

**CHIEF ANCIENT
PHILOSOPHIES; THE
ETHICS OF ARISTOTLE**

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Chief Ancient Philosophies; The Ethics of Aristotle by I. Gregory Smith

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I. GREGORY SMITH

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ETHICS OF ARISTOTLE**

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THE

ETHICS OF ARISTOTLE.

BY

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C

"Il Maestro di color che sanno."

DANTE, "Inferno," iv. 131.



40.137

P R E F A C E.

THIS is an attempt to tabulate from the "Ethics" the opinions of Aristotle on several questions of paramount importance, which are widely discussed at the present time, and to set his opinions side by side with those of some eminent modern philosophers. Perhaps in doing this something may be done towards indicating that "Scientific basis of morality,"¹ which is desired in many quarters. I have tried to be on my watch against the danger, to which commentators are specially exposed, of importing into the mind of their author opinions, which are really their own, not his.

It would be a grave injury to moral philosophy, if Aristotle were left out of consideration by moralists, or displaced in the studies of our Universities.

In a work, which though of small compass, has

¹ "The establishment of rules of right conduct on a scientific basis is a pressing need."—H. SPENCER, "Data of Ethics," p. iii.

occupied many years (so far as other duties permitted), it would not be easy to enumerate all those, to whom I am under obligation. But I would mention particularly the very sensible "Commentary on the 'Ethics'"¹ by the late accomplished Principal of the University of Edinburgh, as more really helpful to the student, than some more ambitious treatises. After all, the old saying is true, "Aristotelem non nisi ex ipso Aristotele intelliges."

The Appendices A, C, G (in part), H, I, J, are from an essay, which I contributed some years ago to a Quarterly Review.

The references to the "Ethics" are to the divisions of chapters in Grant's 3rd edition, 1874.

I have endeavoured to compress what I would say.

I. G. S.

MALVERN, *Feb.*, 1886.

¹ "The Ethics of Aristotle." By Sir Alexander Grant, Bart., &c. &c.

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for ensuring transparency and accountability in financial operations. This section also highlights the role of internal controls in preventing fraud and errors.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and techniques used to collect and analyze data. It covers both qualitative and quantitative research approaches, providing a comprehensive overview of the research methodology employed in the study. The authors discuss the strengths and limitations of each method and how they were integrated into the overall research design.

3. The third part of the document presents the results of the data analysis. It includes a detailed description of the findings, supported by statistical tests and graphical representations. The authors interpret the results in the context of the research objectives and discuss the implications of their findings for the field of study.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the conclusions drawn from the research. It summarizes the key findings and provides a clear statement of the authors' conclusions. This section also addresses the limitations of the study and suggests areas for future research.

5. The final part of the document is a reference list, which provides a list of all the sources cited in the document. This list includes books, journal articles, and other relevant literature that informed the research and writing process.

INTRODUCTION.

IT might seem superfluous, when ethical questions are discussed, to call attention to the Ethics of Aristotle, were it not, that he is in some danger of being overlooked now, in England. However far behind he may be left by the progress of knowledge in many departments, he may still be worth hearing on questions of morality and conduct. In regard to these the advance made by philosophy is rather in the art, than in the science, in the application of principles rather than in the principles themselves; ethical philosophy, as has been well said, being assimilative rather than progressive. There are indeed some characteristics of the Aristotelian philosophy, which bring it very near to modern thought on these subjects; while the terseness of his style is a relief to those, who are accustomed to modern diffuseness.

Aristotle's method of reasoning is mainly inductive. He has been called the inventor of the syllogism;¹ he may as fairly be said to have anticipated the inductive process of Bacon. With him analysis precedes synthesis; observation furnishes the mate-

¹ Appendix A.