THE LAW OF
THE NEW THOUGHT

A Study of Fundamental Principles
& Their Application

by
WILLIAM WALKER ATKINSON

O, let not the flame die out,
Cherished age after age in its dark caverns,
in its temples cherished.
Fed by pure ministers of love - let not the flame die out.

~ EDWARD CARPENTER

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Chapter I:
~ WHAT IS THE NEW THOUGHT? ~

The question - difficult to answer
How often we hear this question, “What is The New Thought?” And how difficult it is to answer such a question. The subject is so large, and The New Thought man or woman has grown into its truths so gradually, that he or she finds it almost impossible to explain, in a few words, just what is meant by the term “New Thought.”

This is rendered particularly difficult by the fact that there are no creeds in The New Thought. There are many cults and schools claiming allegiance to The New Thought, who differ very materially from each other in doctrine and details, but there are certain underlying principles to which all give adherence, though stating these principles in different ways and using apparently contradictory terms.

The New Thought is the oldest thought
To answer the question which forms the title of this chapter is no easy task - but let us see what we can do with it. In the first place, The New Thought is the oldest thought in existence. It has been cherished by the chosen few in all ages; the masses of the
people not having been ready for its teachings. It has been called by all names - has appeared in all guises.

**Known to the few in all ages**

Every religion has within it certain esoteric teachings, not grasped by the many, but understood by the few - which hidden teachings contain much that is now being taught as The New Thought.

**Found at the heart of all religions and philosophies**

The New Thought contains certain hints at mighty truths which have nestled in the bosom of the esoteric teachings of all religions, in the philosophies of the past and present, in the temples of the Orient, in the schools of ancient Greece. It is to be found in the songs of the poets, in the writings of the mystics. The advanced science of this age touches it, without recognizing it fully.

It is not a thing that can well be conveyed by words; it is not easily comprehended by purely intellectual processes - it must be felt and lived out by those who are ready for it; those for whom the time has come. It has been known to the few throughout all ages and climes.

**The flame kept alive through the long ages**

All races have known it. It has been handed down from teacher to pupil, from the earliest days. It contains the truth to which Edward Carpenter refers, when he sings:

*O, let not the flame die out!*

*Cherished age after age in its dark caverns,*

*in its holy temples cherished.*

*Fed by pure ministers of love -*

*Let not the flame die out!*

The flame has been tenderly cared for down the ages. Many lamps have been lighted at the shrine and have carried away with them a tiny bit of the sacred fire. The few in all ages have kept the flame alight, by adding the oil of the spirit - that which comes from the inmost recesses of the soul. To protect this flame, many have suffered death, persecution, contumely, revilement, disgrace. Some have been compelled to assume an
air of mystery and charlatanism, in order to distract the attention of the masses, and thus keep sheltered this bit of sacred flame.

Ancient writers have carefully placed bits of this esoteric truth among writings of wide circulation, knowing that only those with the key could read, and the multitude would not even suspect the existence of the grain of wheat among the chaff. The advanced New Thought man of today may pick up the writings of all ages and will see deep truths therein, set forth in language perfectly clear to him, but means nothing but words to the ordinary reader.

**Hard sayings and dark corners made clear**

The sacred books of all religions may be read by one who has the key, and the Greek philosophers, from Plato down, take on another meaning, when one understands the principles underlying the esoteric teachings. And the modern writers also may be read with new insight, when one has grown in touch with the underlying principles. Shakespeare, Bacon, Pope, Browning, Emerson, Whitman and Carpenter have many dark corners and hard sayings, which are illuminated and made plain, when one has obtained possession of the central thought - the Oneness of All.

Down, down through the ages has this Truth come to us, but it seems reserved for this age to have it spread broadcast among the people. And yet to many, the message does not appeal. Some grasp a few scattering truths and think that they have it, but fail to see the real underlying principle of Oneness. Others reject it entirely, not being ready for it. Others who are ready for it seem to grasp it instinctively, as if they had always known it - they recognize their own, which has come to them.

**The first glimmer of recognition**

The mere calling of the attention of some to the truth seems to awaken the first glimmer of recognition in them; others find it necessary to reflect upon the idea, and awaken to a recognition of the Truth more slowly. To others, the time is not yet ripe for the recognition of the great Truth, but the seed is planted, and the plant and blossom will appear, in time. That which seems like the veriest nonsense to them now will be brought home to
them as the very truth, when the time comes. A desire has been created that will cause a mental unrest, until more light is received.

As old Walt Whitman has said, “My words will itch in your ears, till you understand them.”

