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Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives

Howard Franklin Wehrle Scrapbook

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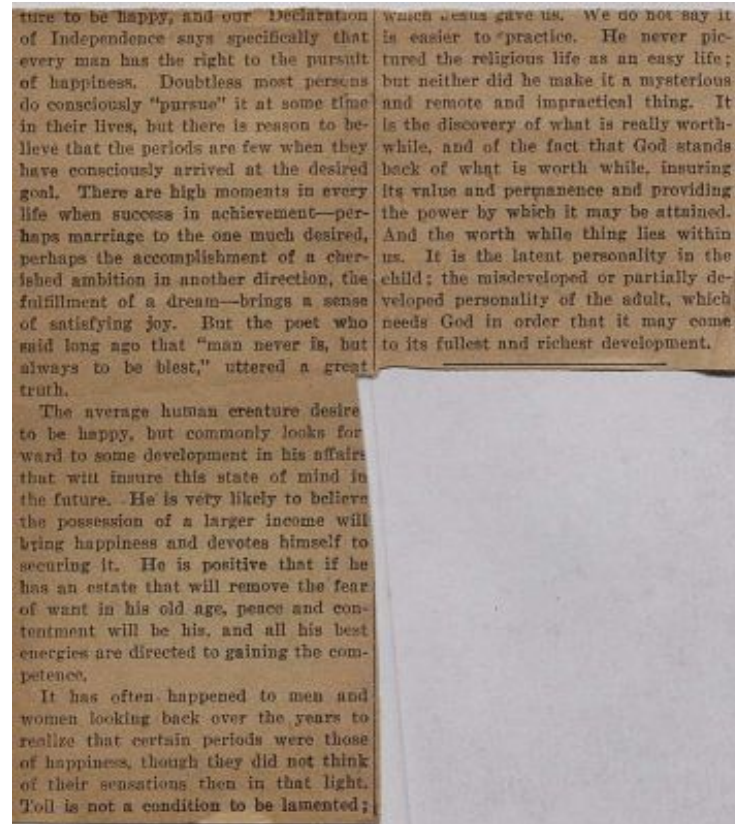
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ture to be happy, and our Declaration of Independence says specifically that every man has the right to the pursuit of happiness. Doubtless most persons do consciously "pursue" it at some time in their lives, but there is reason to believe that the periods are few when they have consciously arrived at the desired goal. There are high moments in every life when success in achievement - perhaps the accomplishment of a cherished ambition in another direction, the fulfillment of a dream - brings a sense of satisfying joy. But the poet who said long ago that "man never is, but always to be blest," uttered a great truth.

The average human creature desires to be happy, but commonly looks forward to some development in his affairs that will insure this state of mind in the future. He is very likely to believe the possession of a larger income will bring happiness and devotes himself to securing it. He is positive that if he has an estate that will remove the fear of want in his old age, peace and contentment will be his, and all his best energies are directed to gaining the competence.

It has often happened to men and women looking back over the years to realize that certain periods were those of happiness, though they did not think of their sensations then in that light. Toil is not a condition to be lamented; which Jesus gave us. We do not say it is easier to practice. He never pictured the religious life as an easy life; but neither did he make it a mysterious and remote and impractical thing. It is the discovery of what is really worthwhile, and of the fact that God stands back of what is worth while, insuring its value and permanence and providing the power by which it may be attained. And the worth while thing lies within us. It is a latent personality in the child; the misdeveloped or partially developed personality of the adult, which needs God in order that it may come to its fullest and richest development.



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