially Irish.

Men that become ascetics to win a silver mug, will not practise self-restraint to win heaven.

The French and Italians have good cooks; the English, Germans, and Spaniards have bad cooks; the Irish have no cooks at all.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

We are what we are to God.

A well-proportioned woman's ears are ten times the length of her tongue.

Beef from a black cow is as good as beef from a white.

Three drinks of whiskey a day can drown the Holy Ghost.

We resist only what is for our good, and embrace what is for our hurt.

Liberty must run on a track like a locomotive to get ahead at all; license is liberty off the rails.

Knowledge and vegetables must be used soon after they are gathered or they grow stale.

Scholastic philosophy would be the only philosophy in the world, if it would wear cloth instead of chain mail.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Flattery is the hypocrisy of love.

It is the good swimmer that is drowned.

When prudence is fear disguised, it is poisonous.

Laws are made by the old, exceptions by the young.

Do not praise the day till the twilight has fallen.

Modern schisms have so shrunk from ideas that they have only sensations and sentimentality left them.

Most of us make an eight-day clock of our religion: we wind it up on Sunday morning and pay no heed to it for the rest of the week.

Humility is the virtue whereby we have an exact estimate of ourselves as sons of God; it can be very proud, and it must be very confident.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

It takes two to get to heaven.

Facts do not return so often as thoughts.

Everyman's house was his castle until some one invented boards of health.

A shut door keeps out both the burglar and the devil.

You cannot learn to be a sailor on a harbor tug.

The feudal veneration for woman and all chivalry spread through Europe from Ireland.

Things not to be trusted are the horn of a cow, the tooth of a dog, the heel of a horse, and the tongue of a gossiper.

Rhyme in all literatures, three-phrase melody in all music, and Christianity and civilization from the Hebrides to Milan, are Irish in origin.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Humility is the sister of humor.

God always pays for what He takes.

Knowledge is flour, but wisdom is bread.

You cannot talk well to God with your tongue.

Think what you have to say, and then don't say it.

Many a girl loses her virtue by going with evil books.

If you claim virtue habitually people will come to believe you: witness the English nation.

Whatever virtues the English may claim, they are not Anglo-Saxon: the Norman made a slave of the Anglo-Saxon within a decade; and the "sturdy Anglo-Saxon" is as much a myth as the sturdy American Puritan.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The pastor is the whole parish.

Gold and words are valued by weight.

The laurel is a very deciduous shrub.

An Irishman can govern any people except the Irish.

You cannot get something for nothing from any one except God.

If you are healthy, the time you lie abed in the morning is an index of your morality.

Scotch-Irish is a term used in American obituary notices to convey the information that a Connaughtman died a Free Mason.

Some folk will go along the road of opinion with every new man, like Lanna Mochree's dog.

When you find special vices in one race, you belong to that race yourself.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

We own only what we know.

God is the only thing that is impossible if possible.

The more cunning the artistic technique, the less the artist believes his story.

You cannot whistle and eat stirabout at the same time.

When the Devil is not fishing he is mending his nets.

When a great life sets it leaves an afterglow on the sky far into the night.

When a man has once expressed an error in a book, he will cling to it after it has become a lie.

Literature and art decay with religion; therefore England produced neither literature nor other art during the eighteenth century.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

It is a young laurel that has no cobwebs on it.

To him that seeks under the trees the ripe fruit falls.

With many Americans religion consists in not playing cards on Sunday. .

Human slavery never was abolished in any nation.

English literature is overrated almost as much as English civic virtue.

Virtue, like beauty, is commonly only skin deep.

Nothing but a supernatural motive justifies any gentleman in making a physician of himself.

An important sociological fact, which is never noted, is that to a person whose family has always been Roman Catholic, Protestantism does not exist at all.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

High failure is better than low success.

When your name is up you may lie down.

Circumstantial evidence is too often like a blackberry, which when red or white is really green.

The antivivisectionist is commonly a dry nurse for a poodle, but never a wet nurse for a baby.

In the opinion of fools Art is the only lady that may defy the police in pneumoniactal attire.

Art itself is never unchaste, but the technic of art may be used as unchastely as the artist's body.