And as the great American transcendentalist, Emerson, says, “You cannot escape from your good.”

These people who do not yet understand will carry the thought with them which, like the lotus, will unfold naturally and gradually. The Truth once recognized cannot be lost. There is no standing still in Nature.

It is difficult to convey a hint of this Truth to any but those who are prepared to receive. To others, it often seems like arrant folly. Emerson has well said,

Every man's words, who speaks from that life, must sound vain to those who do not dwell in the same thoughts on their own part. I dare not speak for it. My words do not carry its august sense; they fall short and are cold. Only itself can inspire whom it will.... Yet I desire by profane words, if sacred I may not use, to indicate the heaven of this deity and to report what hints I have collected of the transcendent simplicity and energy of the Highest Law.

**A great wave of psychic thought now passing over the world**

What is The New Thought? Let us see. In the first place, it is a name by which is best known that great wave of spiritual and psychic thought that is passing over the world - sweeping away antiquated dogmas, creeds, materialism, bigotry, superstition, unfaith, intolerance, persecution, selfishness, fear, hate, intellectual tyranny and despotism, prejudice, narrowness, disease and perhaps even death. It is the wave that is bringing us liberty, freedom, self-help, brotherly love, fearlessness, courage, confidence, tolerance, advancement, development of latent powers, success, health and life.
What the New Thought stands for

It stands for all that makes for man's betterment - freedom, independence, success, health and happiness. It carries the banner of tolerance, broadness, brotherhood, love, charity and self-help. It teaches man to stand upon his own feet; to work out his own salvation; to develop the powers latent within him; to assert his real manhood; to be strong, merciful and kind.

It preaches the doctrine of “I Can and I Will” - the gospel of “I Do.” It calls upon man to cease his lamenting and repining and urges him to stand erect, and assert his right to live and be happy. It teaches him to be brave - as there is nothing to fear. It teaches him to abolish fear-thought and worry and other foul brood of negative thoughts, such as hate, jealousy, malice, envy and uncharitableness, that have been keeping him in the mire of despair and failure.

It teaches him these things, and much more. The New Thought stands for the doctrine of the Fatherhood of God; the Oneness of All; the Brotherhood of Man; the Kingship of Self.

No creeds or dogmas

The New Thought has no creeds or dogmas. It is composed of individualists, each reserving the right to look at things with his own eyes; to see the Truth as it presents itself to him; to interpret that Truth by the light of his own reason, intuition and spiritual discernment - and to let it manifest and express itself through him, in its own manner.

Individualism

Such a man cares nothing for institutions - he finds within that which he seeks. He does his own thinking and recognizes no man or woman as an authorized interpreter of that which can only be interpreted by ones' own soul.

New Thought people differ very materially from each other on minor points, words and manners of expression, but underneath it all, they understand one another, and a close analysis shows that they are all standing firmly upon the sound rock of fundamental truth. They all have a bit of the Truth - but no one of them has all of the Truth. Each is working to the

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Center in his own way, along his own path. And yet, seen from above, each is to be found walking along the Great Path, toward the same goal.

I will try to give you a hasty glance at what I conceive to be the fundamental principles underlying that which is called The New Thought, without considering the side-issues affected by many of us. My explanation must, of necessity, be crude and imperfect, but I will do the best I can to make at least a partially clear statement of the fundamental principles of The New Thought.

The Supreme Power

In the first place, The New Thought teaches that there is a Supreme Power back of, underlying and in all things. This Supreme Power is infinite, illimitable, eternal and unchangeable. It IS, has always been and always will be. It is omnipresent (present everywhere); omnipotent (all powerful, possessing all the power that is); and omniscient (all-knowing, all-seeing, knowing everything, seeing everything).

This Supreme Power; Universal Presence; All Mind - may be called Mind, Spirit, Law, The Absolute, First Cause, Nature, Universal Principle, Life - or whatever name best suits the taste of the person using the term. But call it what you will, you mean this Supreme Power - the Center.

Personally, I prefer the word “God” and have, therefore, used it in this book, but when I say God, I mean this great Universal Presence and not the conception of a limited God, held by any man. I am not satisfied with any conception of God which limits him, in the slightest.

To me, God must be illimitable, and all of the Universe must be an emanation of him. I cannot accept any partial idea of God - to me, God must be the All. And I think that a careful inquiry will reveal the fact that this is a fundamental principle underlying The New Thought, remembering always that words count for nothing and ideas, for everything and that the man or woman who claims to have outgrown “God” and talks of Nature, Life, Law or what-not means his or her conception of that which
my inner consciousness tells me is and which I mean, when I say “God.”

