

C. Gray Cutler

Compensation.

Creation shapes the thoughts of all to fit  
Its particular age in life. And rewards it  
With satisfaction almost free of discontent  
For else this life would be a sad lament.

To youth the extacy of health and strength and cheer  
To age the satisfaction of the knowing year.  
To youth the fallacy of always being right  
To age the insight into moral, mental might.

At twenty we are self satisfied and strut about  
Thinking we are wise and know all laws  
While thirty comes along and gives us pause  
And forty convinces us our former thoughts were lies.

Yet, every generation thinks the same  
And every former generation heaps the blame  
On youth. But every age must pass the cycle strange  
And render unto youth all it shall claim.

For wiser men acknowledge it is best  
For youth in ignorant satisfaction to rest  
Upon its physical content blest  
Unknowning, unthinking the real content of forty's crest.

The foolish one believes that in the forties lie  
A sufficient age to lay me down and die.  
But when that time comes with its content  
He realizes all those former years were but mispent.

When forty five looks deep into the mystic pool  
He knows that twenty five and thirty is the fool  
And knows, beyond the peradventure of a doubt,  
That twenty was an ignorant, foolish lout.

So, in this curious scheme that we live here  
A certain compensation comes to give us cheer  
To each cycle of our life. Though each may sneer  
At antics of the other in its certain sphere.

For were it not that each particular age  
Held forth a vantage point for us  
Existence, like the songster in his cage,  
Would cease to sing and fuss and fuss and fuss.

## On Lawyers

Always, during the history of men, it has been the lawyer who toilsomely cared for the widows and the oppressed. Always it has been the lawyer who has given his time, his mind, and his energy to the helpless and the needy. Always it has been the lawyer who has led the hosts to the goal of liberty, here and abroad... It was a lawyer who led the embattled hosts against King John and wrested from him on the banks of Runnymede, in 1215, the great charter that granted liberty to lowly man... It was a lawyer who led the farmers against the great political prison of France, the Bastille... And it was a ~~lawyer~~ lawyer who penned the Declaration of Independence, and lawyers (in the main) who wrote the constitution of these United States. Lawyers should be honored, and in the great mass they are respected. This is a government of lawyers...

## The Study of History

If I had my way every school child of this nation would be taught the history of our country and our government to such an extent that when the Commonwealth of Massachusetts were mentioned the mind would go back to old Samuel Adams and other patriots of that state; and to Bunker Hill and the Commons, where men died that we might enjoy the liberty of a free government-- that mention of Virginia would bring to mind the surrender of Cornwallis, would recall Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence-- that when Pennsylvania is mentioned their minds would immediately see half-clothed soldiers with naked feet, leaving bloodstains upon the snows of Valley Forge that you and I and our children might have liberty-- that when

Illinois were mentioned their minds would immediately fly to the Gettysburg address of Abraham Lincoln where he said that ours is a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people." Thus would I rechristen them in the fire of patriotism and freedom to the end that this republic "shall not perish from the earth."...Then I would have those children so well versed in the affairs of the world that when Germany, Italy or Russia were mentioned they would think of men who have NO liberty, who could not own property if the government needed it, whose homes are not sanctified ground, who are not able to resort to the writ of Habeas Corpus, who can not worship their God as the conscience dictates. Then, when those children remembered those things they would appreciate their own government and would fight to retain the liberties which they enjoy. Those right will never be attacked except in some roundabout and devious manner.

~~From His Stories~~

#### From His Stories

Some years ago, when Wewoka was just a little dried up town, without sidewalks and paving...just dust when it was dry and mud when it was wet...we made our visits to neighbors by means of foot paths. One time Arthur Seran's wife was away somewhere, and he had been to California and had brought back some good wine, and he invited some of his men friends over for an evening. There were five of us and, of course, we all carried our lanterns so as not to step into a mud-hole or hog wallow, and we put them down out in front of the door on the enclosed porch. We had some wine, played some poker, and some of the boys got pretty tight as the evening wore on. Then, when it was time to go home,

we all picked up our lanterns and left. The next morning bright and early Arthur sent a note over to one of the boys by his son Joe, and the note said: "Here is your lantern. Please send my wife's parrot and cage back by Joe." I could just see that old boy carrying that parrot cage and peering into the dark spots, and when Mrs. Seran got home she was surprised to find the parrot's tail feathers burned off... The old boy had tried, all the way home, to light his lantern.

