

**THE OUTLINES OF THE MENTAL
PLAN: AND THE PREPARATION
THEREIN FOR THE PRECEPTS
AND DOCTRINES OF CHRIST**

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The Outlines of the Mental Plan: And the Preparation Therein for the Precepts and Doctrines of Christ by L. W. Mansfield

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THE OUTLINES
 OF
 THE MENTAL PLAN,
 AND
 THE PREPARATION THEREIN
 FOR THE
 PRECEPTS AND DOCTRINES OF CHRIST.

BY L. W. MANSFIELD,

AUTHOR OF "UP COUNTRY LETTERS," "THE MORNING WATCH," "COUNTRY MARGINS," "THE CONGREGATIONS," ETC.

FOR THE AUTHOR.

NEW YORK:
 PHILLIPS & HUNT,
 CINCINNATI:
 WALDEN & STOWE.

1883

VN1

TO
LAURENS P. HICKOK, D. D., LL. D.,
IN RECOGNITION OF THE GREAT WORK WHICH HE
HAS DONE IN ILLUSTRATING THE TRUE METHODS
OF PROCEEDING IN SPECULATIVE INQUIRIES,
THIS VOLUME IS GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED.

TRANSFER FROM C. O. MAR 1925

PREFACE.

As the writer of a book is an interested party and identifies himself with his work, he is not able to see the bearings of it as clearly as those whose interest lies wholly in the facts or arguments presented. For this reason, advance copies of this book were sent to a few friends, that their statements might be taken as part of the preface. The responses, so far as received up to the time of this writing, are herewith annexed, and I desire to place here my hearty thanks to the writers for their kindness in presenting an estimate of the book for which the reader will care a hundred fold more than for any thing which I can say.

I desire, also, to express here my obligations to the works of Presidents Hickok, McCosh, Seelye and Bascom, and to the foreign and home contributors of the Princeton Review.

The inquiry here presented (and on my part finished) had its beginning in a lecture, entitled "The Body as a Residence," delivered at Cooper Institute, as one of a course, before "*The Protestant Episcopal Brotherhood*," about the year 1856, and has been an absorbing study with me, in the short intervals of a manufacturing business in Cohoes, and in the retirement of ill-health, from that day to this.

The reader is requested to notice that it claims to be a study of outlines only, not an exact, precise, systematized and finished treatise.

It is a search for the plan of our being in the conditions of being. No more and no less.

In the Second Part, the mental structure is seen to prepare the way for the Christian structure, and the plan of our being is found completed and perfected in Christ.

L. W. M.

NORTH SIDE, SARATOGA Co., N. Y., August 27, 1883.

ἐν αὐτῷ ἐκτίσθη, τὰ πάντα ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς,
καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, τὰ ὄρατα, καὶ τὰ ἀόρατα,
εἴτε θρόνοι, εἴτε κυριότητες, εἴτε ἀρχαί, εἴτε
ἐξουσίαι. Τὰ πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ, καὶ εἰς αὐτὸν
ἔκτισται. Καὶ αὐτὸς ἔστιν πρὸ πάντων καὶ τὰ
πάντα ἐν αὐτῷ συνέστηκεν.

ANNEX OF LETTERS AND EXTRACTS.

From those to whom advance copies were sent.

L. P. HICKOK, D. D., LL. D.

AMHERST, Nov. 22, 1882.

L. W. MANSFIELD:—

Dear Friend:—Pres. Seelye has been reading to, and with me, your *Mental Plan*, from proof-sheets stitched and sent to him, a chapter at a time, when he is at liberty. We have finished Part First with interest and much satisfaction. Clear, concise and quite comprehensive. Shall finish the remainder ere long, and will write you again. Think the book will be read and noted.

Most cordially,

L. P. HICKOK.

SECOND LETTER.

AMHERST, Dec. 19, '82.

Dear Friend:—Pres. Seelye and myself finished the reading together of your *Mental Plan* yesterday. We both alike, highly appreciate the work, and found almost nothing to criticize, but all to approve and admire. The Second Part seems as well sustained as the First, and is clearly a finishing adjunct to it, making the Plan to possess ideal completeness. We think its clear, though condensed, statements will be readily taken up by any who may study them attentively. Larger type, broader margin, etc., would have helped its earlier introduction, but the sterling worth of the speculative thought will push its way to many readers in the simply neat attire now given.

President Seelye will soon write you. We have very much enjoyed our joint reading and discussion of your original, able and very safe and scriptural mode of speculative investigation.

With most cordial respect and esteem,

L. P. HICKOK.

HON. JULIUS H. SEELYE, D. D., LL. D.

President of Amherst College.

AMHERST COLLEGE, Nov. 16, '89.

My Dear Friend: — Yours of the 8th inst. was duly received, and also a copy of your book. I am reading this daily, to Dr. Hickok, at such time as I can command, and though we have not yet gone very far into it, we have both received much interest from it.

Will write you again when its perusal is completed.

Very truly yours,

JULIUS H. SEELYE.

Mr. L. W. MANSFIELD.

SECOND LETTER.

AMHERST, Dec. 22, '89.

My Dear Sir: — It has been with much gratification that I have read with Dr. Hickok your "Outlines of the Mental Plan," etc., a book which seems to me both true and thoughtful.

It is written on a high plane, and it gives a broad vision in clear air.

I do not doubt that it will benefit any one who will closely follow it, and must thank you myself for the pleasure it has afforded me.

It is one of the few books which, amid the constant engrossment of my many duties, I have been able of late to read through.

(LATER.) I am much interested in the quotations you give me respecting the book, and I trust the fruit of your labor may be found in the larger knowledge of Christ to many souls.

Very truly yours,
JULIUS H. SEELYE.

PRESIDENT BASCOM, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

MADISON, Nov. 27, '82.

The *Mental Plan* is a book likely to give satisfaction to those who love to retrace the path that has been opened by experience guided in their new enquiry by comprehensive ideas of reason.

JOHN BASCOM.

ISRAEL WARD ANDREWS, D. D., LL. D.,

President of Marietta College.

MARIETTA, O., Nov. 24, '82.

MY DEAR MANSFIELD:—

I am glad you are going on with the work (*Pres. Andrews had seen the first part in MS. several years since, in larger form, from which this is condensed. L. W. M.*) and I will examine it as soon as I can. A beginning has already been made.

Very sincerely yours,
I. W. ANDREWS.

SECOND LETTER.

MARIETTA, O., Dec. 8, '82.

I have now read through the first part of the book carefully, and have looked a little into the second, and as you said that you might need it soon, I send you this, now, as my estimate, which you can use, as from me—to-wit.:

This work is what it purports to be, a search for the plan of our being, in the conditions of being. Man, in his two-fold na-