

**DUTY. A BOOK
FOR SCHOOLS**

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Duty. A Book for Schools by Julius H. Seelye

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JULIUS H. SEELYE

**DUTY. A BOOK
FOR SCHOOLS**

DUTY

A BOOK FOR SCHOOLS

BY

JULIUS H. SEELYE

D.D., LL.D., Late President of Amherst College

BOSTON, U.S.A.

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1892
D. 2

PREFACE.

IN this little book I have attempted to give to the cardinal principles and the chief facts of morals a treatment which should be thorough and at the same time apprehensible to the mind of a child. I have tried to be simple without being superficial,—not an easy undertaking, I am aware, as I am also conscious how far the result here reached falls below the standard which the perfect book requires.

In some points, as perhaps those relating to freedom and to property, where serious errors are very easy, I have preferred to state the principles which I believe the child will approve in his mature thought, even if he does not fully apprehend them now, rather than to leave the matter clear but incomplete. Knowing as I do that there can be no abiding basis of morality altogether separate from religion, I have not sought to make a book which one who calls himself an atheist would like. But

I believe there is nothing here from which any theist, of whatever name, will dissent.

Some friends who have kindly listened to these pages before their publication have suggested that a larger expansion of certain parts of the book would be wise, but this it seems to me should be done rather by the teacher than by the writer. I have kept in mind constantly the quality of a text-book for schools, and, in my judgment, that is the best text-book which being also clear and comprehensive is the most compact. I have scrupulously striven to keep out everything redundant, having pity for the child's memory laden with useless verbiage. A good text-book is like good grain, to be planted for a harvest, rather than to be ground for bread.

I was surprised and almost startled in beginning this undertaking not to be able to find anything of the sort in our tongue. We have many and admirable text-books on morals for use in colleges, some of which are advantageously used in high schools, but a simple and systematic manual on this theme, suitable for an early grade of schools, I have not found in English, though there are some excellent books of the kind in French, as they are not wanting also in German; these last, however,

being mainly in the form of catechisms with prominent reference to religious instruction. I hope, therefore, that what I have here tried to do may not be altogether in vain.

Any suggestions which teachers who may use these pages may make for their improvement will be welcomed.

AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS,

May, 1891.

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