**Spiritual unfoldment**

The New Thought holds that man is unfolding in consciousness and that many have now reached that stage of spiritual consciousness whereby they become conscious of the existence and imminence of God and thus know, rather than entertain a belief, based upon the authority - real or assumed - of other men. This God-consciousness, to which the race is rapidly tending, is the result of the unfoldment, development and evolution of man for ages, and when fully possessed by the race, will completely revolutionize our present conceptions of life, our ethics, customs, conditions and economics.

**God's love and presence**

The New Thought teaches that God is not a being afar off from us, full of wrath and punishment, but that he is right here with us, all around us - yes, even in us - understanding us from the beginning, realizing our limitations, full of love and patiently seeing the gradual growth and unfoldment, which brings us into a clearer understanding of him.

The New Thought does not know of the wrath of God - any such conception is cast into the shadow by the dazzling, overpowering sight of God's love. As to the reason of God's plans and laws, The New Thought does not pretend to have knowledge, holding that this cannot be known by man in his present stage of development, although by reason and intuition, he is beginning to understand that all is good and to see evidences of a loving, good, perfect, just and wise plan in all the experiences of life. And having that intelligent faith which comes of the God-consciousness, it rests content, saying, “God IS - and all is well.”

**All is One**

The New Thought teaches that All is One; that all the Universe, high and low, developed and undeveloped, manifest and unmanifest, is One - all is an emanation from God. This brings with it the corollary that everything in the universe is in
touch with every other thing, and all is in connection with the Center - God.

It holds, with modern science, that every atom is a part of a mighty whole and that nothing can happen to any atom, without a corresponding effect upon every other part of the whole. It holds that the sense of separateness is an illusion of the undeveloped consciousness, but an illusion necessary, in certain stages, for the working out of the plan - or as a recent writer has said, “The sense of separateness is a working fiction of the Universe.”

When man has so far progressed in spiritual growth and unfoldment that certain heretofore dormant faculties awaken to consciousness - or rather, when man's consciousness has so far developed that it takes cognizance of certain faculties, the existence of which has heretofore been unknown to it - that man becomes conscious of the Oneness of All and his relation to all that is. It is not merely a matter of intellectual conception - it is the growth of a new consciousness. The man who possesses this simply knows - the man who has it not deems the idea allied to insanity. This Cosmic Knowing comes to many as an illumination; to others, it is a matter of gradual and slow development.

This idea of the Oneness of All explains many problems that man has considered incapable of solution. It is at the heart of all occult and esoteric teachings. It is at the center of all religious thought, although it is hidden, until one finds the key. It is the key that opens all doors. It explains all contradictions, all paradoxes. It welds together all discrepancies, all opposing theories, all the different views of any subject.

What the idea of Oneness means

All is One - nothing can be left out of that Oneness - all and everything is included. Man cannot escape his Oneness with All - try as he may.

Separateness and selfishness are seen as merely the result of ignorance, from which man is slowly emerging. Every man is doing the best he can, in his particular stage of development. And every man is growing, slowly but surely.
Sin is but ignorance of the Truth. Selfishness and the sense of separateness are at the bottom of all that we call “sin.” And, under the Law, when we willfully hurt another, it rebounds upon ourselves. Evil, selfish thoughts and acts react upon ourselves. We cannot hurt another, without injuring ourselves. It is not necessary for God to punish us - we punish ourselves.

When the race finally understands and is conscious of the Oneness of All - when it has a knowledge of the Law - when it has a consciousness of things as they are, then will separateness and selfishness drop away, like a cast-off cloak, and that which we call sin and injustice can no longer exist for the race.

When the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man become realities in the consciousness of man, instead of beautiful ideals, fondly cherished but considered impractical and impossible of realization, then will life be that which has been dreamt of through the ages. This Oneness of All is one of the fundamental truths of The New Thought, although many of its followers seem to have but a faint conception of what it really means and are but slowly growing into an understanding of what it will mean for the world.

**Man immortal - Assurance of immortality from the awakened spiritual consciousness**

The New Thought teaches that man is immortal. Its teachers differ in their theories as to just how and where he will live in the future - and of such speculations, I do not propose speaking, at length. I will say this, however - that when man obtains that wonderful assurance of immortality from his awakened spiritual faculties, he sees no need of worrying about the “how” and “where.” *He knows that he is and will be.*

He has within him such an abiding sense of existence and deathlessness that all of man's speculations seem like idle theories to him - useful in their place, of course, but of no vital importance to him. He knows that there are no limits to the possible manifestations of life; he knows that “infinity plus infinity” would not begin to express the possibilities before him - and he frets not.
He learns to live in the NOW, for he knows that he is in eternity, *right now*, just as much as he ever will be - and he proceeds to *live*. He is concerned with *life* - not with death - and he *lives*. He has confidence in God and in the Divine Plan - and is content.

