

**THE QUEST OF THE BEST:
INSIGHTS INTO ETHICS
FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS
AND LEADERS OF BOYS**

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The Quest of the Best: Insights into Ethics for Parents, Teachers and Leaders of Boys by William De Witt Hyde

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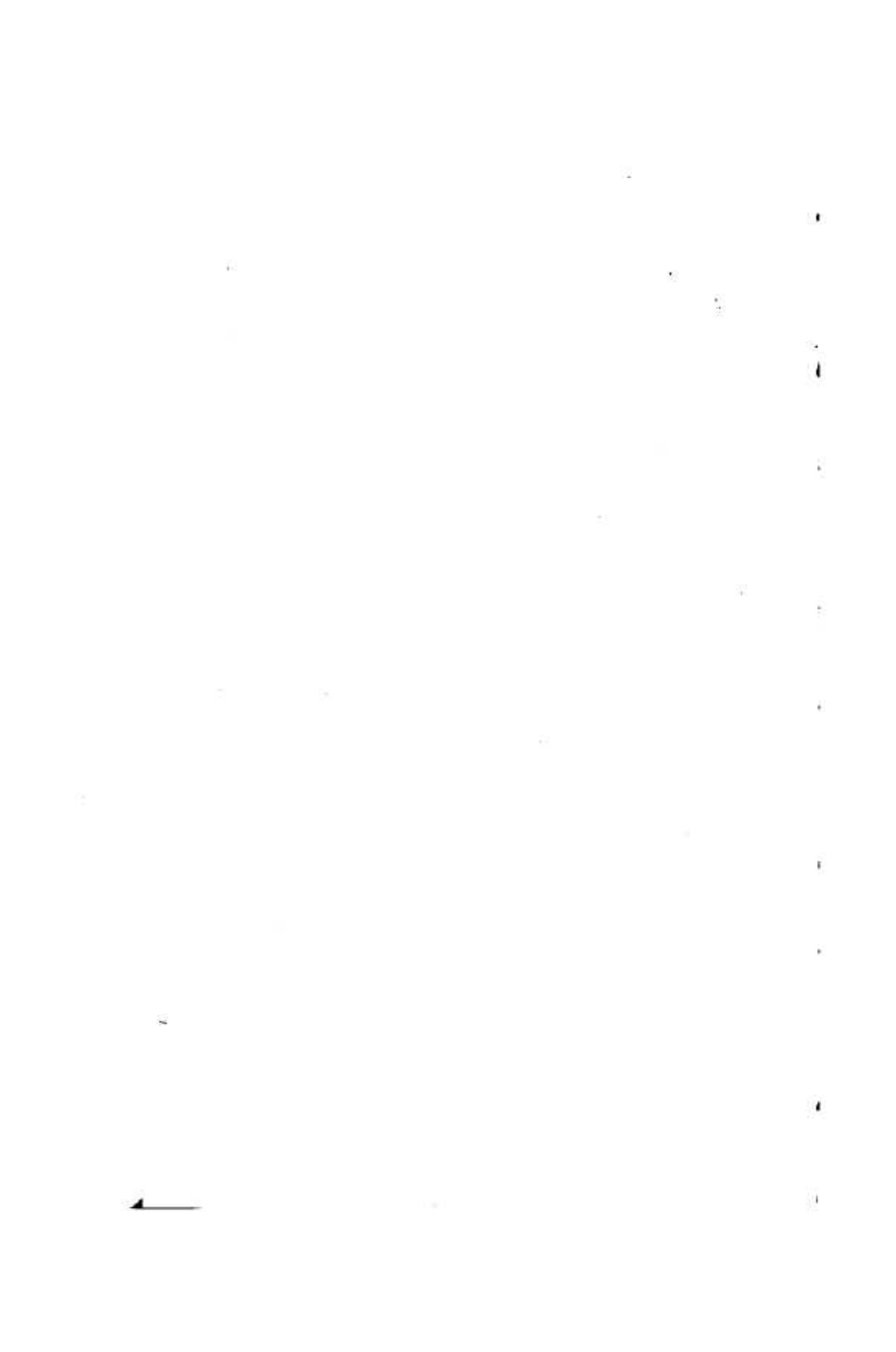
PRESIDENT OF BOWDOIN COLLEGE

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TO

P. M. H.

WHO IN SPITE OF MANY GOODS WITHHELD
MAINTAINS FOR HERSELF AND INSPIRES IN OTHERS
THE BLESSED AND ENDLESS QUEST OF THE BEST



PREFACE

AT Bowdoin College we are trying to bring professors and students together in common interests and tasks. As one application of this preceptorial method, we have a class of six students conducted by six professors. Each professor takes the six students for a period of about six weeks, during which they work together on some form of writing—verse, drama, essay, oration, translation or short story. Then the result of their work together is submitted to the entire group of professors and students.

As it fell to me this year to conduct this class for one period, having these lectures to prepare, I asked the class to do it with me, explaining the general plan, submitting for their discussion and

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criticism such portions as I had written, and assigning to them certain portions to write. Accordingly the following pages are a joint product; not only representing as the result of criticisms and suggestions their fresher recollection of boy life, but in several sections being their work precisely as they wrote it. Accordingly, first of all, my acknowledgments are due to the members of English 10 for the year 1912-13: Laurence A. Crosby, Cedric R. Crowell, Walter F. Eberhardt, Robert D. Leigh, Clifton O. Page and Kenneth A. Robinson.

The lectures were delivered to the First General Assembly of Association Workers with Boys, at Culver, Indiana, in May, 1913. Here they were subjected to a constant fire of questions and criticisms by the three hundred or more experts in work for boys there assembled. To these splendid men, full of fun and earnestness, common sense and Christianity, I am still further indebted both

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for some things put in, and for more left out.

As this book is written with a view to the training of boys, all theoretical controversies, such as those between freedom and determinism, hedonism and idealism; and many practical topics like the ethics of the artistic and the institutional life, are necessarily omitted.

If all boys and girls could be sure of having kind parents and wise leaders who would protect them against the grinding tendencies of modern industrialism and city life, we might stop with the merely ethical program concluded in Chapter V. Since, however, multitudes of children are caught in the wheels of this mighty industrial machine, without either sympathetic parental or judicious scholastic guidance, it is necessary to supplement this distinctively ethical and personal program with the social reforms outlined in Chapter VI. For, though these are not ethical in the sense of being direct contributions which in-

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dividual parent or leader can make to the character of the individual child, they are measures which we all collectively ought to take in behalf of all children; especially the children of the poor in the congested sections of our large cities.

WILLIAM DE WITT HYDE.

BOWDOIN COLLEGE,
BRUNSWICK, MAINE,
June 10, 1913.