

A PRIMER OF ETHICS

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A Primer of Ethics by Benjamin B. Comegys

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BENJAMIN B. COMEGYS

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OF ETHICS**



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PRIMER OF ETHICS.

EDITED BY

BENJAMIN B. COMEGYS,

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TO GET ON," "OLD STORIES WITH NEW LESSONS," "ADDRESSES
TO THE PUPILS OF GIRARD COLLEGE," ETC.**



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"The thing that can be done is to introduce into every public school a simple text-book of Ethics, and drill it into every child from the youngest to the oldest. The little book should present the principles of the moral conduct in the clearest and simplest manner; that is, the fundamental ideas of right and wrong, the proper relations in the family, of parent and child, of the young to the old, of inferior to superior, of the employer to the employed, the citizen and the state—the duties in all their relations, as well as the rights. We may then get back a little reverence in place of the growing bumptiousness and smartness. The scholar will then be furnished with the means of seeing the difference of right and wrong in business, in politics, in social life; and added to this, the teacher will be more anxious to develop the mind as a reasoning machine than to stuff it with facts for an examination."

CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER.



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PREFACE.

JACOB ABBOTT was, in his day, the most voluminous, the most popular, the most useful writer for the young.

One of his books, "The Rollo Code of Morals," has been out of print for many years. By permission of his family and his publishers, I have prepared a new edition of this book for the use of young people at school and at home.

My work has been largely that of abbreviation and modern adaptation; but some chapters have been omitted and some new ones added.

For some thoughts in the chapter on "Duties to Dumb Creatures," I am indebted to my friend, Professor Fullerton, of the University of Pennsylvania.

I am very grateful to Dr. Mackenzie, Head Master of the Lawrenceville School, New Jersey, and to Dr. Fetterolf, President of Girard College, who have read the book in manuscript, for many most valuable hints.

The book is only a Primer; but its principles are of much wider application.

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MR. ABBOTT'S PREFACE.

THERE are few teachers who do not feel the need of some additional means and facilities to aid them in the cultivation of the moral sentiments of their pupils; but to provide these facilities is a very difficult and delicate task. It is true that nothing is easier than to write lectures inculcating moral truth; and, at the same time, scarcely anything is more difficult than to convey such instruction so as to secure admission for it to the minds and hearts of children, and a permanent influence there. This little work, however, is an attempt to accomplish this object. It consists of a series of lessons, designed to explain and illustrate to young children their most simple and obvious duties, and those traits of moral character which it is most desirable should be early formed.

The teacher will observe that each lesson consists of three distinct portions:—

1. A general statement of the principle or duty about to be explained and enforced. It stands at the head of the lesson, and is intended to be committed to memory by the class. It may be recited by the whole of the