He knows that if our entire solar system and every other system, the suns of which are visible to man, were dissolved into their original elements, he would still exist and would be still in the Universe.

He knows that the Universe is large and that he is a part of it; that he cannot be left out or banished from the Universe; that he is an important atom and that his destruction would disarrange and destroy the whole. He knows that while the Universe lasts, he lasts; that if he is destroyed, the Universe is destroyed.

He knows that God has use for him, or he would not be here. And he knows that God makes no mistakes; changes not his mind; and destroys no soul that he has expressed. He says, “I am a son of God; what I shall be doth not yet appear, but come what will, I am still a son of God. What my future may be concerns me not; it is not my business. I will place my hand in that of the Father and say, “Lead thou me on.”

This idea of the *immortality of the soul* - that man is a spiritual being - is also a fundamental principle of The New Thought, although its teachers have differing ideas, regarding the methods and plans of the future life. To me, personally, I can see life only as being on an *ascending scale*, rising from lower to higher, and then on to higher and higher and higher - until my spiritual vision fails me.

I believe that, in the Universe, there are beings much lower than us on the spiritual scale, and that there are also others much more advanced, much more highly developed than ourselves - “very gods,” as compared with us - and that we are progressing along the Path, until someday, we will be where they are; and that others, now much lower, will someday be where we are now, and so on.

This is but my finite view of an infinite subject, and I do not *know* these things as I *do* know the fundamental fact. These particular views are not fundamental, being nothing more than a
dim perception, aided in certain ways from outside sources - so do not accept them, unless you feel that they mean truth to you.

Form your own concept, if you prefer. It will not make any difference to the fundamental principle. If you have the consciousness of the fundamental principle of immortality, then theories and views and concepts are as nothing. Do not be satisfied with theories - mine or anyone else's. There is no satisfaction, until your feet are firmly planted on the Rock. Then, when you feel the solid rock beneath you, you may amuse and instruct yourself by playing at building houses, which you may tear down tomorrow, to erect others more in accordance with your advanced ideals. But the Rock is there all the time - and you are on it.

Spiritual unfoldment

The New Thought teaches us that there is a spiritual evolution going on in man; that he is growing, developing and unfolding in spiritual attainment; that his mind is developing and causing to unfold new faculties, which will lead him to higher paths of attainment; that the higher reason is beginning to make itself manifest. It teaches that the race is nearing the plane of Cosmic Knowing. Teachers speak this Truth in different ways, using different words - but the thing, itself, is a fundamental principle of The New Thought.

Thoughts are things

The New Thought teaches, also, that “thoughts are things” - that every thought we think goes forth, carrying with it force, which effects others, to a greater or lesser extent, depending on the force behind our thought and the mental attitude of the other persons.

The attractive power of thought

And it teaches that “like attracts like” in the world of thought; that a man attracts to himself thoughts in harmony with his own, people in harmony with his thoughts; yes, that even things are influenced by thought, in varying degrees.

It teaches that “as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he” and that a man may change, and often does change, his entire
character and nature by a change of thoughts - an adjustment of his mental attitude.

It teaches that fear-thought and worry - and all the rest of the foul brood of negative thoughts - attract thoughts, people, things from the outside, and pull the man down to the level of his thought-pictures.

And on the contrary, a man may, by right thinking, raise himself from the mire, and surround himself with people and things, corresponding to his thoughts.

And it teaches that thoughts take form in action.

**Mind is positive to the body**

And it teaches that the mind is positive to the body and that a man may become sick or well, diseased or free from disease, according to his thoughts and mental attitude.

**Latent forces to be developed**

It teaches that the mind of man contains latent forces, lying dormant, awaiting the day of their unfoldment, which may be developed and trained and used in a wondrous way. It teaches that man is in his infancy, regarding the proper use of his mental powers.

These things and similar things, expressed in scores of forms, according to the views of the respective teachers, are fundamental principles of The New Thought.

I can do no more than merely mention these things now. In the succeeding chapters, I will try to go into each phase of the subject a little more fully, but it would take many volumes, before I could feel that I had even penetrated beneath the surface of the subject. And then, remember that I am only giving you my little bit of the Truth. Every other man or woman has his or her bit, so that my portion is merely as a grain of sand on the seashore.