### Success

We don't have to be rich or powerful; we don't have to be great or have fame; we don't have to have beauty or brilliance of mind to make a success of this life. The man who maintains a modest home, who is a kind husband and thoughtful father, and who rears his children to be fine men and women--that man has made the greatest success that this life affords. He has given to society and to civilization the best there is to give. He has made this a better world in which to abide, and the future is beholden to him in a thousand ways... Riches are troublesome in the getting and fraught with anxiety after they have been gotten. Power is but fleeting, here today and gone tomorrow, and is therefore a delusion and a snare. Beauty of face and grace of form is destined to but a few years, while the brilliance of mind perishes in the grave. But the man and woman who raise a fine family, teaching their children to speak the truth, pay their debts, be loyal to their country and true to their God--that man and woman have accomplished something that will live after them and reflect glory upon themselves and upon their kind. It is the greatest achievement in this fleeting life...

## On Self Reliance

Stand upon your own feet, rely upon your own ability, seek advantage of no other man for your own benefit, but ever be watchful of your own interests. These precepts will help you to a more abundant life. Your life is your own; you make of it what it is. If you be selfish it will be selfish. If you be ignorant it will be ignorant. If you be lazy and indolent, relying upon the work and thrift of others, it will be the same. If you be thriftless and unconcerned with the future, the future will demand you as its ~~own~~ victim. You can not escape-- it follows as the night the day that you must depend upon yourself.

## Man's Importance

When one contemplates the fact that the center of our universe-- the Sun--is more than 93,000,000 miles distant from Earth; that from it the earth gets its life; and that the Sun itself is just a small portion of that which is as yet uncomprehended by the best human minds, and is unsurveyed by the highest class of instruments to aid the human eye--it is inconceivable that the minute human can feel so all important.

C. Guy Cutlip

When a man passes on he can not enter totally into oblivion--not so long as the written word is printed and the spoken word is uttered.

Every man leaves behind him the record of a life, whether he be philosopher, poet or thinker; or whether he be of that greater majority whose lot it is merely to sit and listen.

On January 24, 1938 the bar of the Oklahoma country lost one of its most outstanding figures-- C. Guy Cutlip of Newoke, Oklahoma, judge of the Superior Court. He was known throughout the state and the nation not only as a lawyer but as an accomplished speaker and a noteworthy writer--and, as a result of this dual genius, as a philosopher, a thinker, and a student of that greatest of all subjects--Humanity.

The paragraphs which follow have been taken from the written and spoken record that Judge Cutlip left behind him; the things he said, the things he thought, the things in which he believed. Tinctured in some places with the sternness of a Voltaire, touched in other spots with the softer reasoning of a Franklin, these things are representative of his philosophy.....

## On Living

If we live true to ourselves mankind will benefit. We may change the laws of nature, or of man, but we can live within them, warp them to our own use and benefit and, by understanding, contrive our lives to more success and happiness. The world bestows its big prizes, not by chance, but upon those who, with beneficent consideration, strive to serve.

## Child Training

Children have the enthusiasm of youth, and a stick horse will afford as much pleasure as the expensive hobbyhorse. Yet we have grown so indulgent that we must provide the hobbyhorse and deceive ourselves into believing that we are doing a kindness to the child. In this matter the schools have gone to an extent that is deplorable. It is an unsound philosophy. The boy peddling papers is afforded a better opportunity in life than the young man driving his father's car about town and patronizing the previews in the middle of the night... I firmly believe that the greatest pitfall for the boys of America are the fool grownups.

## On Accomplishment

Why is it that the Master of it all has implanted in the human the desire to do, and thereby accomplish something for the coming generation? Here, indeed, is the divine spark in the human makeup; that desire to accomplish and, by so doing, provide something better for a generation of which we will not be a part, and from which no hope of reward can flow.

## On Heredity

We must endure both being born and death--  
Then why should we, who live a fleeting shadow shape  
In this vale of tears between two bleak eternities,  
Extoll our virtues or condemn our sins?  
Our imagination doth our actions shape;  
Our minds contrive a brief success or failure.  
We weep, we laugh, are filled with pity or with scorn  
According to the whim of Fate.  
Our destinies are not our own,  
But shaped by health and brain, implanted by a sire or dame  
Who, seeking pleasure in a passion's urge,  
Design out fate upon some chromosome.  
Thus we are born, some wise, some weak,  
Some good, some bad,  
Some born to rule and others orders take,  
But all within the image graved upon some seed.  
Upon our heads we fit a fruitless crown,  
Or place a barren sceptre in our hand,  
Then strut our fancied greatness to the world;  
And forfeit peace, man's fortune, seldom found.  
And thus we strut a brief, short, shadow shape  
Across Life's stage,  
Claiming the plaudits of our fellow men  
For things but schemed for selfish and unthoughted ends.  
Self-pitying, self-praising, we pass  
Like fleeting pictures 'round the wheel of our existence,  
Until this span endured by us from birth  
Meets Death's demand.

