

**MENTAL AND MORAL CULTURE,  
AND POPULAR EDUCATION.  
INCLUDING A SPECIAL REPORT  
ON COMMON SCHOOL  
LIBRARIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649300044

Mental and moral culture, and popular education. Including a special report on common school libraries by S. S. Randall & Henry S. Randall

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Cover @ 2017

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**S. S. RANDALL & HENRY S. RANDALL**

**MENTAL AND MORAL CULTURE,  
AND POPULAR EDUCATION.  
INCLUDING A SPECIAL REPORT  
ON COMMON  
SCHOOL LIBRARIES**



MENTAL AND MORAL CULTURE,

AND

POPULAR EDUCATION;

BY

S. S. RANDALL,

GENERAL DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF COMMON SCHOOLS OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK.

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INCLUDING A SPECIAL REPORT  
ON

COMMON SCHOOL LIBRARIES,

PREPARED IN PURSUANCE OF THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
OF COMMON SCHOOLS;

BY

HENRY S. RANDALL,

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF CORTLAND COUNTY.

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NEW YORK:

C. S. FRANCIS & CO. 252 BROADWAY.

BOSTON:

J. H. FRANCIS, 128 WASHINGTON STREET

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1844.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1844, by

C. S. FRANCIS & CO.

In the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the Southern District  
of New York.

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THE AUTHOR.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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In the present awakened state of the public mind in reference to EDUCATION, every thing connected with a subject of such magnitude and importance becomes peculiarly interesting. The indifference which has heretofore prevailed in reference to our institutions of elementary instruction is indeed surprising, but not more so than the disregard manifested towards a variety of other subjects connected with the development and cultivation of the intellectual and moral faculties of our nature. The truth is, the great principles which lie at the foundation of the mental improvement of our species have not been brought home to the masses of the community, with a force at all proportional to their importance, or in a manner adapted to their clear comprehension. The most ignorant are, in general, the most selfish; and even in those rare cases where no higher motives can be appealed to than those of individual and personal interest, serious inquiry, followed by energetic action in the direction leading to the portals of knowledge and wisdom, will be almost sure to ensue from a skillful application of the selfish principle to the objects, means, and ends of existence. Convince the man who aspires to nothing higher than mere worldly wealth, and who apparently lives for no other or greater object than the gratification of his animal nature, that the enjoyment of uninterrupted health depends upon the observance of certain conditions, the greater part of which are subject to his own control, and he becomes at once a student of physiology, and will, in due time, in all human probability, ascend in the scale of intellect and civilization, until he becomes an enlightened and useful member of society. Convince him, also, that the uniform practice of virtue and morality, in all the varied relations of life, is not only compatible with the acquisition and enjoyment of wealth, and the rational gratification of the physical appetites and wants, but absolutely indispensable to their continued and secure enjoyment, and he becomes at once a moral and benevolent man. In like manner,