

**THE INFLUENCE OF
THE AFFECTIONS
UPON CHARACTER**

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The Influence of the Affections upon Character by Edwin Chapman

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EDWIN CHAPMAN

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BY
EDWIN CHAPMAN.

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1839.

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RICHARD KINDER, PRINTER,
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TO MY MOTHER,
WHOSE LOVE,
ENLIGHTENED BY EXPERIENCE AND PURIFIED BY
RELIGION,
SHED ITS HOLY AND PRESERVING INFLUENCE
AROUND MY EARLIER YEARS,
AND STILL BLESSES ME WITH ITS WARMTH,
THIS LITTLE VOLUME
IS TENDERLY AND MOST APPROPRIATELY INSCRIBED
BY HER
AFFECTIONATE AND GRATEFUL SON.

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P R E F A C E.

THE contents of the following chapters were originally delivered as Lectures to Sunday School Teachers, at the request of the Committee of the Sunday School Association. They afterwards appeared, with some alterations and omissions, in the pages of the Christian Teacher. They are now republished from that work, with such further emendations as a careful revision has suggested.

The parent, the teacher, and the metaphysician may alike condemn this Essay. The parent may say that the writer evidently wants experience of children; the teacher that he has a very imperfect acquaintance with the art of communicating instruction; the metaphysician that psychological studies have manifestly not occupied much of his time or attention. They will each affirm a truth. It is so; and he sends

forth this little book, not as a treatise upon education, or upon the nature of the human mind ; but in the hope that it may, however imperfect, afford a few useful materials for thought to some anxiously inquiring how they may train up their children in the right way, how they may draw forth the love of truth and holiness, while they repress not that cheerful happiness, that gay bounding of the spirits, that beautiful trust in God, in man, and in the promises of the future, which are the fresh and gladdening charms of childhood :—and which, the writer believes, need not always be trampled out by the cares, sorrows, follies, vices, and miseries of youth passing into manhood, of manhood struggling with the necessary burdens of the world.

Whether his views of the human character and affections, and their relation to each other, be correct or not, he feels a growing conviction that there is much yet to be learned concerning the developement of our nature ;—he has a strong suspicion, which however he would state with sincere deference, that metaphysicians have too commonly plunged at once in

medias res, that they have too exclusively examined minds in their maturity, instead of tracing their progress from almost nothing up to their state of godlike comprehension ; that they have expended too much labour upon an analysis of nature's most perfect work, and have not sufficiently attended to her own synthesis the way in which she gradually exhibits the various wondrous faculties of the soul, and compacts them harmoniously. If he is wrong in this suspicion, he humbly begs pardon of mental philosophers. He has done them, however, no harm. He has only shewn himself not sufficiently read in their productions.

The writer feels it due to Mr. Geo. Combe to state that the Lectures were first composed and delivered while the impression was yet new and full upon his mind of that gentleman's admirable and popular work " On the Constitution of Man ;" and that if his views have any clearness or consistency they owe much of those qualities to that publication. It is no part of his duty or intention to impugn or defend the phrenological portion of that work. The conception of human nature which it embodies