

**THE MAKING OF  
CHARACTER, SOME  
EDUCATIONAL  
ASPECTS OF ETHICS**

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The making of character, some educational aspects of ethics by John MacCunn

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**JOHN MACCUNN**

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CHARACTER, SOME  
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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

# THE MAKING OF CHARACTER

SOME EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS  
OF ETHICS

BY

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## PART I

### CONGENITAL ENDOWMENT: ITS NATURE AND TREATMENT

#### CHAPTER I

##### HEREDITY

It has been reserved for our democratic generation to give a new life to the fast perishing faith in pedigrees.

It writes, it preaches, it talks, it thinks biologically; and with the result among others that the idea of Heredity has been lodged beyond displacing in the mind even of the average man. Thus rooted it has its applications, and of these there are at any rate two which intimately concern the making of character.

The idea of Heredity is generally accepted.

One is that the old familiar metaphor of the pure white sheet of paper, so often in times past invoked in the interests of educational responsibility, must now be decently and finally laid to rest. Psychology knows nothing of absolute beginnings. Everywhere its analysis strikes on existing preformations, and if the old metaphor is to survive at all, it must be by saying that the page of the youngest life is so far from being blank that it bears upon it characters in comparison with

It implies that we cannot in Education begin at the beginning.