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The Power of Character

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The Power of Character

Charles S. Godden

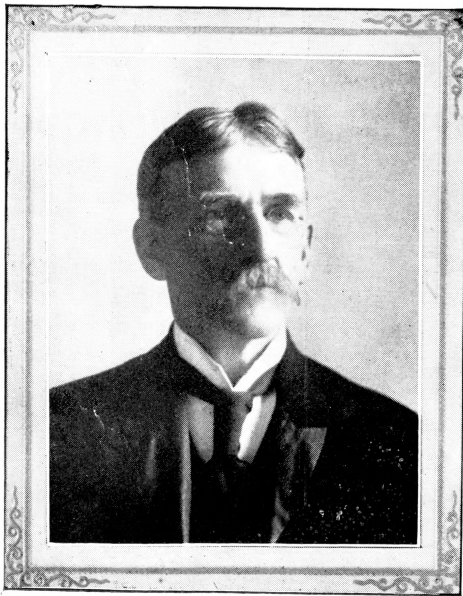
Bound together as we are by the tie of a common nature and by mutual dependence, every man is a spring of influence, good or evil, which uplifts or degrades all with whom he comes in contact. His actions, habits and his very manners all tell—forming the taste, moulding the character and shaping the lives of others; for no man liveth to himself.

Men are regenerated by the divine inspiration that comes through human goodness and sympathy. They are touched

and affected on all sides by what others do, say or think. They are captivated by that touch of nature which gives to the whole world a universal kinship; and are veiled in an atmosphere of power.

Convinced as we are then by these solemn truths of fact that character plays an important part in the influence for good or evil what we may exert: we are naturally impressed with the power of that which we call character.

The reputation of a man is a shadow. It sometimes follows and sometimes precedes him. It



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sometimes is longer and sometimes shorter than he himself is but as we think of character, we think of something indispensable; something of intrinsic value; something even greater than the intellect.

We may not be distinguished for brilliant acquirements; the world and the representatives of gay societies may not seek our companionship; listening senates and crowded assemblies may not hang upon the eloquence of our tongues; yet we may exert an influence that though as gentle as the dewdrops and as fragrant as a flower is as irresistible as the thunderbolt and as lasting as the hills—an influence that will stand when the frivolous are forgotten;

when the statesman's political abilities have failed; when the voices of orators are stilled by death.

Character is the only part of a man that is of lasting value and when we think of the fact that our lives, good or bad, in spite of creed, color or class are active for good or ill upon others with whom we come in contact; when we think of the fact these influences we daily exert are results of good character, offensive and defensive, shall we shirk the sacred duty of making unblemished character? Shall we make light of the value of public opinion? Shall we allow the foolish frivolities of life to put out the light of a truthful, honest, and upright life?

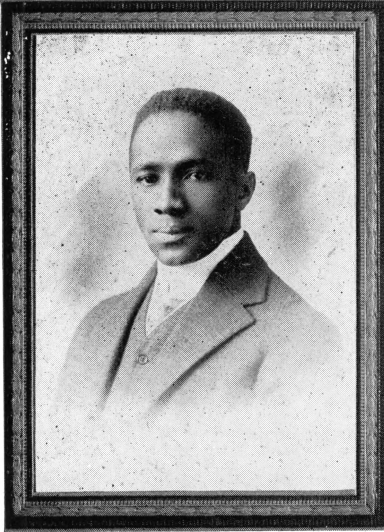
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WILLIAM A. POLLARD

Retiring Editor of the University Journal

love, and after four years of piety, Luke Williams learned to dance. Once it is recorded that Picou made a speech and Spurgeon Brown made a perfect recitation. Bob Robinson has a remarkable memory. He remembers when Bob Green had small feet. Outside of these peculiarities, the rest of the class may be said to be normal.

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“The bird with a broken pinion never soared so high again,” says one writer. The man who has once defamed his character never regains his former high place in the eyes of others.

In the association of life, and it is character that gives a man or woman his place, high or low; that ministers to vice or virtue; that saves or destroys an individual or country.

As we launch upon the great sea of life, let us remember that though many vessels may sail by the same wind, it is only the set of the soil that enables safe anchorage and like the set-sail of a vessel, the terse, moral fibre of character is the only thing that is warranted capable of bringing our lives into a safe harbor.



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