

FORMATION OF CHARACTER

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By

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With PREFACE by

G. P. MERRICK, M.A.

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PREFATORY NOTE

THERE is a growing persuasion amongst educationists that, between instruction in religious knowledge and the usual branches of secular knowledge, instruction in manners and morals, otherwise the formation of character, is too much neglected.

Very many young men and women are to be met with who have been formally instructed in "religious knowledge," and duly instructed in "secular knowledge," but little or nothing has been done in any systematic fashion to instruct them in morals with a view to the development of "moral-backbone." They have received mental instruction without moral training, and they have been stuffed with knowledge which has produced no moral culture. And when, as too often happens in these days, no seed-bed of religious instruction has been provided, the lack of any direct and specific

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instruction in morals becomes still more serious and often disastrous.

We await a work which shall prove a standard text-book on this great subject—Moral Culture, or the necessary elements of a good and noble character—a book which in Practical Morals shall hold the place of Butler's "Analogy" in its own sphere—a book, let us hope, written with the golden pen of Love dipped in the sunlight of Genius. Meanwhile, I have ventured, in the following pages, to indicate briefly the chief points which must ever be insisted upon, with a view especially to strengthen the moral fibre of the young for the battle of life, in order to victory.

I have pleasure in expressing my indebtedness to my brother, the Rev. George B. S. Watson, B.D., for valuable suggestion and revisal.

J. B. S. WATSON.

THIRD EDITION

To the third edition has been added a chapter entitled "Character 'in excelsis,'" indicating more completely the ideally perfect character and its proper path of development. I am grateful for the success which has attended the other editions, and trust that the book, in its new form, may be found still more useful and effective in achieving somewhat of the purpose it has in view.

J. B. S. W.

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