

**THE HABIT OF READING.**—I have no time to read is the common complaint, and especially of women, whose occupations are such as to prevent continuous book perusal. They seem to think because they cannot devote as much attention to books as they are compelled to devote to their avocations, that they cannot read anything. But this is a great mistake. It isn't the books we finish at a sitting which always do us the most good. Those we devour in the odd moments, half a dozen pages at a time, often give us more satisfaction, and are more thoroughly digested than those we make a particular effort to read. The men who have made their mark in the world have generally been the men who have in boyhood formed the habit of reading at every available moment, whether for five minutes or five hours.

It is the habit of reading rather than the time at our command that holds us on the road of learning. Many of the most cultivated persons, whose names have been famous as students, have given only two or three hours a day to their books. If we make use of spare minutes in the midst of our work, and read a little, if but a page or a paragraph, we shall find our brains quickened and our toil lightened by just so much increased satisfaction as the book gives us. Nothing helps along the monotonous daily round so much as fresh and striking thoughts, to be considered while our hands are busy. A new idea from a new volume is like oil which reduces the friction of the machinery of life. What we remember from brief glimpses into books often serves as a stimulus to action, and becomes one of the most precious deposits in the treasury of our recollection. All knowledge is made up of small parts, which would seem insignificant in themselves, but which, taken together, are valuable weapons for the mind and substantial armor for the soul. 'Read anything continuously, says Dr. Johnson, and you will be learned.' The odd minutes which we are inclined to waste, if carefully availed of for instruction, will, in the long run, make golden hours and golden days that we shall be ever thankful for:

The lady who tapped her husband gently with a fan at a party the other night, and said "Love, its growing late, I think we had better go home," is the same one who after getting home shook the rolling pin under his nose and said, "you infernal old scoundrel you, if you ever look at that mean, nasty, calico-faced mackerel-eyed thing that you looked at to-night, I'll bust your head wide open."

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J. K. PUREFOY,  
Charlotte, N. C.  
apr5tf

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Sept. 8, 1872.—29 tf

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Metallic Burial Cases, Caskets, Spring Beds and Mattresses, and a full assortment of Furniture always on hand.  
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June 21

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