

principal spheres of human duty. To meet the demands of modern thought it seems necessary to guide this inquiry by the historical or evolutionary method, — by tracing the conditions of time and place, under which the leading forms of moral goodness have been developed. The requirements of the moral ideal in any age can be definitely comprehended only when we come to know how it has been formed, just as the precise meaning of a word is often to be reached only by tracing its history; and even if the obligations of the moral life demand an elevation or modification of the existing ideal, the proposed moral advance can itself be understood only when it is viewed as a continuation of the process through which that ideal was attained. Such an historical treatment of the moral code can be but imperfect at present; an adequate treatment will require monographs, which have yet to be written, on the evolution of the particular virtues. Meanwhile, the present discussion may fulfil the general purpose of my book, by introducing the student to a more elaborate investigation of the problems involved.

J. CLARK MURRAY.

DEFINITION

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