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EDITORIAL



Responsibility in Life.

We may neglect the gifts or talents God has given us but that does not remove the fact that they were ours to be used as *best* we could. We may shirk our duties and willingly watch others carry the load we should be carrying, and the work may be well done, but that will not excuse us before God for our neglect. We may shirk the opportunities that come to us to make ourselves strong, able workmen, Saints or citizens, but the fact still remains that they were once plainly before us. We may ignore the responsibilities that fall upon us because of what or where we are, but they exist still. We may deny them or destroy them, apparently, but it will avail nothing. Smashing danger signals does not avert the danger. Responsibilities are thrown upon us by the fact of our existence and by the position in which we place ourselves, and there is but one right course to take. See your opportunities and responsibilities as warm friends, fresh from the hands of a loving and provident Savior, earnestly prepare for them and gladly make the best of them. They will be to you blessings, lasting and glorious.

Selection.

What we do in life are very largely matters of selection. Our work, our study, our associates, our recreation and amusement, all are matters of selection. Some will say this is not correct. But we are very certain that almost all conditions are the results directly or indirectly of our own choice. Much that is may be brought upon us by our ignorance of conditions or things. Or it may seem that "circumstances over which we have no control" bring it about. But while we may not be able to control the circumstances, we could prevent them or avoid them, or, once on us, can escape them, if to do so is a matter of our selection.

That we must do something is not a matter of our choice. God so elected that we should labor. But *what* we do or *what* we study, or *what* we are is very largely a matter of our own selection. It

then remains for us to choose our work, choose our environment, and set earnestly and persistently to work.

There are just so many hours in the day, so many days in the week, and so many weeks in the year. We all spend these weeks, days, or hours in some way. We sleep a portion of the time, labor another portion, and spend the remainder in some way. We study, we read, we visit, or we amuse ourselves in some way, or possibly we idle the time away. All the time passes and we have spent it in some way. While we labored, we did not idle the time away. While we read we did not visit. While we visited we did not study our weekly Sabbath-school lesson. But when the week ended we had spent *all* the time. Many times do we hear the excuse, "We did not have time." Was it strictly true? Better to have said we selected something else and did it, for that was the real truth of the matter. You pass as much time in the year as any one, but you choose other things to keep you busy. "Aye, there's the rub." We may honestly think we have not the time to read the church papers, study the Sunday-school lesson, or do other necessary religious duties, but how much time do we spend in some very unprofitable or unnecessary way? Many of us spend time reading the daily newspaper, playing games, idly and aimlessly chatting with others. This time *may* be well spent thus, but could it not be better spent? Or at least a portion of it better spent? We do not depreciate games, reading, or visiting under proper conditions, but need *all* our time outside of sleep and labor be thus spent? Here is your chance for selection. Eliminate a part of the time for games, visiting, or light reading and select your religious work. Leave off some of the nonsense, if in such you indulge intemperately, and add that which will be for your improvement, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Or may be you will have to cut out some of the secular work, or the social functions in which you are engaged, and substitute a regular line of work for the good of yourself, your family, society, and the church. You can do one thing but maybe you can not do both. Which? It is but a matter of selection with you; make your choice. "Choose you this day whom you will serve; . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."