

**POINTS OF VIEW,
AND OTHER POEMS**

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Points of View, and Other Poems by G. Golmore

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G. GOLMORE

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OTHER POEMS

BY

G. COLMORE *(pseud)*

Author of
Poems of Love and Life
A Conspiracy of Silence
A Daughter of Music
etc.

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PREFACE

THE soliloquies collected under the title *Points of View*, deal mostly with one particular moral offence considered from the standpoints of those who sin and those who sit in judgment: incidentally also, they treat of the influences which go to form those standpoints. The light in which people consider their own conduct has always greatly interested me, and I have often doubted whether sufficient weight is given by the careless critic to the difference in the degree of moral damage, caused by a difference in the standard by which conduct is tested. Nothing destroys moral fibre so much as conduct which a man's or a woman's own standard

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condemns; and destruction of moral character means incapacity to improve: but, on the other hand, conduct which is not beneath an individual's own standard—however reprehensible from the point of view of the community at large—does not totally destroy moral fibre; and if once that individual can be induced to raise his standard, there may be sufficient moral strength in him to enable him to live up to it. I maintain that this view of the question is a direct encouragement to those who desire to raise humanity.

I hold, further, that the standard of conduct is fixed for most of us by the point of view which is adopted in practice by the community in which we live. This again should give the moralist hope, since the fact (if fact it be) affords an easier method of raising the common standard, than by separate appeal to each individual; for there can be no doubt that the attitude of the leaders of a society, as

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shown by their actual treatment of offenders, goes far to raise the standard of conduct of the less prominent members of it.

The suffering caused by sin cannot be gauged by outward observation, but that the suffering is inevitable is as true as that it is not always obvious.

I reprint two soliloquies which appeared in a former volume, as they belong to the present set.

G. COLMORE.

