

**AN OBJECT IN LIFE,
AND HOW TO
ATTAIN IT**

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An object in life, and how to attain it by F. Leopold Schmidt

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F. LEOPOLD SCHMIDT

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BY

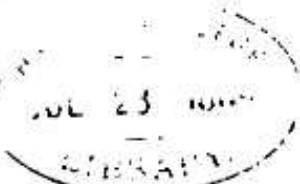
F. LEOPOLD SCHMIDT, JR.

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Dr. S. A. Green

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"A word to the wise is sufficient." Read !

"Give instruction to a wise man ; and he will be yet wiser :
teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."—PROVERBS IX.

"He that gathereth in summer is a wise son ; but he that
sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame."—PROVERBS X.

"O blessed retirement, friend to life's decline,
Retreats from care, that never must be mine,
How happy he who crowns in shades like these,
A youth of Labour with an age of ease ;
Who quits a world where strong temptations try,
And, since 'tis hard to combat learns to fly."

—GOLDSMITH.

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PREFACE.

In presenting to the public this my first work which for the want of a more appropriate name, might be called, if it may not be considered as a liberty, a small treatise, I shall deem it necessary to make a few prefatory remarks and reflections, upon the subject of what I have written, in order that those who may favor it with their kind perusal may the better enter into the sense and spirit of the matter it contains.

When a new book is presented to the world, the oft-repeated question, "Cui Bono?" * naturally arises. To answer it, I shall simply state as follows: that the special aim of this little treatise is; first, to show the reader in what a true and worthy object in life consists; secondly, to implant true and noble sentiments in his mind; thirdly, to give him a higher idea of life than that which is generally diffused among mankind; fourthly, to fill him with a burning desire to pursue such a worthy object in life; fifthly, to implore him to cast aside the sloth which may have

* "To what purpose?"

overcome his mind; and sixthly, and lastly, to try to guide him along the right path to attain the object which his predominating inclinations urge him on to pursue. These are a few of the principal aims to which this little treatise modestly attempts to lead the way. The reader, in order to tell whether the attempt be successful or not, must peruse the work, and then judge wisely for himself.

It must not be thought that this little treatise presumes to guide those honorable men and women, who are already in the successful pursuit of some worthy object in life, although it is hoped that even they may glean a few points of new and agreeable food therefrom; for every one views the same object in a different light, though the difference may be only a shade. It is, however, intended more especially for young men setting out upon the race-course of life; for all, whether young or old, who are not pursuing any worthy objects in life; and for those, who, though they are pursuing some worthy object in life, do so with little or no success.

With respect to the conviction of certain truths upon the mind of the reader, I have tried to be particularly careful to illustrate them by copious examples, knowing that these, by picturing the ideas to the mind, make more deep and lasting impressions upon it, as well as affording it more, pleasing food than cold, stiff reasoning. In regard

to style, I have also tried to be most careful throughout the work, sparing neither labor nor time, to present the whole in as perfect a method as possible, and to put all thoughts in strong, clear, and simple terms, so that nothing might be imbibed in the reader's mind with confusion.

Some may object that this little treatise is not entirely original, and that the truths it lays down are old and have already been widely sown. To answer these possible objections, I would say that it does not pretend entirely to originality of thought, though in method and arrangement, in most of the remarks and reflections, in examples, illustrations, and figures, there may be found much that is new and interesting. If the truths laid down in it have already been widely sown, they have not, however, reached to such maturity in their growth, as must be evident to every observing person, but that a little trimming up and watering, may give them a new start in other directions, to bring them to greater perfection. Further, such truths, like others from their importance to mankind, admit of frequent repetition. They are not as the sentiments of wit, which when once served up become stale, but rather as the sentiments of humor, which, when good, the more we taste of them the greater does our relish become. Finally, those to whom the most of these truths may be already known, should remember that they form the minority, and