Culture and scholarship went out of the United States with the abandonment of the study of Latin and Greek literature and philosophy, and left us the newspapers and the public school superintendent.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Patience has tender feet.

He that is always right is always wrong.

You cannot run a church or a university without money, but you cannot run them with money.

If a monk takes care of the pennies of obedience, the pounds of poverty and chastity will take care of themselves.

A bigot is a spiritual albino: the higher you turn the light the worse he sees.

The gate of heaven is strait and straight, and no crooked man can get through.

An itching palm is a poor decoration for the sanctuary.

Man's soul has vegetative, sensitive, and intellectual faculties, but most folk use only the first two, and keep the other locked up in the attic.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A critic at best is only a football coach.

The half-baked sermon causes spiritual indigestion.

The gold standard is a matter of finance, not of religion.

The most necessary thing to a fool is the superfluous.

Two souls with but a single thought are often two souls without any thought at all.

Some liars are so expert they deceive themselves.

A bad State government finally injures even the virtue of the individual citizen.

It is a very dangerous error at times to mistake secondary causes for first.

It costs more than a dime at the door to get into St. Peter's church in the Urbs Beata.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Truth is a knife that grows blunt with use.

The most fatal and constantly pandemic disease the world knows is Foolishness.

The man that sneers at a long family pedigree has none himself.

A democracy is a form of government in which every Jack says he is a gentleman.

The plain grass remains when the rose is rotten.

So close to evil lies the good that one often soils his fingers in picking up the good.

Better the dog that does be running than the dog that does be curled up.

A prejudice is commonly more than mere ignorance: it is often a quality of a man.

Ignorance in action is more dangerous than a touring car run by a chorus-girl.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A book-reviewer is usually a "barker" before the door of a publisher's circus.

The harder a widow's or widower's grief strikes, the quicker it rebounds.

Facts are carpet-tacks under the pneumatic tires of theory.

Those that angle in the waters of society catch only carps.

The duration of activity in any religious order is the momentum acquired from the magnitude of its founder's sanctity.

A critic is an old maid that writes instructions to you concerning the rearing of your own children.

The old Irish when immersing a babe at baptism left out the right arm so that it would remain pagan for good fighting; we modern Irish leave out the whole body except the head.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

We are patient with the man sick of body,
but impatient with the man sick in soul.

Men that believe only what they understand
can write their creed on a postage-stamp.

A stern judge is either newly appointed or
his mind is badly appointed.

If you wish to destroy a religion do not per-
secute it, coddle it.

Much of what is called aridity in the spiritual
life is the staleness of an unwisely trained
soul.

Sanctity is reason with a little leaven of emo-
tion; but we reverse the recipe, and our cake
is dough.

A church that is managed from the pews is
like a calf butcher-steered by the tail.

Unlike poisons, philosophy is useful only in
large doses.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

It is not the volume of the cry raised by a baby or a mob that is significant, but its timbre.

It was a poor man that said God shows His contempt for wealth by the kind of persons He selects to receive it.

The best mirror is not an old friend, but your conscience, provided you keep the cobwebs off it.

The persecutor of a Christian is an obliging sparring partner who puts vim into the Christian's punch.

Heaven is like a church—it contains more women than men; hell is like a jail or a dramshop—it contains more men than women.

The socialist that would pull down the present social order to better his own condition is like Jocrisse, who drowned herself to escape the rain.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Courtesy is not self-abasement: it is the carrying of your peculiarities without offense.

A gentleman seldom meets rude persons.

Chastity is the best cataract-knife to restore spiritual sight.

The only thought the brain secretes like milk or saliva is the thought of physical scientists—other folk think.

In natural love the more the fire the more the ashes; in supernatural love the more the fire the less the ashes.

When God says midnight mass, He elevates the pale host of the moon above the shadowy mountains, and the planets are His altar-candles.

Those that see a little distance are sad; those that see far are grave; those that see very far are serene; those that see nothing are mirthful.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The firmer your belief in the depravity of man, the more sterile your life.

In foolishness the half is greater than the whole.

A classic writer and a banana grow ripe after they have been cut from the tree of life.

When you practise economy for its own sake you are a niggard.

