

MORAL EDUCATION

“MY PEOPLE ARE DESTROYED FOR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE.”—

The Prophet Hosea.

THIS IS AMONG THE MOST CERTAIN OF ALL THE LAWS OF
MAN'S NATURE—THAT HIS CONDUCT WILL IN THE MAIN BE
GUIDED BY HIS MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL CONVICTIONS.—

“The Reign of Law,” by the Duke of Argyll.

MORAL EDUCATION:

An Elementary Manual

FOR THE USE OF

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND FAMILIES.

WITH A PRELIMINARY ESSAY.

BY THE REV.

PETER PRESCOTT,

AUTHOR OF "CENTENARY SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS."

London:

HODDER AND STOUGHTON.

27, PATERNOSTER ROW.

MDCCCLXXXIII.

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Dedicated,

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TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN BRIGHT, M.P.,

MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS,

A SOCIETY WHICH HAS EVER BEEN DISTINGUISHED

BY ITS ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF MORALITY ;

BY ITS INCULCATION OF THOSE PRINCIPLES

IN THE EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG ;

AND BY ITS EFFORTS

AS THE FOE OF WAR, AND THE FRIEND OF THE

OPPRESSED.



PREFACE.

THE courteous reader is requested to bear in mind the maxim expressed by Pope, one of the greatest masters of the English tongue :

“ In every work regard the writer's END,
Since none can compass more than they intend.”

The end or design of the present work is to furnish a Manual for use in Schools and Colleges, and the style and execution should be in accordance with that design. The chief excellence of every work ought to consist in Adaptation. The style, therefore, of such a work as the present should be studiously simple, for without simplicity perspicuity is impossible. Further, the style should not be abstract, but concrete. Abundant use has accordingly been made of the principle of Illustration. Facts and incidents, biographical and historical, have been drawn from various quarters. To these have been added other extracts, chiefly descriptive and poetical. The sources of the extracts are acknowledged as far as possible. Specific acknowledgment is due to the

kindness of MR. RUSKIN in giving permission to make use of his works to a certain extent; and also to THE DELEGATES OF THE CLARENDON PRESS, OXFORD, to whom that distinguished author had presented the copyright of his "Lectures on Art." Grateful mention may also be made of the valuable assistance rendered to the author by the REV. C. Y. POTTS, of Ledbury, in assisting to pass the work through the press, and in making various useful suggestions.

The Preliminary Essay is intended to answer the questions *What?* and *Why?* What is this book? and *Why* is it sent forth? The substance of the Essay was given to the public in a series of articles which appeared some time ago in THE CHRISTIAN COMMONWEALTH. The interest excited on the subject of Moral Education by the appearance of those articles caused a correspondence to spring up between the writer and certain readers of that paper. One of these is a gentleman who has held the post of Lecturer in one of the Normal Colleges; and a sentence which occurs in one of his letters may fitly close this Preface: "Everything seems to point to a rapidly approaching conflict of a more open kind between a pronounced Christian education and that which is merely intellectual; the latter, whether in our elementary schools or in the higher walks of education, must more and more become practically agnostic."

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