

**THOUGHTS AND
THEORIES OF LIFE
AND EDUCATION**

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Thoughts and theories of life and education by J. L. Spalding

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J. L. SPALDING

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LIFE AND EDUCATION

By Bishop Spalding.

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THOUGHTS AND THEORIES
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LIFE AND EDUCATION

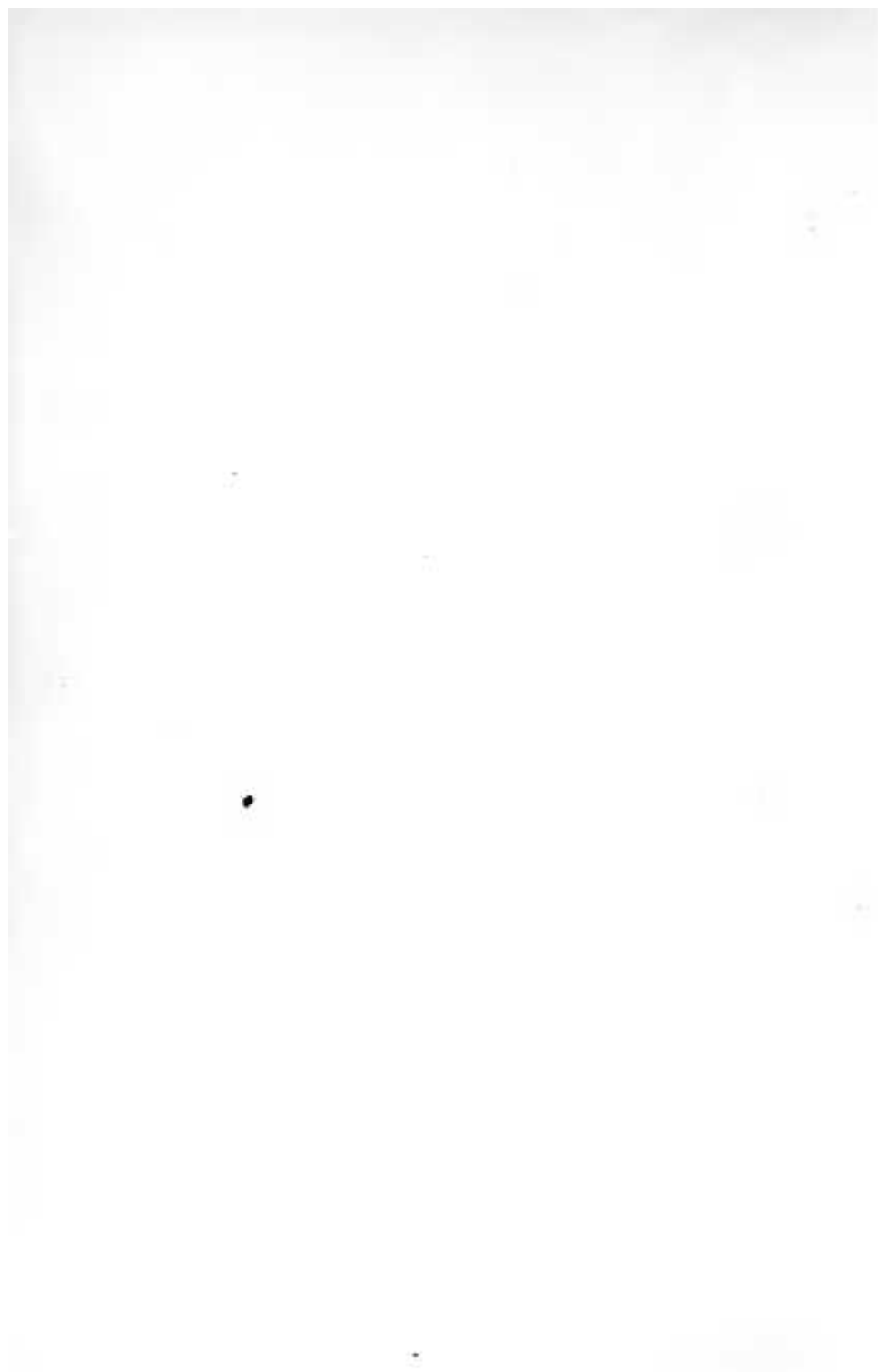
BY
J. L. SPALDING
Bishop of Florida

Hope like a star gleams in the breast
Of him who labors without rest,
In Truth's sweet service and in Love's

CHICAGO
A. C. McCLURG AND COMPANY
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THOUGHTS AND THEORIES
OF
LIFE AND EDUCATION.

CHAPTER I.

THOUGHTS AND THEORIES.

When the rose is fair it makes the garden fair,
When the soul is fair its beauty all may share.

IN the course of ages there have been a few in whose company it is possible to think high thoughts in a noble spirit; but there has been and is but one with whom it is possible to lead the life of the soul and feel that it is like the life of God, — he is the Master, Christ Jesus, who alone makes us understand and realize that God is our Father, and that our business on earth is to grow into the divine image by right loving and doing. To know God is to transcend the contradictions and dark mysteries of human existence, and to taste the pure joy and peace which children feel when their father is near.

So long as thou canst believe, with all thy heart, in thy heavenly Father, nothing can trouble thy deepest soul; for, since He is, nothing is hard to bear, and all will be well. As there is no stable equilibrium in the life of an individual, there is none in that of a community, a state, or a church. The inexorable command is,— Go forward or fall back, grow or decay. Thy life is possible only through communion with God, with nature, and with thy fellowman; and thou canst educate thyself only by holding thy mind and heart in conscious and sympathetic contact with God, with nature, and with thy fellowmen. Separation is mutilation, isolation is death. To attempt to gain knowledge without the faith and feeling that God lives within His universe, that nature is His vesture and thou thyself a member of the whole human organism, is to take the path which leads to hopeless doubt, to intellectual despair. After however much labor and pain, thou shalt at last be forced to cry out with the poet, that it breaks thy heart to know that man can know nothing. But if, with yearning thought and tireless effort, thou reachest forth to all that is divine, and natural, and nobly human, thou shalt surely gain new access of life, new strength of mind and heart, and little by little come to feel that the arms of the Eternal are twined lovingly about thee. The Divine