

**STUDIES IN
CHRISTIAN
CHARACTER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649382163

Studies in Christian character by William L. Watkinson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM L. WATKINSON

**STUDIES IN
CHRISTIAN
CHARACTER**

W O R K S O F

W. L. Watkinson, D.D.

The Fatal Barter

and other Sermons. 12mo, cloth, net, \$1.00.

Frugality in the Spiritual Life

and other Themes for Meditation. 12mo,
cloth, net, \$1.00.

The Supreme Conquest

and other Sermons Preached in America.
12mo, cloth, net, \$1.00.

The Duty of Imperial Thinking

and other Essays on Themes Worth While.
12mo, cloth, net, \$1.00.

Studies in Christian Character

New Popular Edition, net, 50c.

Studies in Life and Experience

New Popular Edition, net, 50c.

Education of the Heart

Brief Essays that make for character. New
Popular Edition, net, 50c.


The Bane and the Antidote

and other Sermons. 12mo, cloth, net, \$1.00.

The Blind Spot

Inspiration in Common Life

16mo, cloth, net, 35c.



Studies in Christian Character

By the Rev.

WILLIAM L. WATKINSON

AUTHOR OF

“THE BLIND SPOT,” “EDUCATION OF THE HEART,” “THE
BANE AND THE ANTIDOTE,” ETC.



NEW YORK

CHICAGO

TORONTO

Fleming H. Revell Company

LONDON AND EDINBURGH

Copyright, 1905, by
FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY

New York: 158 Fifth Avenue
Chicago: 63 Washington Street
Toronto: 27 Richmond Street, W
London: 21 Paternoster Square
Edinburgh: 50 St. Mary Street

C O N T E N T S

		PAGE
I.	THE SURPRISES OF THE JUDGMENT . . .	1
II.	SELF-EXAMINATION	10
III.	THE BRINK OF FAILURE	17
IV.	FINKED DOWN	21
V.	THE GREATEST GIFT OF THE GREATEST GIVER	26
VI.	TECHNICAL TRAINING IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE	32
VII.	UNSANCTIFIED TRIAL	40
VIII.	DRY-ROT IN CHARACTER	42
IX.	THE SECRET OF SPRED	46
X.	SELF-REVELATION	55
XI.	STRAINED PIETY	61
XII.	WEARINESS	73
XIII.	THE INCENUITIES OF LOVE	78
XIV.	THE VALUE OF FEELING IN CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE	80
XV.	A MEDITATION FOR EASTER	87
XVI.	TO GOD	99
XVII.	THE SUPERIOR OBLIGATIONS OF CHRIS- TIAN	103
XVIII.	THE PROVINCE OF THE WILL IN CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE	110

C O N T E N T S

	PAGE
XIX. A MEDITATION FOR PENTECOST	116
XX. DILIGENCE IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE	128
XXI. THE TWO RECEPTIONS	134
XXII. POINTS OF DEPARTURE	143
XXIII. SEEN AND LOST	155
XXIV. CALLING AND CHARACTER	159
XXV. SIGNS OF SPIRITUAL DECLENSION	171
XXVI. IMPERFECT ATTACHMENTS TO CHRIST	182
XXVII. JUSTIFICATION BY WORKS	189
XXVIII. A MEDITATION FOR THE NEW YEAR	195
XXIX. QUICKENING GRACE	202
XXX. THE DIRGE OF THE HARVEST	209
XXXI. THE ORDER OF THE JUNIPER-TREE	212
XXXII. UNCAGED BIRDS	222
XXXIII. BAD DAYS	230
XXXIV. SPIRITUAL GROWTH	237
XXXV. INFLUENCE	246

I

THE SURPRISES OF THE JUDGMENT

Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee an hungered, and fed Thee? or thirsty, and gave Thee drink? When saw we Thee a stranger, and took Thee in? or naked, and clothed Thee? Or when saw we Thee sick, or in prison, and came unto Thee?—*MATT. xxv. 37-39.*

The righteous feel that some mistake has been made; they recall no such distinguished opportunities, they are sure that they never rendered any such splendid service, and they feel altogether undeserving of such eulogy and reward. Nevertheless, the recognition and reward are true; their action in life had a breadth and grandeur which they themselves did not suspect. The Judge has made no mistake; He discerns and

2 The Surprises of the Judgment

recompenses the hidden greatness of obscure life and trivial deeds. It is pleasant to think that the day of doom will bring this relieving aspect. The common idea of the final day is that it will be wholly one of conviction and humiliation. No doubt it will carry enough of sadness; but we must not overlook the fact that many will be startled in the great assize at the revelation of the hidden worth of their apparently insignificant lives—one of the many delightful surprises that the generous King reserves for His lowly yet faithful children.

The unconsciousness of genius is a subject that has often been treated. Columbus never knew that he discovered America; he died without any idea that he was the grand pioneer we now know him. It was years before it dawned upon geographers that a new, vast continent had been found. What would he think of his discovery now? Some of the greatest painters would be immensely astonished if they could revisit the earth, and find that pictures painted by them in poverty and sold for a few shillings are the masterpieces of famous galleries. Many inventors and discoverers never understood the significance of their experiments: for instance, Franklin had not the least idea that his kite was a sign in the heavens betokening a new age. And Emerson