

**INFLUENCE: A MORAL
TALE FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE. IN
TWO VOLUMES. VOL. I**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649613366

Influence: A Moral Tale for Young People. In Two Volumes. Vol. I by Charlotte Anley

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

CHARLOTTE ANLEY

**INFLUENCE: A MORAL
TALE FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE. IN
TWO VOLUMES. VOL. I**

INFLUENCE:

A

Moral Tale

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

BY A LADY.

He who acts from principle shall be exposed to no wounds but
what religion can cure — *Blair*.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR L. B. SEELEY AND SON,
FLEET-STREET;

By J. Seeley, Buckingham.

1824.

TO
EMMA AND MARIA HANKIN,

This little Work

IS DEDICATED BY THE AUTHOR,

AS A

TOKEN OF SINCERE REGARD,

AND AS A SIMPLE TESTIMONY OF THE

GRATITUDE,

WITH WHICH SHE WILL EVER REMEMBER

THE KINDNESS OF HER BEST FRIENDS,

THE FAMILY AT NEWLANDS.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

PREFACE.

IN offering to the Public a story founded on the subject of INFLUENCE, I wish the power were mine to do justice to one of so much importance ; but I hope that the presumption of such an attempt will be pardoned in the circumstances which have compelled the undertaking.

Yet, to a world, in which criticism justly holds a powerful barrier against all who may intrude talents incompetent for the task of authorship, some apology is surely necessary, while I seem to claim a privilege to which I can hold not the smallest pretension.

In timidly soliciting its support, therefore, I also ask the generous indulgence of such as may be jealous of the feeble spark, which shall thus dare to mingle in the blaze of talent, which distinguishes this age of literature and science. And should the tenacious eye of criticism chance to fall upon my humble page, and demand the birth, parentage, and education of so unwarranted an intruder; I can only answer, that it is from the pen of a young and inexperienced writer; that necessity was its mother, and a sick room the school in which it was first reared. Compelled therefore to seek the patronage of the public, I ask its indulgence, not its praise; its mercy, not its justice. But if indeed so unworthy a theme should be made one of argument, and all the errors of my work be exposed, to counteract the intention of its moral, I can but own how wide a field its many faults may open for such an

attempt; how much of inconsistency, inelegance of language, and inaccuracy of judgment, may justify the censure of a critic: but, so far as the ground on which Religion stands, I trust it will be found clear from all false principle and unwarranted prejudice, since in all that I have endeavoured to inculcate of faith and practice, Scripture is the authority, and the simple religion of the Gospel as it is in Jesus Christ, the only chart, which I would offer to every young reader, as the sole and sure guide to christianity and happiness.

It has, however, often been remarked, that a work of imagination, as being a mere ideal world, ought never to bear the sacred stamp of Religion. I confess—and with reverence may I use the simile—that it is indeed too hallowed an instrument to mingle indiscriminately with the songs of

fancy, and it were well if the rising generation were taught only to listen to such strains as might raise the soul to the enjoyment of holier contemplations. Human nature is, however, in every age and country the same; selfish pleasures are sought with avidity both by young and old, and too often, I fear, the more essential pursuits of a christian education are neglected.

If then a "moral tale" can be made a vehicle of religious influence, as well as of amusement, are we to exclude the benefits which it *may* produce, because religion and morality are, by some, erroneously supposed to claim a distinct dominion?

Many parents exclaim against novel reading, and would very properly exclude all romances from the libraries of their children; yet how frequently do we find them in their hands. How then can this