And, if we spend the cycle seeking information's full estate  
With industry and mind as keen as steel,  
Yet with it all at three score ten  
We realize the futile in our recompense--  
We pass on like him among us least informed.

### On Legislation

We are living in an age of legislation. We seek to direct our deportment, energy, thrift and industry by the law. Its fallacy appears on every side, and those subjects are matters for education. With our national laws numbering more than 51,000 individual acts that have to do with the conduct of our people, and with the legislatures of our various states enacting laws continually and never repealing any; with the courts handing down opinions that have the effect and import of the law; and with countless laws in the statutes of the different states running far into the thousands--I say that we are a law-ridden people. It is my opinion that such multiplicity of laws only makes for their contempt. It can not be that industry, conduct, morals and thrift can be legislated into a people. Those are matters for the educators. The fireside, where proper principles of morals, conduct, tolerance, thrift and honesty are freely discussed and expounded in the presence of little minds is the place where such errors must be corrected.

### On the New Deal

I can not understand when men are paid hundreds of thousands of dollars NOT to raise a few hundred head of hogs when ham is

worth forty cents per pound and ordinary liver thirty cents per pound, and the administration is crying: "You can't let the people starve!"...I can not understand why the national administration should desire to turn over to politicians the planning of the individual citizen's everyday life when everybody complains they would not trust a politician in one of General Key's sanitary closets with a muzzle on...I can not understand why WORTHY men are forbidden work upon government projects and pushed out of line of relief by "moochers". What kind of a citizenship are we trying to raise up--one that will be self-supporting, or one that will be absolutely dependent? The conduct of the administration seems to lean toward the latter. These are the things that make the wrestling match between Jacob of old and the Angel look like a frolic compared with the struggle between my patriotism and my party allegiance.

#### .About Statesmen

A statesman is only a successful politician. If he wins many people follow him blindly, forgetting that he is a man controlled by the same motives and impulses as all other men. He may be better than the average; he may be worse; but you can count on one thing--that ambition is the besetting sin of all politicians. History is mainly the record of what good politicians did for their people and what bad politicians did to them.

#### Back to the Soil

The nearest approach to complete happiness of which human nature is capable is living upon a farm, far removed from the hectic, artificial conditions of the towns--one's own farm where one may get directly from his own soil what one needs in the way of sustenance. A garden and flocks, a healthy and industrious family--what can contribute to real contentment to the same extent?

## Environment

Virtues are inherited, but environment warps the finest virtues into grotesque forms.

## ~~On the Constitution~~

I am not content to allow an "emergency" to supplant the constitution of these United States. And furthermore I am not content to sit idly by and watch our government and our people gradually slip into the slough of communism or despotism as other nations have done. I am not content to allow this slipping to destroy our religion or to abolish our faith in God... If one who is informed can view the present tendencies of our national administration, surrounded as it is with socialists and communists, without alarm he must be, indeed, an indifferent citizen. Soon it will be too late to protect the unthinking. The people must be aroused to the alarming condition in our midst. All churches should be enlisted in the common cause, because all churches are endangered. It is time that all leaders in religion again take up their Bibles and combat that dreaded monster that is incessantly knocking at the door of ~~indifference.~~

## On Good Books

A good book is the most generous companion. It asks not to monopolize one's time, but stirs thoughts that broaden views. It may dispute convictions but it does not argue, and it may be cast aside at will without injury to its feelings... In the companionship of good books one is not confined to fixed limitations. The earth, the seas, the skies, and all the planets

become familiar. What other companion can give you so much that is interesting, pleasing, and worthwhile? You may converse upon the advance of civilization, the progress of governments, and ponder upon the possibilities of life to come. There is no limitation except within your taste. See, therefore, that your choice of such companions brings you not a simple thrill, or just romance or fiction, but mix them well so that better thinking may be contrived.