The New Thought is not a “fad,” as many have supposed - although many have made it the amusement of an idle hour. It is no new religion, as others have thought; it contains within it only that which may be found in all the great religions of the world,
but generally so safely hidden that only those who looked carefully could find it.

It is no new religion - but it will help to throw new light on every religion or shade of religious thought. It has no churches or temples; it allows its followers to worship in the temples of their fathers - or, if they prefer, in the open field, on the ocean, in the forest, in their rooms - anywhere, everywhere, for they cannot escape from the Universe, and God is everywhere, and everyone is in constant touch with him and may feel the pressure of his hand, if they will but allow it; will hear the whisper of his voice, if they will but listen to it.

The man or woman who awakens into a consciousness of the real principles underlying and making up that which we call The New Thought will have found a peace, which exceeds in comfort anything that has ever been known; will feel a joy beyond anything that has ever been dreamt of; will have acquired a knowledge exceeding all that has ever been deemed possible. Words cannot express this thing - it must be seen, felt, lived, to be realized.

This, my friends, is the answer to the question, “What is The New Thought?” That it does not answer it, I am fully aware, but I also see that one cannot answer such a question in a few words; perhaps it could not be fully answered in as many volumes as I have used sentences. It is too great.

It means something to every man or woman who is attracted to it; each takes from it that suited to his needs and leaves the rest for others. And draw from it what we may, the supply is never diminished.

And so, it seems, I have merely answered the question by telling of a little that The New Thought means to me - just a little. So, if it means something else to you, something more than I have mentioned, something different from what I have stated, do not blame me or yourself - we simply see that which we have drawn from the spring in our little cup.

The spring is still full and constantly flowing. Your cupful is as good as mine; mine as good as yours - so let us not dispute about it, nor yet compare cupfuls. Let us, instead, drink of the
sparkling, life-giving fluid that has been given us, and shout aloud, that others who are thirsty and are seeking the spring may know that it is found. It is not yours, nor mine - it is the property of all.
§
Chapter II:
~ THOUGHTS ARE THINGS ~

Thought waves - Vibrations
Every thought that we think starts in motion thought-waves or vibrations, which travel along, with greater or lesser speed in intensity, varying with the force of the original thought and which affect, more or less, people far removed from the persons sending forth the thought.

Telepathy
We are constantly sending forth thought influence and are constantly receiving thought-waves from others. I do not now refer to thoughts deliberately sent out to the mind of another or thoughts deliberately received by one from the mind of another, according to the well-known and well-established laws of telepathy, but to the equally real but far-less understood unconscious sending forth and receiving of thoughts, which is going on in each of us, all the time.

Thought-transference
Of course, these are all different manifestations of what we call “telepathy” or “thought-transference,” but the term is generally used to designate the conscious sending and receiving of mental messages.
We are all affected by thought-waves

This power of thought-transference is being continually exercised by all people, generally indirectly and unconsciously. Our thoughts create vibrations, which are sent forth in waves in all directions and affect, more or less, all persons with whose minds they come in contact.

Public opinion the result of thought-waves

We can see instances of this in everyday life. Men are affected by the thoughts of others in business, on the street, in the theater, in church - and in fact, everywhere. Public opinion is largely formed by the thoughts of a number of vigorous, positive thinkers, sent forth in thought-waves, rapidly influencing the whole country; the thought-wave gaining force as it progresses, being added to by the thought vibrations of everyone whom it affects.

An almost irresistible influence, unless understood

Great waves of popular feeling sweep over the country, carrying before them all, except those who understand the laws of mental influence, and who have protected themselves against these outside impressions. The combined thought-waves of the majority of the people beat against the mind of the individual, and exercise an almost irresistible influence.

The attractive power of thought - Like attracts like

There is one very important fact in this study of the power of thought vibrations, which every man or woman should constantly carry in mind. I refer to the fact that the law of “like attracts like” maintains in the thought-world and that one attracts to himself the thoughts of others, which correspond in kind with those held by himself.

A man who hates will attract to himself all the hateful and malicious thought-waves within a large radius, and these added thoughts act as fuel to the fire of his base feelings, and render him more hateful and hating than ever.

One who thinks love and has outgrown the old negative thoughts of imperfect development will not attract these negative thoughts to him. They will pass him by, hurrying on to some point of attraction in the minds of others, who are thinking along
the same lines. And the man who thinks love will attract to himself all the loving thoughts within his circle of influence.

