ETHICS FOR CHILDREN: A GUIDE FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649183128

Ethics for children: a guide for teachers and parents by Ella Lyman Cabot

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A Guide for Teachers and Parents

BY

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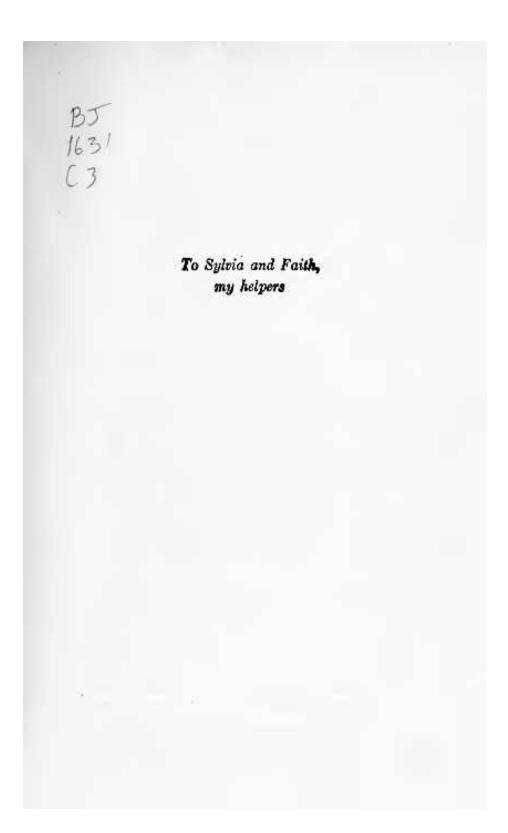
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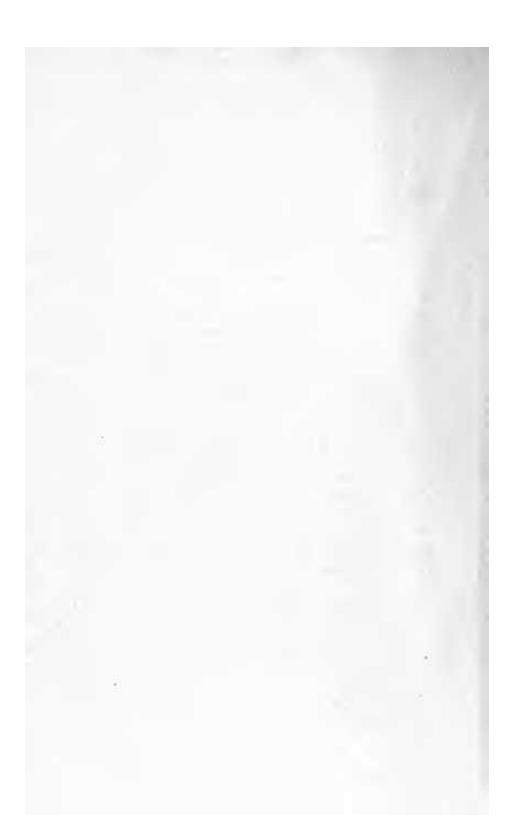
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The Riverside Bress

CAMBRIDGE - MASSACHUSETTS PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.





PREFACE

This book was written at the suggestion of the Educational Association of South Dakota. The Association was one of the first in the country to recognize the need of religious motive and ethical instruction in our public schools. In December, 1905 (at Brookings), the Educational Association, through its Committee on Resolutions, passed the following vote:

"Whereas a sound morality is the very foundation of a truly progressive society and of a healthy public opinion, we recommend that systematic ethical instruction be a part of the course of study in our public schools. We believe that this instruction should be entirely divorced from partisan or sectarian bias and founded on the broad basis of Christian ethics."

A Committee of fifteen members was appointed to prepare a course of study to guide teachers in giving systematic ethical instruction. This Committee made investigations of similar work in other states, but found nothing adequate to its needs. It therefore compiled a short outline of ethical instruction for the public schools of South Dakota. Since that time it has been felt that a fuller textbook is essential. Even those teachers who have easy access to libraries find that it requires time, energy, and skill to discover the best ethical material on a special topic, for a special age, and a special experience, hidden as such material is in the alluring and baffling books of a library. A library is a gold-mine of ethical wisdom, but the gold is often

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buried deep and mixed with alloy. Therefore it seemed to the Educational Association wise to enlarge and create a definite course of instruction in ethics.

In February, 1909, the author was asked to compile a book for ethical instruction in the grades, and at the meeting of the County Superintendents of South Dakota in November, 1909, at Lead, the manuscript of *Ethics for Children* was accepted as a basis for the State Course of study.

This book offers definite ethical narrative and definite suggestion for teaching during every month of the school-term from the first day in school to the end of the Eighth Grade, in accordance with the provisions of law and the State Course. The initiation of the plan and the achievement of such help as this Guide may offer is due to the foresight and devotion of the South Dakota Educational Association and the Committee charged with this responsibility.

Among the publishers to whose courtesy the author is indebted for the use of their copyrighted material are The Bobbs-Merrill Company, for extracts from *Child Classics*, edited by Georgia Alexander; Messrs. Doubleday, Page & Co., for material from *Up From Slavery*, by Booker T. Washington; The Unitarian Sunday-School Society, for selections from The Beacon Series; Messrs. Little, Brown & Co., for an extract from *Bed-Time Stories*, by Louise Chandler Moulton, and one from *The Golden Windows*, by Laura E. Richards; Messrs. Ginn & Co., for material from *Town and Cily*, in the Gulick Hygiene Series; The Century Co., for material from *Fighting a Fire*, by Charles T. Hill; and to the Roycroft Press for an extract from *A Message to Garcia*, by Elbert Hubbard. Thanks are due

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also to the Youth's Companion for permission to reprint Henry H. Bennett's poem, "The Flag Goes By"; to the Pilgrim Press for permission to reprint the poem, "America the Beautiful," by Katharine Lee Bates, and to Mr. Theodore C. Williams for the use of his poem, "Fellow-Laborers."

The attention of teachers is called to Section 136 of the South Dakota School Law, which provides that teachers must classify the work of their schools in accordance with the State Course of study. The State Course of study, under the law, is the creature of the County Superintendents and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Attention is also directed to Section 143 of the School Law, which reads: "Moral instruction intended to impress upon the mind of pupils the importance of truthfulness, temperance, purity, public spirit, patriotism and respect for honest labor, obedience to parents and due deference for old age, shall be given by every teacher in the public service of the state."