

**MORAL
ASPIRATION
AND SONG**

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Moral Aspiration and Song by William Mackintyre Salter

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WILLIAM MACKINTYRE SALTER

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MORAL ASPIRATION AND SONG

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

WILLIAM MACKINTYRE SALTER

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of Chicago

PHILADELPHIA
ETHICAL ADDRESSES, 1415 LOCUST STREET
1905

Preface

In the main "Moral Aspiration and Song" is an outgrowth of the habits and needs of the Society for Ethical Culture of Chicago. Thus far this is the only one of the American Ethical Societies that sings regularly at its Sunday meetings. Our English brothers do better. There all the Societies sing. May we all follow in time, and produce a better collection than this one! Those who would like a larger selection to choose from should use "Ethical Songs," or the "Ethical Hymn Book with Music" (just appearing in London), or Miss E. J. Troup's "Hymns of Modern Thought" (London).

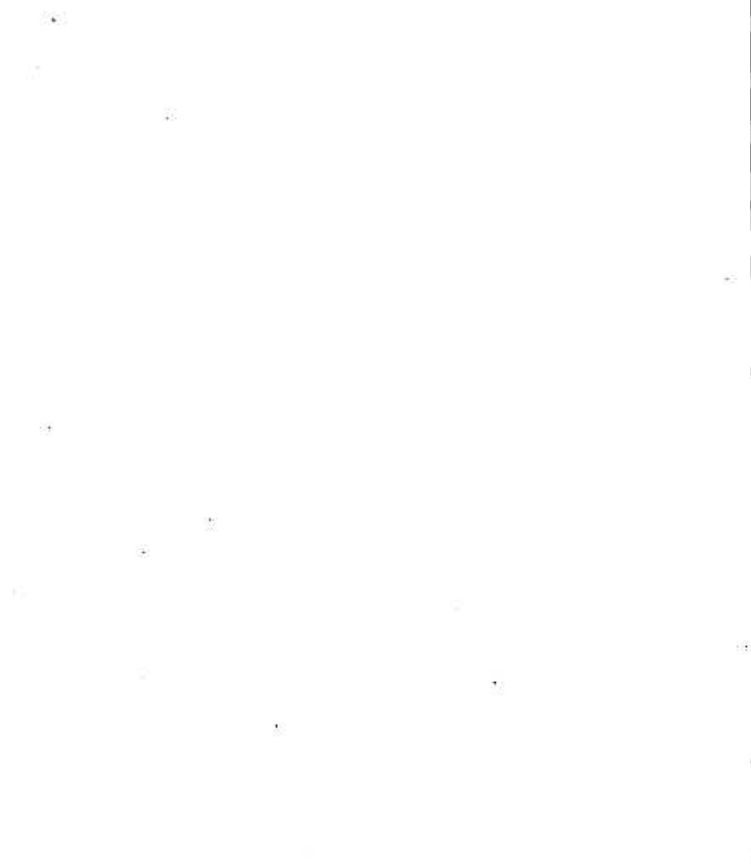
I am much indebted to the pioneering labors of Dr. Stanton Coit and Miss Troup—and particularly to Miss Troup for permitting me to use several of her beautiful tunes. From all living authors of words or music printed here, I have sought permission to use their work, and wish to make grateful acknowledgments to those who have responded.

Other features of "Moral Aspiration and Song" will explain themselves, and, I trust, justify themselves. If in anyway and to any one it is a reminder of higher things or a help in attaining them, I shall be amply rewarded for my pains.

I wish to thank my friends, Miss Hester B. Hall and Mr. Albert Scheible, for valuable counsel in selecting the music and for practical help in preparing it for the press.

WILLIAM M. SALTER.

CHICAGO, April 25, 1905.



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For Private Meditation

"Religion, at its best, is not the going to church under the stress of a public sentiment, or of habit. It is not trust in an infinite ally who will bring help in the struggle with rivals or enemies. It is not the seeking to escape from an outward hell, or to reach an outward heaven. It is the love of what is actually divine and the yielding one's self to be its instrument." ¹

"The new study of the Sanskrit has shown us the origin of the old names of God—Dyaus, Deus, Zeus, Zeu pater, Jupiter—names of the sun, still recognizable through the modifications of our vernacular words, importing that the Day is the Divine Power and Manifestation, and indicating that those ancient men, in their attempts to express the Supreme Power of the Universe, called him the Day, and that this name was accepted by all the tribes.

"The days are ever divine as to the first Aryans. They are of the least pretension and of the greatest capacity of anything that exists. They come and go like muffled and veiled figures, sent from a distant, friendly party; but they say nothing, and if we do not use the gifts they bring, they carry them as silently away." ²

"Consideration is half conversion. It is for want of thinking that we are undone." ³

FOR PRIVATE MEDITATION

"O man, search out and purify thy thought!
For if thou thinkest evil, be thou sure
Thy acts will bear the shadow of the stain;
And if thy thought be perfect, then thy deed
Will be as of the perfect, true, and pure."⁴

"It behooves us to know that a principle can hardly establish itself with a man, unless he every day utters the same things, hears the same things, and applies them withal to his life."⁵

"There is no clock, however good, but must be continually wound up."⁶

"Can a man help imitating that with which he holds reverential converse?"⁷

"If in the morning I hear of the right way, and in the evening die, I can be happy."⁸

"Awake! my soul, and with the sun
Thy daily course of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
To make thy morning sacrifice.

"Redeem thy misspent time that's past,
And live this day as if thy last;
Improve thy talent with due care,
For death as well as life prepare."⁹

"Let never sleep our drowsy eyelids greet,
Till we have pondered each act of the day:
'Wherein have I transgressed? What have I done?
What duty shunned?'—beginning from the first,
Unto the last.—Then grieve and fear for what
Was basely done; but in the good rejoice."¹⁰