

THE RELIGION OF A GENTLEMAN

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The Religion of a Gentleman by Charles F. Dole

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CHARLES F. DOLE

**THE RELIGION OF
A GENTLEMAN**

THE
Religion of a Gentleman

BY

CHARLES F. DOLE

Author of

"THE COMING PEOPLE," "THE THEOLOGY OF CIVILIZATION," "LUXURY AND SACRIFICE," ETC.



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To all young men, to the students in the colleges of America, and especially in Harvard College, my own Alma Mater, this little book is dedicated, in the earnest hope that the thoughts which have brought intellectual freedom, joy, and moral inspiration to its author may carry similar help and service to others.

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THE RELIGION OF A GENTLEMAN.

CHAPTER I.

WHO IS THE GENTLEMAN?

WHO has not pictures in his mind of the old-world gentleman? He wears the dress of a distinct class; he is probably mounted upon a horse, carries a sword, and is attended by a servant; common people do reverence to him as he passes. He believes—and others also believe—that his family is of finer clay than the ordinary sort. The women of his order are ladies, entitled, therefore, to a regard quite above women in general.

Are we right in using the words "*gentleman*" and "*lady*" in America? Are they not indeed survivals of an aristocratic social

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and political system which we in the United States have renounced? The very words have too often become degraded in snobbish use to imply less humanity than their simple and humbler cousins *man* and *woman*. If in a democracy one man is as good as another, and every one is to be treated as a gentleman by virtue of his human birth, why should we not discard meaningless terms, which seem, so far as they are seriously used, to deny the principles of the Declaration of Independence?

Nevertheless, there are real differences and distinctions even in a democracy. No one believes that all men are equal in worth. What good Democrat of our forefathers' time would have been bold enough to assert that he was himself half as important to the nation as Washington, or Madison, or Jefferson? You would easily have found a thousand men willing to die together, if their death could have saved the one life of Lincoln. There are men serving to-day — jurists, statesmen, teachers, ministers, cap-