**The thought of a community**

Men instinctively recognize this force, when they gather in the same neighborhood with others in the same line of thought. Communities have their individualities, just as persons do. Every village, town and city has its own peculiarities, which are noticeable to those who enter it. And strangers moving into these communities gradually take on the characteristics of the place, unless the same prove very uncongenial to them - in which case, they manage to move away from the town, as soon as possible and are not contented, so long as they are within its borders.

**Making one's self positive to the thoughts of others**

It is well to be surrounded by those whose thoughts are akin to our own, as we thus add to each other's power and are comparatively free from outside, disturbing influences. Of course, persons may, by practice and understanding, make themselves positive to the thoughts of others and may, with impunity, allow themselves to be surrounded with persons of an entirely different line of thought, and may even, when so doing, attract to themselves, from greater distances, the thoughts which harmonize with their own.

**Thought auras surround everyone, affecting others - Attracting and repelling**

Every person is constantly surrounded with a thought-aura, which affects those with whom he comes in contact. Some people attract us, without a word being spoken, while others repel us, as soon as we come within the radius of their aura.

The aura of a man is composed of the essence of his prevailing thoughts; it reflects his general mental attitude. This aura is felt, not only by man, but also by the lower animals. Children are very susceptible to its influences, and many unaccountable likes and dislikes of children are explainable in no other way. Some persons are very sensitive to the thought atmosphere of others and will sense at once the mental attitude of those with whom they come in contact. Some psychics are able to perceive this aura, and state that it varies in density and
shade, according to the prevailing quality of thought of the individual.

When one realizes the wonderful workings of the law of thought-attraction, he sees the importance of so controlling his thoughts, that he may attract only the best and most helpful thoughts of the world, instead of the depressing, hurtful, negative thought, which is being sent out from so many minds.

**Attracting the best thoughts from outside -**

**The mind is a magnet**

A man who maintains a *hopeful, confident, fearless* mental attitude will attract to himself like thought from others and will be strengthened and helped by the influx of the outside thought, and will go on from success to success, aided by the combined force of the thoughts which he has attracted to himself. He becomes as a *magnet*, drawing to himself that which strengthens and aids him.

Equally true is the fact that the man who maintains a *negative, fearful, despondent* mental attitude will attract to himself like thoughts from the great field of thought, which will pull and drag him down still deeper into the *slough of despond*. Remember always, “like attracts like” in the thought world. And you may rest assured that whatever you think will attract a corresponding thought, which has been sent out from the minds of others.

Have you ever noticed the attractive power of thought in the cases of strangers brought into contact with each other? Each draws to himself his kind. Place a hundred strange men or women in a room, and inside of an hour, they have formed themselves into groups, each group representing a different type - a different mental attitude. Each instinctively attracts and is attracted by *corresponding qualities* in another.

If you would develop along certain lines, the best plan is to think along the desired lines, as much as you can, endeavoring to hold the thoughts relating to it, as much as possible. By doing so, you will not only develop the mind by auto-suggestion, but will attract from the great ocean of thought, the helpful thoughts,
which have been sent out by others - and you will obtain the benefit of their thinking, as well as your own.

Many of us have been thinking along certain lines very intently and with full powers of concentration, and suddenly a bright idea will come into our minds from out of the somewhere, and we will be almost startled at suddenly coming in possession of a valuable thought, relating to the matter in hand.

Vigorous, positive, hopeful, expectant, concentrated thought on almost any subject will bring to itself helpful and valuable thoughts from others. There is no question but that many men have developed powers in this direction that place them in touch with the best minds working along similar lines. Many inventors will find themselves producing the same invention, and writers frequently find that the book that they have just written bears a striking resemblance to one simultaneously produced by another writer, in perhaps a different country. Much harsh feeling is often engendered by a lack of understanding of the workings of the law of thought.

I have spoken at considerable length upon this subject in my previous work, entitled “Thought Force” and can merely refer to it in the present volume. It, however, plays an important part in the teachings of The New Thought, and the student soon realizes its wonderful bearing upon the affairs of everyday life.

How to protect yourself from being unduly affected by the minds of others

There is no occasion for alarm on the part of anyone, because of the possibility of being unduly affected by the thoughts of others. The remedy is to place yourself in the proper key, that you may receive only the helpful vibrations corresponding to the thoughts uppermost in your own mind.

