

**MENTAL CULTURE, HINTS ON THE BEST
AND SHORTEST WAY OF
CULTIVATING THE MIND; ADDRESSED
ESPECIALLY TO YOUNG MEN
ENGAGED IN COMMERCIAL PURSUITS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649262977

Mental culture, hints on the best and shortest way of cultivating the mind; Addressed especially to young men engaged in commercial pursuits by Anonymous

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ANONYMOUS

**MENTAL CULTURE, HINTS ON THE BEST
AND SHORTEST WAY OF
CULTIVATING THE MIND; ADDRESSED
ESPECIALLY TO YOUNG MEN
ENGAGED IN COMMERCIAL PURSUITS**

MENTAL CULTURE.

HINTS

ON THE BEST AND SHORTEST WAY OF CULTIVATING THE MIND;

ADDRESSED ESPECIALLY TO YOUNG MEN ENGAGED
IN COMMERCIAL PURSUITS.

BY

A Student of University College, London.

Author of "Remarks on the System of Late Hours of Business," &c.

WITH

AN INTRODUCTORY RECOMMENDATION

BY THE

REV. ALEXANDER FLETCHER, A.M.,

Of Finsbury Chapel.

'Hear counsel and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in the latter end.'—Solomon.

'O value time, as wise men, while you have it; and not as miserable fools, when it is gone.'—Richard Baxter.

SECOND THOUSAND.

LONDON:
WARD & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW;
R. BYFIELD, 21, CHARING CROSS.

MDCCC XL.

14.

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

In issuing the Second Thousand, the writer would gratefully acknowledge the favourable reception which his Pamphlet has met with, and trusts that the corrections made, and the few remarks added, may render it more worthy of public patronage.

July, 1840.



INTRODUCTORY RECOMMENDATION.

I HAVE read the following Treatise with great care, and, must candidly acknowledge, with very considerable satisfaction, and some advantage. It is full of good sound sense and excellent practical remarks, founded on careful observation, and the result of considerable experience. It is not the production of a *theorist*, but of one who has trod the way, and who has profited by the occurrences he has met with on his journey.

Nothing is more important for man, in his present transient state of existence, than the *improvement of his time*. The remarks of the writer on this subject are striking and convincing. They will teach one to inquire, "What have I done, what am I doing, with a commodity more valuable than gold and jewels?"

The examples which are brought forward in illustration of the various subjects are well selected, and, if attentively studied, cannot fail to produce the most salutary impressions. How foolish it is for young men engaged in active life, whether commercial or mechanical, to consider a course of study and reading, in reference to them, a hopeless chimerical enterprise, completely beyond their reach! They are greatly mistaken. This Treatise demonstrates their mistake. I feel confident that, if this Pamphlet is perused with that reflecting attention

and interest which its objects merit, under the blessing of Heaven, it will be the means of raising up into activity faculties and energies which are now dormant in many youthful bosoms; and also the means of stimulating individuals to enter upon a course of useful reading and study which will render them a blessing to their species, and the ornaments of society. In this manner they will be introduced into those pleasant and honourable paths where they will breathe the wholesome atmosphere of true wisdom, and be withdrawn from those courses of carelessness, ignorance, and licentiousness, which lead to infamy and ruin.

This work is worthy of an extensive circulation, and, hoping that it will gain access to thousands of families and counting-houses, I now confidently recommend it to the attention of the Youth of these realms.

ALEX. FLETCHER.

*8, Finsbury Circus, London,
13th February, 1840.*

PREFACE.

THE present Pamphlet has been written with a design to awaken in commercial young men a desire for mental and moral culture, and to afford some instruction in prosecuting a work so important and difficult.

The writer is aware that books have been written to aid in forming the intellectual character of the student, and the value of these books he is not backward in appreciating; but it will be found that they are more adapted to those intended for professions, than those engaged in mercantile affairs

If any one more capable than himself had undertaken to offer to such some hints on self-culture, he would gladly have relinquished a task for which he feels but imperfectly qualified. As, however, nothing has been written, as far as he is aware, specifically to assist commercial young men in the work of mental improvement according to their present position in society; and as he is not altogether ignorant of the difficulties which impede their mental progress by having once had to contend with such difficulties himself, he has been induced to suggest some hints in the hope of promoting their intellectual and moral welfare. He has been further induced, from his having urged in a former pamphlet the justice and importance of closing business at a reasonable time, thinking that, as some

had adopted this system, it might not be unprofitable to give a few directions on the right improvement of leisure hours.

As his remarks are cursorily made, he has sought only to express them in as concise and lucid a manner as possible; and if he need offer any apology for the quotations he has given from other writers, it must be that he deems it always advisable to allow another to speak on the point in question when that other can do it better than himself.*

He would only add his sincere desire that what he has attempted for the benefit of a class of individuals in whose best welfare he shall always feel interested, may not have been attempted in vain.

W. B.

Southwark, January, 1840.

* The Writer would gratefully acknowledge the assistance he has derived from "Todd's Student's Manual"—an invaluable work, which, though designed principally for regular students, will nevertheless prove of great service to all "concerned to cultivate their minds and to be respectable and happy in life."

HINTS

ON THE

IMPROVEMENT OF THE MIND.

THE human mind has been justly said to be the glory of man; and the highest display of the wisdom and power of the Infinite Creator.

It is his indestructible and immortal part; it is that which assimilates him to the moral likeness of his Maker, which gives him a pre-eminence in the scale of animal existence, and which constitutes him lord of creation. The world was made for his habitation, and all its rich productions, whether exposed to view on the outspread lap of nature, or found secreted beneath the soil on which he treads, are designed to minister to his use. It is, however, by that noble endowment of his nature, which we term reason, that he is enabled to make the material objects that surround him the supporters of his existence, and the promoters of his happiness. In this we see the vast superiority of mind over matter, and to what an illimitable extent the former may be capable of rendering the latter the source or medium of numberless enjoyments. In confirmation of this, we need only adduce the illustrious names of Davy, Watt, and Arkwright, men, by the strength of whose intellect, society is now favoured with many of the conveniences of life. But we may observe, that though mind is so superior to matter, in whatever form it may be presented to us, its vigour and power are in a great measure attributable to human discipline and culture, without which it is probable that many who have astonished the world by their discoveries of truth, would have quitted the stage of life without accomplishing any work that could perpetuate the remembrance of their names.

The human mind is capable of improvement, and no boundary can be given beyond which it shall not advance. Man is a progressive being, and enters upon his existence with