

**THOUGHTS, SELECTED
FROM THE WRITINGS OF
THE REV. WILLIAM E.
CHANNING, D.D. PP.1-157**

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HENRY A. MILLES

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REV. WILLIAM E. CHANNING, D. D.

BY HENRY A. MILES.

"Sometimes a single word, spoken by the voice of genius, goes far into the heart. A hint, unobtrusive, an undefined delicacy of expression, teaches a more than we gather from volumes of less gifted men." — *Cambridge*.

ELEVENTH THOUSAND.

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PREFACE.

THE following pages are made up entirely of short sentences selected from the writings of Dr. Channing. There is probably no other author of the age from whose works a greater number of striking detached thoughts may be gathered. The fact is attributable not only, nor chiefly, to the wide range of subjects to which he turned his attention — Theology, Morals, Literature, Politics, Education, Social Life, Reforms — but, still more, to the *aphoristic* style of expression in which it is evident that he both delighted and excelled. Thus, all who heard his preaching, or have read his

works, will remember how frequently some great truth, to the unfolding of which perhaps several pages were devoted, was at last summed up and condensed, in a single, brief, beautiful, and memorable sentence; and many of these "apples of gold in pictures of silver" are brought together in this little book. No doubt the reader will miss favorite passages, and yet it is not doubted, also, that he will recognize in the following pages many of those pointed sayings and deep thoughts with which he has felt it to be good to commune. In this miniature form they can be carried about one's person, in the steamboat and car, and when seeking health or recreation by the seashore or the mountain side. The little volume is intended, also, as a choice

gift to a friend; and, perchance, it may introduce some to an acquaintance with this great Benefactor to our minds, who, through sectarian fears, might be repelled from a larger work. Thus, these seeds of great thoughts may be scattered even by little wings, just as the seeds of the greatest trees of the forest are scattered by the smallest bird.

H. A. M.



THOUGHTS.

AN humble spire, pointing heavenward from an obscure church, speaks of man's nature, man's dignity, man's destiny, more eloquently than all the columns and arches of Greece and Rome, the mausoleums of Asia, or the pyramids of Egypt.

ONE great and kindling thought from a retired and obscure man, may live when thrones are fallen, and the memory of those who filled them obliterated, and, like an undying fire, may illuminate and quicken all future generations.

THE worst error in religion, after all, is that of the skeptic, who records triumph