

Moral Goodness.

Kindly answer me the question,
On what grounds does goodness rest on?
And also tell us if you can,
The meaning of the term, "Good Man."

ANSWER.

The word of God, as understood,
Says none but "God alone is good."
Goodness in truth must be divine,
Therefore can ne'er be yours or mine.
It is the light that shines within
That saves the soul from guilt and sin.
But there is a moral goodness,
Or religion in the crudeness;
Therefore next to the grace of God
Is true morality abroad.
Religiously man can deceive
His fellow men in make-believe,
And ape the saint in name outright
And be consummate hypocrite,
In morals must be more discreet,
And therefore can't so easily cheat;
But no man can himself control
Minus God's grace within his soul.
'Tis true there are good imitations,
E'en though Christless malformations;
But malformations, all the same,
Professing Christians put to shame
In worthy deeds, in a good name,
And pride themselves in "life's big game."
As usage polishes the blade,
By usage character is made;
Destiny's sword's aye ready whetted,
We make our choice we're sure to get it;
Though moral goodness in the soul
Is worthless at the final goal,
Yet to a Christless human race
It's been their one remaining grace,
Granted in Eden by the fates,
And brought by Adam through the gates.
'Twas moral goodness quenched the flame,