The inner influence stronger than the outer

Every man is master of his own mind, and nothing will enter there, unless he permits it. The inside influence is much stronger than the outside. All one has to do is to keep his own mind free from base, negative thoughts, and the undesirable thoughts of others will not be attracted to him. Only the thoughts that harmonize will find a congenial shelter within his mind.
Fix your keynote
He fixes his own mental keynote, and his mind will not respond to any other key. If he thinks love - hate will not come near him; if he thinks truth - lying thoughts will flee from him. “As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he” applies here, also.

How you may avail yourself of the world's unexpressed thought
Man has wonderful possibilities in the direction of so developing his mind that he may attract to himself that which he needs from the great world's store-house of unexpressed thought. He will find enormous quantities of unexpressed thought longing for expression, which will eagerly pour into his mind for that expression, which was not given by the mind in which they originated.

Unexpressed thought seeks eagerly for expression
Thoughts are hungry for expression and flock to the mind of him who has sufficient energy to express the thoughts which come to him. Many men are too lazy to express the great thoughts which they originate, and it remains for others to absorb these unexpressed thoughts, and use them. Nothing goes to waste, and what one man will not use, another will be found to avail himself of. Unexpressed thought is added to the common store, to be drawn upon by all who need it and will attract it to themselves.

How to attract it
Your mind is a magnet, drawing to it thoughts in keeping with your conscious or unconscious demands and desires. By cultivating the proper mental attitude, you may draw the very best product of the world's thinking. Is it not worth trying?
§

Chapter III:
~ THE LAW OF ATTRACTION ~

This Law difficult to understand
The working of the Law of Attraction is something that puzzled me very much for a long time, after I became interested in The New Thought, and I am of the opinion that others find it difficult to grasp.

Thought attracts - not only persons - but things - Exerts a control over circumstances
It is comparatively easy to understand the effect of the mind on the body, the mind on the minds of others, the will-power on the mind, the fact that a thought will attract a like thought, etc., but when one is first made aware that there is such a thing as a Law of Attraction, whereby one attracts things to him - exerts a control over circumstances by reason of the character of his thoughts - he is apt to find it hard to grasp the fact or to understand the Law which operates in this way.

The Oneness of All affords a solution to the problem
There is a great difference, apparently, between the effect of thought upon persons and the effects of thoughts upon things. But when one grasps the idea of the Oneness of All, he will
begin to understand why one part of the whole will affect another part of the whole - be that other part a person or a thing.

I have never heard a complete, clear explanation of the inner working of the Law of Attraction, although many understand the general workings, and a fair idea may be obtained by reasoning by analogy. But that the Law of Attraction *exists* and is in full working force, many men and women know by experience, and the beginner, who cannot understand, will find it necessary to take the Law on faith at the start, until he becomes convinced of its real existence, by the results obtained by himself.

**The atom attracts that which is needed for its development**

There seems to be a great law of Nature, whereby an atom attracts to itself that which is needed for its development. And the force that brings about these results manifests itself in *desire*. There may be many desires, *but the predominant one has the strongest attracting power*. This law is recognized throughout the various kingdoms of Nature, but it is only beginning to be realized that the same Law maintains in the kingdom of the *mind*.

**The power of desire**

Our mental attitude causes us to draw things to us, corresponding in kind to our *predominant thoughts and desires*. A thought firmly fixed in the mind and held continually will attract to its holder the things represented by that thought, excepting in such cases where other mental influences are at work, counteracting the power of the thought.

**How the Law operates in some circumstances**

For instance, if two men were to earnestly wish for the same thing, the *stronger* thought force would gain the object. But it is not always best to wish for some special thing, as that particular thing may not be the best thing for you in your present stage of development. The better plan is to hold the thought of *ultimate success*, leaving the details to the workings of the Law and taking advantage of the things that occur, turning each one to your advantage and allowing no chance to pass by, without making use of it.
It will be found that the Law operates that way. I have seen people who fixed their ambition and aspirations upon some particular thing, and after obtaining that thing, would find out that it was not what they wanted, at all. The better plan, as I have stated, is to hold to the mental attitude of success and accomplishment, leaving the details to be worked out from day to day, taking advantage of each feature of the plan as it presents itself and feeling, always, that the particular thing that is occurring is the best possible thing that could happen, in view of ultimate success.

The Law operating through men

I believe that much of the work of the Law of Attraction is accomplished by means of one attracting to himself men of similar ideas, who are likely to be interested in his plans, ideas, business, etc., and at the same time, causing one to be attracted to other men, who may be of use to him. It is a case of mutual attraction - not a case of the influence of one mind over another. Two men of similar mental attitudes will attract each other and will come together for mutual advantage. And although the result often seems to be the attracting of things, it will be seen that the things are moved by men.