God help the diocese where the bishop is too elegant to show his shirt-sleeves in a fight.

Real wealth is a capability of relinquishment.

A woman marries a man's kinsfolk and his religion.

Some men are like a church-organ—you can play on them for a lifetime and always find new harmonies; others are like a music-box—they have four or five thin jingles.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Qualis Plato, tales academici, like pastor,
like flock.

If you scratch some saints you will find the
devil.

Virtue is not genuine until it becomes second
nature, like the manner of a gentleman.

It is the abstract Devil whose tail is most
earnestly twisted.

When a writer is popular he is either a char-
latan or a Shakespeare.

Every writer is an iron-monger that melts
down old junk into new steel.

The person that always says just what he
thinks at last gets just what he deserves.

As Burton said, should Democritus get leave
from Pluto to come to see the present
fashions of woman, sure, I think, he would
break the rim of his belly with laughter.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A specialist runs on rails or he stands still.

The best kind of religion is weekday religion.

It is surprising how many receivers of stolen goods take to writing books.

Some parents expect to gather ripe apples in May.

Many writers are there that paint a stolen jade and sell it for a colt at the nearest fair.

If you refuse a man a king to worship he will set up a rag he calls a flag.

Ex quovis ligno non fit Mercurius, but rectors of theological seminaries do not deem this true.

Metaphysics in American universities is commonly a polysyllabic dissertation on fundamental truths, delivered to persons who do not understand by men who do not know what they are talking about.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Attention is a whip to the will.

Savages and children lack perseverance.

Many folk get well after and because the doctor gave them up.

Fortitude is the one virtue admired even by the devil.

We are footprints of our ancestors on the trail of time.

An alcoholic is a citizen that cuts off his own trigger-finger in time of war to escape military service.

Charity that is always beginning at home stays there.

A worship of truth can be idolatry if the truth is small enough.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A neighbor's children always are illbred.

The wise man's eyes have periscopic vision.

A cocksure man is either a lunatic or a fool.

Those that admire strength in a rascal do not live in his town.

One cannot see God through the bottom of a whiskey-glass.

God help the parishioners whose pastor uses a nightcap!

A pint of whiskey can wash away all the blood of Calvary.

We kick out the effeminate man, and coddle the effeminate woman, yet they are equally contemptible.

When Moses broke up that image of the golden calf the Jews made replicas from the fragments.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Humility is pride in God.

Ireland is the Land of the Unfinished.

Romance and music never did anything.

The barkeeper is the modern warlock that turns Prince Charming into the hog.

Were it not for the sense of touch human society could not exist.

Let the women vote—they will not vote anyhow.

Sobriety, like a drunken man, cannot stand alone.

The five daughters of Intemperance are Stupidity, Frivolity, Garrulousness, Scurrility, and Uncleaness.

As the barking of distant dogs is the wailing of his hungry children to the drunkard in his cups.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

There is no ignoramus more dangerous than the ignoramus with a college degree.

Scrupulosity is a forerunner of grave disease of the body.

A college that is above creeds is below wisdom.

Families that have one or more alcoholics have teetotalers that are gluttons.

An occasional spanking of children during parental indigestion is not moral education.

The worst human slavery is that of a timid girl to a foolish mother.

From charity comes joy in possession, from joy comes peace.

Aristotle and Saint Thomas Aquinas both thought that woman is caused by the south wind (in Europe the *sirocco* comes from the south), but this derivation is questionable.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The American government is a rule of the people, by the people, for the boss.

The spirit of good is instilled and the spirit of evil is distilled.

Virtue and vice are composite, never individual.

Education that lacks religion lacks its right leg.

Ambition is a plot to get something for nothing.

The world is rotten with good people that never grow better.

The stars are sparks struck from the anvil of God.

Many mothers nag at children for twenty years, and then accuse these children of base ingratitude when they flee from the evil tongue.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Worry is impatience.

A sad heart is either evil or foolish.

Prudence is the crown of conscience.

Every day God makes silk purses out of sows' ears.

The clay and spirit in most men make a dynamite that explodes at any shaking.

The habit of virtue is a fire-drill in a school which leads confused children through smoke to safety.

