He who is good, because he is good, is not good. Goodness comes from within - it cannot be put on like a coat.

Sincerity is one of the keynotes of character. It takes many things to make a great man and we cannot all be great, but we can at least be honest - if with no other one than ourself. Many of our greatest men of genius were paupers or were handicapped physically. Even they, with all their greatness, sometimes lost sight of their ideals, but never for long - if they had they would not have been great.

People are always talking about eliminating the slums; some of our greatest men came from the slums. Supposing we did get rid of the slums, would not people become self-satisfied and smug (most of those of the upper classes are now and they don't contribute very much to humanity)? All of life is built on struggle and so it is with man.

Iron is taken out of the ground; if it is used in its original form it is of small value to anyone. But if it is heated, impurities are taken out, other materials are added, it is kept at a terrific heat and eventually you have steel. This product is tested, many times there is a flaw and it must be reheated. If the steel withstands the test it is really more valuable than we realize. So it is with man; he grows up in adversity and perhaps he withstands the test and becomes a genius, generally he does not. But if he grows up where there is no struggle, "where the heat is low", he becomes "pig iron."

A man's character is never through changing; he may be a hypocrite most of his life and then when his life is on the wane his eyes are opened to the true values of life. Is it then too late?

(I wrote on this at different times, about five minutes each time. First paragraph at one time, second and third at another time, etc. This sounds like I am preaching here above, but I'm not trying to do that. I just wonder about this and other things sometimes, and above all things, I do not mean that the slums should not be eliminated. The whole system of man's government of all kinds looks "cockeyed". I think ours is the best - but while the working people and farmer (and others that don't have work right now) make the products, the industry controls them and sets a price on them that people cannot pay; the government then has to dole out money to the farmer and laboring man (which lowers his self-respect), money that the government has taken in from all of the people in the form of taxes, in order that they can buy these products that they made, but which industry controls - its cockeyed. It is like taking money from Peter to pay Paul. If a man works hard and saves he should have the right to the profits that he makes from his business; he should not have to divide it up with his neighbor who does not work quite so hard, spends his money, and has a good time. But his neighbor should not have to go hungry or to be unable to find work.)

- David Roach - '38