Many other important results occur by one having attracted to himself thoughts and ideas from outside, which he puts into practice and, thereby, is enabled to realize his desire. But there are cases in which it is seen that the mind has a positive effect upon things.

Some men seem to be immune from accidents, while others are always running into them. Men of a fearless, daring nature seem to be exempt from many things that occur to men who are full of fear. Some men seem to bear charmed lives in battle, while others are always being wounded. I have heard of a number of cases in which men have almost sought death and could not find it. At first glance, it would appear that the thing they sought should have come to them, but a little closer analysis shows us that what they really did was to get rid of fear.

And the same thing seems to be true of business and everyday life. The man who dares and seems devoid of fear takes all sorts
of chances but generally comes out ahead, in the end. If he fails, it is generally because he loses his nerve at the last moment.

*Fear is one of the greatest attracting forces of the mind.* It is equal to *confident expectation*. In fact, fear is a sort of confident expectation of evil to come; the expectation varying in degree with the amount of fear.

**Your thoughts place you in connection with the outside world and its forces**

You attract and repel people and things by the character of thought held. You and they are attracted to each other, because your thoughts are pitched in the same key. You are in close touch with all other parts of the whole but attract to yourself only such of the parts as correspond in kind with your *mental attitude*.

**Starting the forces into operation**

If you *think success*, you will find that you have started into operation the forces that are conducive to that success, and from time to time, if you maintain the same mental position, other things will fall into line as they are needed and will aid you in your efforts. Things will seem to come your way in a most astonishing manner, and opportunities will arise which, if taken advantage of, will ensure to you success.

You will find that new thoughts will come into your mind, which should be taken advantage of. You will meet with people who will help you in many ways, by suggestions, ideas and active help. Of course, the work which you must do yourself will not be performed for you by others, but the Law will continually help and assist you.

**The road to success**

It will bring opportunities and chances to your door - but you will have to take them in. It will lead up to doors opening into advancement - but you will have to open the doors, yourself. It will undertake what will seem to be round-about roads to get to a thing, but do not let that worry you, for you will arrive at your journey's end, no matter how winding the road.
Sometimes it will take you away past the point at which you thought you were aiming, and as you go past, you will smile to think how this point on the road, which now seems so unimportant, a little further back, seemed to be your destination, your reason for making the trip.

**Swept on by irresistible forces**

Sometimes the thing which seems to represent all that is worth having and which inspires you to make the effort will have lost all interest for you, when you near it, and you will make no attempt to grasp it, but pass on rapidly, swept past by the irresistible forces which have been set into operation.

**Faith and recognition of the Law rewarded by immediate movement**

Faith in the Law and recognition of it seem to be rewarded by immediate movement forward. Lack of faith and denial of it seem to act as breaks to progress, although the Law is always in operation, because if we are not going forward, it is pulling us in some other direction, by reason of the forces of attraction that we have put into operation, even though we do it unconsciously.

**One gets very much what he looks for**

The Law works two ways, apparently, although both ways are really only different manifestations of the one. The thing you fear attracts as much as the thing for which you hope. When one is looking for trouble, he generally gets it, and when he feels his ability to stand all sorts of trouble and to ride over it, the trouble does not seem to come. One gets very much what he looks for.

The old saying that the world takes a man at his own valuation, although not strictly correct, is based upon a recognition of this Law. A man who expects to be kicked and buffeted around, generally has his expectations realized; whereas a man who demands respect, generally gets it.

As I have already said, the Law will not do a man's work for him, but it places tools and materials right at his hand and keeps him well supplied with both. The Law is constantly bringing opportunities to each of us, and it remains for us to take advantage of them or to let them pass us by, unheeded.
Thoughts, things, people, ideas, opportunities, chances and other things which we attract are passing before us, all the time. But it takes courage to grasp them. The successful man is he who knows how to take advantage of the chances that other men fail to see. He has confidence in himself and in his ability to beat into shape the crude material at his hand. And so, he never feels that there are no more chances in the world for him or that all the good things have been passed around. He knows that there are plenty more good things where the others came from, and he simply keeps his eyes open, and after a bit, something comes along, and he reaches out and takes it.

The Law is either your master or your servant

The Law of Attraction is in full operation. You are making use of it constantly and unconsciously, every minute of your life. What kind of things are you attracting to yourself? What kind of things do you want? Do your thoughts correspond with the things you want - or the things you fear? Which? The Law is either your master or your servant. Make your choice - and make it now!

THIS IS A SAMPLE.
(Pages are unnumbered.)

Entire book consists of 132 pages.