### On Preparedness

Until that time comes when wars shall be extinguished from the earth by the unselfish cooperation of nations under one set of laws, I am in favor of these United States being armed. Until that time has come it shall give me joy to know that another armored fleet has been launched, another armored fleet has taken wing. The olive branch, that token of friendship, to be of any importance, must be offered by the strong arm.

### The Church

The church for centuries has been the great factor for molding public opinion for good; and it should be still. But by its division against itself, its division into many sects and creeds, it has taken up a battle in its different branches more for its several denominational advancement than for this prime purpose which it best can serve. This is the greatest tragedy of our times. We see public opinion becoming tolerant of those things that, without a reformation, is fast driving us to national decay. When public opinion countenances those things that are abhorrent to a sober consideration we are fast approaching the brink of an awful chasm. There must be some force calculated to mold public opinion back into the lines of purest moral thinking.

## The Matter of Death

There is something tenderly appropriate about the death of the aged. Nothing is more touching than the death of the young, the strong. When the duties of life have all been nobly done; when the sun seeks the horizon of life; when memory, with dim eyes, can scarcely spell the record of vanished days; when the poor palsied grasp can no longer hold the working tools of life; when, surrounded by loved ones and friends, death comes like the strains of sweet music. The day has been long, the road weary, and the traveler gladly stops at the welcome inn...

## Definition of Law

Law is born of study and prudence, and of the poetic. It is of the mathematical and not of the dreamer. It is the result of solemn deliberation and experience, and not of genius. For genius is the spirit of abandon. It is joyous, irresponsible; while law is sober, serious and certain. Genius is careless of conduct and consequence, while the law must be direct, responsible, careful. The pictures and statues which enrich the world of art were the work of genius, but the law is the result of study, of analysis, of experience, of thought. To express desires, longings, love and happiness, in form and color; to put heroism, valor, love, hope, despair and sorrow into marble; to paint dreams and memories with words; to portray the emotions, the light, the stars, the storms and the sunlight, the singing of birds and the laughter of children, in sound and to enrich the common things of life with gems and jewels of the mind--all this is art and belongs to genius. But the law is something different. It deals in controversies and the grotesque. It lives in a Coliseum of

constant strife and turmoil;hears the bickerings and contentions of the sordid and the mercenary. It wraps the mantle of protection about the innocent, and fastens the shackles of punishment upon the guilty. The law stays the hand of greed and is the bulwark of the helpless; it is the refuge for the innocent and a haven for the oppressed. The law is exact, even though its administration may oftimes be faulty.

#### Regarding "Hard Times"

The times will drive millions back to the farms. It is best that these so-called hard times prevail. It makes better thinkers of our citizens; it tends toward conservatism and thrift; it makes for a better citizenship, more conservative government expenditures; more efficiency in all lines; and a reconstruction of our taxing systems, which have become obsolete when applied to the changed times and business conditions. It will mean a restoration of the old grocery store stove group where men discussed the times and conditions and really had individual and personal thoughts. The continual strife to make employment is a waste of effort and can not change a natural condition. The wealth of any nation is the soil, the products of the soil, and labor. The only real over-production is in stocks and bonds; you can't eat them.

#### On Crime and Punishment

The country is criminal minded. Society advances a thought in humane treatment of prisoners which is no more than a sympathy with the criminal acts. Punishment has ceased to be a part of the prevention theory. Where brutal treatment once ran rampant, a sort of exaggerated clemency has taken its place. Is there no happy medium?

## To the Greatest American

George Washington was the greatest, by odds, of all those masters who made our government possible. His was a sober, serious and impersonal interest in building a government. Others whose fame comes down to us were more influenced by political reasons and for personal aggrandizement. Washington had no thought of this. The best possible government was his desire and he was sagacious above the others.

## Work and Education

We must go back to a basis of work, and forget schemes and sharp practices that seek to avoid work. The simple pleasures are the most satisfying, yet we have forgotten them and seek a thrill, something artificial. Every boy is trying to get an education so as to avoid work. If an education is properly applied it entails more work, longer hours, and more actual fatigue than all the body labor possible in a day's time.

## Epitaph

A life well spent and duties well performed are the finest monuments erected to the memory of the departed. The power of authority, the satisfaction of wealth, the charm of beauty, and the distinction of great intellect do not surmount the grave. Only those things worthily done in the cause of humanity do, or can, surmount the tomb. They are locked steadfastly in the bosom of remaining friends and loved ones, and they warm with glowing affection the remembrance of the departed.