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THE ETHICS OF THE RAMBLER ESSAYS

THE S I S

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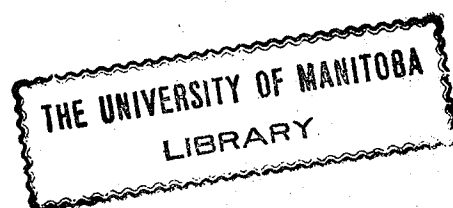
MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

to the

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

by

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Winnipeg, Man.
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C O N T E N T S

INTRODUCTION-

CHAPTER I

JOHNSON'S PSYCHOLOGY

1. The Climacterics of the Mind -
 - (a) In Youth - adolescence - maturity -
2. Conscience -
 - (a) Definition: a moral feeling -
 - (b) Positive and Negative -
 - (c) Its relation to Reason and Experience -
 - (d) Not a Value Judgment -
3. Innate Ideas -
 - (a) Relation to Instinctive Tendencies of McDougal.
4. Memory -
 - (a) Definition - a moral faculty. Distinction of

- 6. Calamity - or, Miseries of Life -
 - (a) A fatalist - but a Stoic.
 - (b) How to meet it.
 - (c) Plan for dissemination of knowledge, and protection.
- 5. Sins of Women -
 - (a) To prevent evil, the end of Government.
 - (b) The miseries of a prostitute - ignorance the cause.
 - (c) Causes Great unhappiness.



CHAPTER V

WEALTH

1. Introduction - Desire for gain in the general passion.
2. Definition of Wealth.
 - (a) Physical - riches of no value in themselves.

(b) Psychological - riches of no value in themselves

2. Where Happiness is found:

- (a) In virtue - "To be good is to be happy."
- (b) At home - for there we are either happy or

3. How Happiness is to be won:

- (a) Preparations should be made in youth, for Old Age.
- (b) Cultivate the useful and dignified.
- (c) Pessimistic ideas of Positive Pleasure.
- (d) In co-operation with others - friendship.
- (e) In Practice - not in theory.
- (f) Not in externals, such as riches, praise, and fame.

4. In Youth.

5. In Old Age.

6. Happiness in Relation to the Virtues:-

- (a) Good Humour - an asset.
- (b) Gayety and Mirth - must be controlled.
- (c) The virtuous are happy.

4. The Individual Virtues:

(a) Duty - theory of cf. Kant.

(b) Justice -

i. The measure of justice.

ii. The Temple of Justice.

(c) Labour.

i. An Allegory of Rest and Labour.

ii. Rewards of Labour.

iii. Sins of Indolence.

iv. Mind's powers of concentration.

(d) Perseverance.

CHAPTER VIII

JOHNSON'S RELIGION

1. Introduction - Period Religion. 18th Century
Anglican - orthodox.

2. Leathed Speculation in religion - an intuitionist;

3. His theory - do good, avoid evil. Please the Divine
Being.

4. Theory of God.

(a) Description of his conception of God.

(b) The Creator of the Universe.

(c) Source of strength and comfort.

5. Theory of Religion. What it is -

(a) Obedience to the Divine Will.

CHAPTER X

CONCLUSION

- 2. In Death faith revived, value of Religion to him.
- 1. Skeptical about world to come.

CHAPTER IX

JOHNSON'S THOUGHTS ON DEATH

BEFORE.

THESE CONSIDERATIONS CONCERNING THE NATURE OF DEATH

(1) Essay 6.

of the two hundred and eight Rambler essays.
complete system of ethics, as he taught them through the pages
find him, and it has been my task, and pleasure, to work out his
rather than of learning." (1) Therefore a professed moralist, we
discipline of the mind, and to promote the increase of virtue
Dr. Johnson said, "My purpose is to consider the world

Nor do I apologize for such a work, for does not Johnson himself say, "For what are treatises on morality, but persuasives to the practice of duties, for which no arguments would be necessary, but that we are continually tempted to violate or neglect them." (1)
"The excellence of aphorisms consists in the comprehension of some

obvious and useful truth in a few words." (2) We frequently fall into error because such maxims are not remembered.....

"He may therefore justly be numbered among the benefactors of mankind, who contracts the great rules of life into short sentences, that may be easily impressed on the memory." (3)

Thought I have not, unfortunately, been able to reduce these moral teachings into very short sentences, I have at any rate endeavoured to collect the many references to morality, and arrange them in a logical system of ethics. So far as I know, this has not as yet been done, and this is, therefore, respectfully