

**CHRISTIAN ETHICS,
OR THE SCIENCE OF
DUTY, PP. 1-169**

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Christian Ethics, or the Science of Duty, pp. 1-169 by Joseph Alden

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JOSEPH ALDEN

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BY

JOSEPH ALDEN, D. D., LL. D.,

LATE PRESIDENT OF JEFFERSON COLLEGE. AUTHOR OF "ELEMENTS
OF INTELLECTUAL PHILOSOPHY," "THE SCIENCE OF
GOVERNMENT," ETC., ETC.

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TO

EDWARD SMITH,

MERCHANT, OF NEW YORK.

DEAR SIR:—

The opportunities for observation which our long and intimate friendship has furnished, have wrought in me a conviction that the principles inculcated in this volume have guided you in your business transactions and social relations. Those who succeed in acquiring wealth by acting on such principles, confer a moral as well as pecuniary benefit on the public. Men of this class are among the most efficient teachers of morality. Believing you to belong to this class, I take the liberty of inscribing to you this volume, as a mark of my respect and affection.

JOSEPH ALDEN.

P R E F A C E.



THE author designed to write a text-book—not a commentary. He has attempted to furnish a directory of duty; but in so doing, he has not enumerated all the duties of men in all the relations in which they may be placed. He has selected such principles and rules as will readily guide the honest inquirer into all truth in relation to duty.

The work is emphatically a practical one, yet the author has not been guilty of the folly of attempting to separate the practical from the theoretical. They are united in every mind. Every one has a reason, sound or unsound, for the rule he adopts. To give the reason for a rule is to give the theory of it.

The reasons of the duties set forth are stated, except in cases where they can be readily inferred. A book which leaves nothing for the teacher and pupil to think out, must needs be a dull one.

Truths expressed in technical language and in scientific forms, are less likely to become incorporated with the thinking of the student than when expressed in ordinary language, and illustrated by familiar objects. A treatise on Ethics should be a directory of life: it will be influential in forming the character, in proportion as its prin-

ciples become incorporated with the mind, and the form and arrangement are forgotten.

Among the friends of morality, there is not much diversity of opinion as to duties. There are differences with respect to the religious theory of certain duties. In such cases, the authority for the duty has been given in the language of Scripture, and the theological explanation left with the teacher. The author has thus not omitted any important duty, and has avoided giving to his work a sectarian character. No believer in the Bible will find in this work any principle to which he can object. He may differ from the author in his application of principles.

The Bible is appealed to throughout as authority in all matters of duty. Its authority is admitted by all Christians, however diverse may be their theological views.

A deep impression of the importance of moral culture is felt in the community. It is seen that intelligence alone will not execute justice, and maintain truth. The pervading influence of moral principle is the only substitute for the bayonet. Hence the author trusts that this attempt to furnish an aid for the moral education of the young will not be looked upon with disfavor.

New York, June 1, 1868.

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