

**SOCIAL RIGHTS AND
DUTIES; ADDRESSES TO
ETHICAL SOCIETIES, IN
TWO VOLUMES, VOL. II**

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Social rights and duties; addresses to ethical societies, in two volumes, Vol. II by Leslie Stephen

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LESLIE STEPHEN

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SOCIAL RIGHTS AND DUTIES

ADDRESSES TO ETHICAL
SOCIETIES

BY

LESLIE STEPHEN

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. II.



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NOTE.

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L. S.

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HEREDITY.

I FOUND, the other day, that an address upon Heredity had been announced, of which I was to be the deliverer. I admit that I was fully responsible for the statement, although, for reasons with which I need not trouble you, I was not quite prepared for it in this form. I mention this fact in order simply to say that the title may possibly give rise to false expectations. I am quite incompetent to express any opinion of the slightest scientific value upon certain problems suggested by that rather ugly word "heredity". The question as to the precise relationship between any organism and its parents or remoter ancestors, is one of the highest interest. The solution, for example, of the problem, whether is it possible for a living being to transmit to its descendants qualities which have only been acquired during its own lifetime, has an important bearing upon the general theory of evolution. But I have nothing whatever to suggest in regard to that problem. I simply take it for granted that there is some relation between parents and children: and a relation, speak-