The reason there are so many imbeciles among imprisoned criminals is that an imbecile is so foolish even a detective can detect him.

Some drunkards are prostitutes that sell body and soul for a jugful of alcohol and prune juice and then talk piously on the evils of the white slave traffic.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Humor and humility are sisters.

Humility can move mountains.

When you are riding a new trail go slow.

Your time-serving and human respect are my prudence.

A saint is a person that dies like a star into day.

Even in this life we can attain peace, humility, charity, and temperance, and these are happiness.

When we stray from morality we are like bewildered chickens in the rain, blundering and piping sadly all over the barnyard, while the friendly coop is open before us.

The Coast Range, the Sierras, and the Rocky Mountains are three plow-ridges from the coulter of God, and so are the parallel civilizations of the world.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

That is no well ordered barnyard where the hens do the crowing.

Useful experience is an elimination rather than an acquisition.

It is a foolish man that hears all he hears.

Some men are so gentle they hate to drive a hen from a flower-bed.

If you leave to a hireling the *hortus inclusus* of your child's heart you will reap only nettles and rue.

There are colleges in this country such that no man living deserves an honorary degree from them.

A religion that is merely a protest against another religion is an accident, never a substance.

The most cocksure judges in the world are literary critics, physical scientists, and paranoiacs.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A loud laugh is seldom holy.

A tiny spark carelessly let lie may spread into a marriage.

Only a naive and cheerful college professor can go on accumulating ignorance for a lifetime.

The sacrifice of Calvary and its continuation are the best proofs of the existence of God, and the most recondite.

The great value of dignity in woman was best understood and observed by women of the Middle Ages.

When a man that can control a regiment of men cannot control one woman he is not controlling himself.

The most typical Irish saint, Colum-Cille, had so marked a sense of humor it appeared in some of his supernatural visions.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Better a bald head than none at all.

Many a very black day lets fall no rain.

A poor surgeon never can get a good scalpel.

The substitution of commerce for liberty is one of the great evils of our time.

God is good to the Irish, but no one else is; not even the Irish.

It is a lonesome Monday washing that has no man's shirt in it.

It is a queer priest's pig that dies of starvation.

The modern mother, like a cow on the ranges, has more hair than milk.

The health and the pitcher that are carried often to the ale-house are broken at last.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

A big belly is stingy.

Calling his colleagues "Pat" and "Jimmie" made a bishop of his reverence.

The open hand catches the base-ball.

Age comes to town on the Limited Express.

A worrying man is always breaking his shins on stools that are not in the way.

A wife without children is no better than an empty purse.

Most colleges cover a rock with hay and sell it for a hay-cock.

Some women are so diffident they cannot refuse an offer of marriage.

A drunkard and a bag-pipe are noisy when their bellies are full.

No matter who you are, you will be put abed at last with a shovel.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

God is easy with *amadans*.

Autumn is a hint from God to Old Age.

The stairway of a king's house is slippery.

A gadding priest has the devil for curate.

It takes more than a long beard to make an apostle.

In selecting a wife use your ears before your eyes.

The best part of a real estate bargain is the neighbor.

Sometimes a drunkard is sober, but a fool never is.

You do not choose your wife—God, man, or the devil does that for you, when she does not do it herself.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

The new is what has been forgotten.

Daughters and milk sour by keeping.

The more the servants the less the service.

It is a bad cause that is rotten to a lawyer.

A dead martyr is stronger than a live rebel.

When you are tired of a friend lend him money.

When the soldiers are marching, the laws themselves go out to see the parade.

The best throw at dice is to throw them away.

The living have their eyes opened by closing the eyes of the dead.

Girls on the street are apples outside the fence.

If you learn from a loss you have not lost.

KEYSTONES OF THOUGHT

Truth and oil come to the top.

A note due at Easter makes Lent fly fast.

Get your horse and your wife in your own neighborhood.

Watch the occasion and the sin will take care of itself.

When a fault is constantly recurring, devise a new punishment.

If you keep your mouth shut you will never put your foot in it.

He who would get rich quick, gets sorry quicker.

Why is the word for *tongue* feminine in Greek, Latin, Gaelic, Italian, Spanish, French, and German?

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