

**DR. CHANNING'S NOTE-BOOK:
PASSAGES FROM THE
UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS
OF WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING**

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Dr. Channing's Note-Book: Passages from the Unpublished Manuscripts of William Ellery Channing by Grace Ellery Channing

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**PASSAGES FROM THE UNPUBLISHED
MANUSCRIPTS OF WILLIAM
ELLERY CHANNING**

SELECTED BY HIS GRANDDAUGHTER

GRACE ELLERY CHANNING



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In adding this little volume to the published works of William Ellery Channing, a special interest is claimed for it from its origin and character.

The "Notes" are from the unpublished manuscripts left by him, and set apart for this purpose by his nephew and biographer, William Henry Channing, and by his son. They have been gathered with careful study, and are here reproduced, without change or revision of any kind. Many of them bear internal evidence of this in their abrupt construction. So far has the desire to preserve their integrity been carried that it is only justice to the publishers to exonerate them from all responsibility for incomplete sentences or idiomatic use of words.

What is possibly lost in elegance is more than compensated in vigor and freedom of expression. Written for personal and immediate reference, the papers have the absolute unrestraint of self-communion; yet we feel that in giving them to the world no injustice is done to the writer. He loses nothing through this nearer acquaintance.

It was Dr. Channing's habit to make notes at all times, to jot down the train of thought suggested by the books he was reading, as well as his own solitary musings. Often words or phrases

from other writers are set down with the ideas they suggest; and sometimes it has been difficult to disentangle the two. The most faithful care has been employed to reject such passages. Should any have escaped, the fault must be attributed to the compiler.

Many thoughts will be recognized as familiar; the form, however, is believed to be new, and we think, as a book distinctly *not* theological in character, it presents another and broader view of Channing himself.

The selections which close the volume, beginning with "Sensation," are from the chapters of his unfinished work on Man, which was designed to be the crowning labor of his life. Nearly half a century has elapsed since these pages were penned, and it will not be strange if no great or striking novelty is found, at the present day, in the philosophy they embody; but they show most fully the spiritual thought which was so far in advance of his own time, and emphasize anew the special characteristics of Channing's mind and faith. Therefore, as well as for their beauty, they are included in this volume.

To those here and across the water whose lives are bound up with all movements for freedom, this little book, as a voice for individual liberty, will carry its own special welcome; and to the friends of Channing everywhere it is offered.

GRACE ELLERY CHANNING.

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DR. CHANNING'S NOTE-BOOK.

Freedom.

FREEDOM is not merely a means. It is an end. It is the well-being of a rational nature. To take it away is to violate the essential law and aspiration of that nature.

If there be one interest dear to me on earth, it is the freedom of the human mind. If I have found my existence a growing good, — if I have gained any large views of religion or my own nature, — if I have in any measure invigorated, I know nothing to which, under God, I am so indebted as to my freedom. This has been breath of life to me.

The abuses of freedom are better than chains, for they are self-corrective. Man should always feel himself too great to be a slave.

Forego everything, rather than invest another with the power of determining your actions, or transfer to him the empire which belongs only to our own minds.