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BIBLIOTECA "RODRIGO DE LLANO"
SECCION DE ESTUDIOS HISTORICOS DE LA
UNIVERSIDAD DE NUEVO LEON

DUTY

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS OF

COURAGE, PATIENCE, AND ENDURANCE.

By SAMUEL SMILES, LL.D.

AUTHOR OF "LIVES OF THE ENGINEERS," "SELF-HELP," "THRIFT,"
"CHARACTER," ETC.

*Not once nor twice in our rough island story
The path of Duty was the way to glory.*
TENNYSON.

*The stern behests of Duty,
The doom-books open thrown;
The heaven ye seek, the hell ye fear,
Are with yourselves alone.*
J. G. WHITTIER.

CHICAGO:

DONOHUE, HENNEBERRY & CO.

407-425 DEARBORN STREET

1896

BJ1571

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FONDO
RODRIGO DE LLANO

DONOHUE & HENNEBERRY.
PRINTERS AND BINDERS,
CHICAGO.

PREFACE.

TWENTY-FOUR years since, I wrote "Self-Help." It was published three years later, in 1859. The writing of that book was occasioned by an apparently slight circumstance. I had delivered a few lectures at Leeds to some young men, in a place that had been used as a temporary cholera hospital. I endeavored to point out to them that their happiness and well-being in after life depended very much upon themselves—upon their diligent self-culture, self-discipline, and self-control; and, above all, upon the honest and upright performance of individual duty, which constitutes the glory of manly character.

The results were more satisfactory than I could have expected. I found that many of these young men, as they grew up into manhood, were chosen to fill positions of trust, responsibility and usefulness; and some of them were pleased to attribute some measure of their honest success in life to their endeavors to work up to the spirit of the lessons which they had received from their instructor.

I was thus led to prepare the memoranda for a book on the same subject; for books reach much farther than spoken words. I prepared the work in my leisure evening moments, after the hours of business were over. I entitled the book "Self-Help," being able to find no better word to suit the

purpose; though mutual help, as well as self-help, was as prominently set forward.

When the book was prepared, I offered the manuscript to a London publisher, but it was declined with thanks. The Crimean war was then raging, and books were almost unsalable. It was not until after the "Life of George Stephenson" had been published that I issued "Self-Help," through the kindness of Mr. Murray.

It was received most favorably. I owe my greatest thanks to the reviewers. I believe their reviews have been just. With very few exceptions, they have praised my efforts perhaps more than they deserved. And yet I know nothing of them, nor they of me.

Thirteen years after the appearance of "Self-Help," during which I had been engaged with other works, I wrote and published "Character." I there endeavored to fill up the picture of the noble and magnanimous man and woman, and cited numerous examples taken from the lives of the best men and women who ever lived. It seemed to me that this was the best manner of impressing the minds of young people, by giving them invigorating examples of nobility of character. "Some people exclaim," said Isaac Disraeli, "give me no anecdotes of an author, but give me his works; yet I have often found that the anecdotes are more interesting than the works." This is the example which I have always pursued. "It is not," said Plutarch, "in the most distinguished exploits that men's virtues or vices may be best discovered, but frequently an action of small note, a short saying, or a jest that distinguishes a person's real character more than the greatest battles or the most important actions."

Five years later, "Thrift" appeared. In that book I

assumed the dignity of labor, and urged men to economize in order to secure their independence; to provide for their families, with a view to the future; to live a clean, sober, and manly life; to avoid the horrible curse of drink, which keeps so many men and women poor; and to raise them up to an elevation of virtue, morality, and religion. I believe that the book has done much good. Since its publication many institutions have been formed for the establishment of National Thrift; and I know, from many correspondents, that thriving Penny Banks have been established where they did not exist before.

Five years after the publication of "Thrift," I now give "Duty,"—the last book of the series. I hope it will be as useful as its predecessors. I have, at all events, done my best, according to the faculty that still remains in me. The reader will find, in the following pages, numerous examples given of the best and bravest men and women in the career of well doing.

Great deeds are great legacies, which work with wondrous usury. By what men have done, we learn what men can do. A great career, though balked of its end, is still a landmark of human energy. He who approaches the highest point of the supreme quality of Duty is entitled to rank with the most distinguished of his race.

"The primal duties shine aloft like stars,
And charities that soothe, and heal, and bless,
Are scattered at the feet of men like flowers."

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DUTY.

CHAPTER I.

DUTY—CONSCIENCE.

He walked attended
By a strong-aiding champion—Conscience.
MILTON.

Whate'er thy race or speech, thou art the same;
Before thy eyes Duty, a constant flame,
Shines always steadfast with unchanging light,
Through dark days and through bright.

The Ode of Life.

Why, O man, do you vituperate the world? The world is most beautiful, framed by the best and most perfect reason, though to you indeed it may be unclean and evil, because you are unclean and evil in a good world.—MARSILIUS FICINUS.

MAN does not live for himself alone. He lives for the good of others as well as of himself. Every one has his duties to perform—the richest as well as the poorest. To some life is pleasure, to others suffering. But the best do not live for self-enjoyment, or even for fame. Their strongest motive power is hopeful, useful work in every good cause.

Hierocles says that each one of us is a centre, circumscribed by many concentric circles. From ourselves the first circle extends—comprising parents, wife and children. The next concentric circle comprises relations; then fellow citizens; and lastly, the whole human race.