

**THE YOUNG MAN'S WAY,
TO INTELLIGENCE,
RESPECTABILITY,
HONOR AND USEFULNESS**

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The young man's way, to intelligence, respectability, honor and usefulness by Anthony Atwood

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YOUNG MAN'S
WAY.

TO
INTELLIGENCE, RESPECTABILITY,
HONOR AND USEFULNESS.

—◆—
BY
REV. ANTHONY ATWOOD.

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"Give attendance to reading."
"Study to show thyself approved."—ST. PAUL.
"By wisdom, is a house builded."—SOLOMON.

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TO
YOUNG MEN, GENERALLY,
AND ESPECIALLY TO THE MEMBERS,
OF THE
ATWOOD LITERARY INSTITUTE,
ASSOCIATED TOGETHER
FOR MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT,
PREPARATORY TO
FUTURE USEFULNESS;
IS THIS
Small Token of Affection,
HUMBLY INSCRIBED,
BY THEIR FRIEND,
THE AUTHOR.

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P R E F A C E .

THE circumstances which have occasioned the writing of this work are simply these. Two years since the Author delivered a course of sermons, on Sabbath evenings, to the young people of his congregation, in which an effort was made to point out the course which all young persons should pursue, if they ever hoped to obtain character and standing, or wished to be of advantage to the world. Soon afterward, a society of young men was formed in the neighborhood, calling themselves the "Atwood Literary Institute." The first knowledge the Author had of the circumstance was, his being called upon to suggest a suitable motto for the society, after it had been formed, and its constitution fixed.

Subsequently he was waited on by a committee of the society, and requested to

deliver a sermon to young men, on an evening designated. A copy of which was afterwards requested for publication, which was for various reasons declined. Then was introduced the subject of a small book for the special benefit of young persons, which though short, should embody all the most important matters necessary for them to know and keep constantly before their minds.

The Author was not unaware of the amount of labor and time the preparation of such a work would require when he agreed to undertake it, or the *slang* that its publication might call forth from the *idle* or *envious*. Yet encouraged by the hope of doing some good, to those for whom he has for years, felt a deep and abiding interest, the work was commenced in the fear of God and with a humble reliance upon his blessing.

It is not pretended of course, that all is said upon any one of the topics introduced, that might have been. This would require a larger work, the price of which would

have placed it out of the reach of the very class for whose benefit it was intended, and thus defeated the Author's design. Besides, it would have required more time than he had to spare from other and pressing engagements.

Imperfections will doubtless be found both in thought and style, by many who may chance to peruse it. If, however, the object of the writer is gained, and the work is useful to those for whose improvement it has been undertaken, he is quite careless of other consequences. He wishes neither to preach nor write for show. Professing to be a *utilitarian* in all respects, it is hoped that no other feeling has influenced him in penning a solitary sentence herein found. The most that has been aimed at, is clearness and force. No book written for the popular good, should in the Author's deeming, contain a sentence, requiring to be read twice in order to be understood. The meaning should stare the reader in the face at once, or it will not be long remembered. Young persons of but little leisure, spe-

cially require such a style. It is believed, this has not been lost sight of from first to last.

After this remark the Author need not say, that the work is principally intended for the working classes, on this point it speaks for itself. These, if any, are the neglected ones. Their parents are too apt to neglect their intellectual cultivation, and themselves are prone to think too little of their own powers and capacities. As a consequence, they fail to use the necessary efforts to develop their own native energies. Circumstances in their view, preclude the possibility of their ever being men of general intelligence, or rising above the humble prospects of their birth. They have not time to read, as it is all devoted to toil and manual labor. And they are so beset by other difficulties and temptations, as to be prone to yield to necessity or the force of circumstances, and therefore, use no efforts to rise to respectability and intelligence. In these pages an effort is made with such to banish discouragement, inspire with hope,