

ON THE THRESHOLD

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On the threshold by Theodore T. Munger

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THEODORE T. MUNGER

**ON THE
THRESHOLD**

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BY

THEODORE T. MUNGER

"Many men that stumble at the threshold"

REVISED AND ENLARGED EDITION



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NOTE TO REVISED EDITION.

It is proper to state that this revised edition is not due to any change of opinion on the subjects treated, but to the exigencies of publication. The demand for the book has been so large and continuous that the plates have become unfit for further use. Advantage is taken of this necessity to make a thorough revision of the text, and to add another chapter which seemed to be called for by the plan of the book.

The changes consist chiefly in the removal of local and temporary allusions, modifications of emphasis on some points, and occasional additions in the main line of thought. It is hoped that the new chapter — Number IX. — will commend itself to all as a fit treatment of a subject that could

hardly be passed by. At the Round Table of true knighthood the seat of Sir Galahad should not be left vacant.

When this book was first published, the author had no anticipation of the large place it would fill in so many lives ; and he sends forth this new edition with feelings of profound gratitude for what it has been permitted to accomplish, and with the earnest hope that it may continue to guide and stimulate the young men of our country along the lines of true living and noble manhood.

NEW HAVEN, *October 23, 1891.*

PREFACE.

THE object of this little book is to put into clear form some of the main principles that enter into life as it is now opening before young men in this country. Its suggestions are more specific and direct than if they had been addressed to older persons; still, I have aimed to support every point by sound reasons, and to join the authority and inspiration of the greater minds with my own views. I think I may assure my readers that they will not encounter a simple mass of advice, nor the generalities of an essay, but rather a series of hints suitable to the times, and pointing out paths that are just now somewhat obscured. If they find some pages that are strenuous in their suggestions, they will find none that are keyed to impossible standards of conduct, or filled

with moralizings that are remote from the every-day business of life.

It is not pleasant to play the *rôle* of Polonius, and I undertake it only because Laertes seems to be quite as much in need of advice as ever. I have not, however, written out of a critical mood, so much as from a desire to bring young men face to face with the inspiring influences which, in a peculiar degree, surround them. The country was never so prosperous, the future never so full of happy assurance, as it is to-day. To point out the way of reaping the double harvest of this prosperity and a noble manhood, is the motive that underlies these pages.