

# **THE ELEMENTS OF ETHICS**

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The elements of ethics by J. H. Muirhead

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**J. H. MUIRHEAD**

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*This Series is primarily designed to aid the University Extension Movement throughout Great Britain and America, and to supply the need so widely felt by students, of Text-books for study and reference, in connexion with the authorized Courses of Lectures.*

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*The Manuals are also intended to be contributions to the Literature of the Subjects with which they respectively deal, quite apart from University Extension; and some of them will be found to meet a general rather than a special want.*

The Elements  
of  
Ethics

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*Τὰ καθήκοντα ὡς ἐπίπῳ τὰς σχέσεων παραμετρῆται.*  
EPICTETUS

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1897

*"There is no other genuine enthusiasm for humanity than one which has travelled the common highway of reason—the life of the good neighbour and the honest citizen—and can never forget that it is still only a further stage of the same journey."*—T. H. GREEN



TO  
MY UNIVERSITY EXTENSION  
AND OTHER  
STUDENTS

THIS HANDBOOK IS INSCRIBED



## P R E F A C E .

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THIS manual has been written with a special view to the wants and difficulties of University Extension students, to whom, in the first instance, the substance of it was given in a course of lectures. Though attempting to deal with the most recent phases of ethical problems, it does not profess to treat them in an original manner, but merely to apply to their solution ideas which, owing to the labours of the best thinkers of our own time and country, are now common property. Those of my readers who are acquainted with the course of modern thought in the field of Moral Philosophy will readily recognise the debt I owe to Kant and Hegel in Germany, and their most distinguished exponents, T. H. Green, and Professor Edward Caird in Great Britain. For those who are as yet beginners in philosophy, my best hope in writing this manual will be realised if they are stimulated by it to apply themselves to these and other perennial sources of philosophic inspiration.