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## THE IDEAL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION.



CHRISTIANITY, as well as sound reason, teaches us that man is at once a moral and a rational being, that with him life is not at an end when the organs of his body fail to perform their functions; that his happiness in the after-life depends upon his actions in the present; and, finally, that he is guided in all his actions by the light of his reason and of his conscience. Consequently, the supreme object of mortal existence must be the attainment of perfection. This view of man's nature and of his destiny must form the basis of every Christian system of education. Since man is both a sensible and an intellectual being, consisting of a body and a soul, we may define education as the gradual progress of man's body and soul along that path which leads to human perfection.

Human perfection is, in brief, the conformity of man's will to that of his Creator. God has placed man in this world in a dual capacity, that of an individual and of a member of society. As an individual he has duties towards God; as a member of society, towards society. In either capacity the qualities of perfection so intertwine, so interpenetrate, that they merge, finally, in the same ultimate end. But man cannot find in his own mind the duties which have been imposed upon him, nor can he, of himself, evolve the proper means for their performance. It is, then, the office of