

No one who is acquainted with the scientific and popular literature of our age is ignorant of the ascendancy which materialistic and atheistic evolutionism has gained, both in this country and in Europe. Evolutionism, however, is not a merely theoretical speculation, indulged in for a pastime; it has its bearings on the practical life of mankind, so much so, that it tends to revolutionize the whole moral order, and to substitute a totally new moral code for the one which has hitherto been the norm and guide of private and social life.

It was an excellent plan, of the author of the handsome volume before us, to subject the data of modern ethics to a thorough examination. He has accomplished his task with the impartiality of one whose highest law is the love of truth, and with the skill of a perfect master in the province of ethical science. The result at which he has arrived is a complete condemnation of modern ethics, and a brilliant justification of Christian morals.

The author reviews the principal tenets of evolutionary ethics, and contrasts them with those of Christian philosophy. He enables the reader to get a clear insight into the modern theories which are brought before him, in numerous well-chosen and well-arranged quotations from leading writers, such as Stuart Mill, F. Harrison, Herbert Spencer, A. Bain, Huxley, Clifford, and others. The new theories are thoroughly discussed in all their details and bearings—no point of importance is overlooked or treated superficially. From chapter to chapter we see new portions of the showy structure of evolutionism crumble down, whilst, on the other hand, the grand system of Christian ethics is gradually brought out before the mind's eye with all its solidity, wonderful harmony, and beauty. Thus, the work is not only a refutation of errors, but, at the same time, a complete treatise of true morality from the standpoint of enlightened reason.

To give an idea of the rich contents of the volume, it will suffice to mention the principal subjects which are treated: The drift of the new ethical theories; the moral nature of man; man's ultimate end; the nature of good and evil; moral ideals; the moral order as a divine law; the moral order emancipated; independent morality and law; the moral sense; social rights and duties, justice, and beneficence. Whosoever follows the author attentively, will agree with the verdict in the last chapter—that the new morality is a complete failure; by it, "the entire foundation of morality is completely overthrown; no part whatsoever

is left of it, neither the ultimate end nor the light that shows the way to it, neither good nor evil, neither law nor conscience, neither reward nor punishment, neither justice nor love."

How important it is that all should be thoroughly convinced of the truth of these and similar charges, appears from the fact that "the new theories have been devised as the basis of modern education, and are meant to be carried into practice." Those who have the welfare of mankind at heart will find in "The Data of Modern Ethics Examined" most powerful weapons against the pernicious errors of agnostics and infidels. We warmly recommend the work to all who are interested in the preservation and advancement of true morality, especially to those who, by their calling, are to enlighten and to guide others.

We may add, that the external appearance of the volume is very pleasing, and does great credit to the publishers. The print and arrangement of the text, with a summary of the contents prefixed to each chapter, is admirably adapted to help the reader towards a perfect understanding of the various subjects. We venture to say, that no one who has gone through the book will lay it aside without having found abundant light on the gravest questions, and without taking it up again for deeper consideration.

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