

**THE ANGELUS
SERIES. ON
CHARACTER**

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The Angelus Series. On Character by J. Guibert

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J. GUIBERT

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SERIES. ON
CHARACTER**

Abhil Obelat.

**F. THOS. BERGH, O.S.B.,
CENSOR DEPUTATUS.**

Imprimatur.

**✠ PETRUS,
EPUS. SOUTHWARREN.**

**SOUTHWARREN,
*Die 23 Junii, 1911.***

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The Angelus Series

ON CHARACTER

BY THE
VERY REV. J. GUIBERT, S.S.

SUPERIOR OF THE SEMINARY OF THE CATHOLIC
INSTITUTE, PARIS

AUTHORIZED TRANSLATION

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PREFACE

THIS is not a scientific treatise, but an essay in morals.

The writer has chosen this line because, as Joubert says, "morals show us how to live."

The art of living is the thing men need to know more than any other ; for skill in this art makes them fully and truly men.

"We lack men," as Jouffroy sadly observes. There would be no lack of men if, instead of carelessly following the bent of their inclinations, they would resolutely take in hand the direction of their lives, and temper their characters to hardness by means of methodical endeavour.

In theory, all are capable of being formed. As Lacordaire says : "There is not one of us who has not in him

Preface

the roots of the saint and the criminal." But in practice, there will never be more than a few who will undertake the task of self-development with enough perseverance to bring it to a successful issue.

What matter though the number be limited, if it be true, as is said again by Lacordaire, "that a single soul is like a great nation." Should the following pages influence only one soul to decide upon self-conquest and sustain it to the end in the long moral struggle for mastery over self, the author would feel that he had not worked in vain, and that his book was not a barren seed.

He hopes, however, that the harvest of souls may be more abundant. For he knows that they are legion in whom ferments to-day the desire for the good, and who are fired with the noble ambition of giving to their being its highest development, and who say readily with Montaigne : " I will rather have my soul well wrought than full fraught."

Preface

May this humble essay be of use to all those who are ready to set to work with a will to acquire virility of character.

The line followed by the writer is so natural and so straightforward that he deems it unnecessary to delay the reader with any further explanations.

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