

**THE HEALTHY
CHRISTIAN: AN APPEAL
TO THE CHURCH**

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The Healthy Christian: An Appeal to the Church by Howard Crosby

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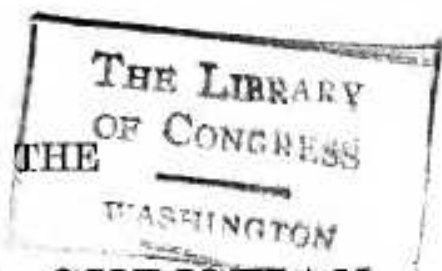
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HOWARD CROSBY

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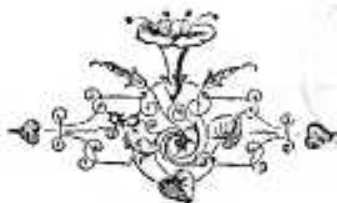


HEALTHY CHRISTIAN:

AN APPEAL TO THE CHURCH.

BY HOWARD CROSBY,

PASTOR OF FOURTH-AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
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PREFACE.



ADDRESS this book to Christians ; to those who, being in Christ Jesus, walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. It is an effort to stir up pure minds by way of remembrance.

The world's way of making a good Christian is to lead the Christian into conformity with itself and reduce Christianity to a matter of ethics, and perhaps physiology. The Bible way is to separate the Christians from the world unto Christ, according to the grand truth that Christianity is not a code or system for mind and body, but a divine life, a life which is directly antagonistic to the world's life. The church is lamentably allied to the world through the agencies of wealth and fashion ; and it becomes us to sound an alarm for Christ's sake, and remind the people of God of their true privileges and responsibilities. Under the impulses of earthly ambition for place and riches, a tendency has been developed to bring down all

religion to the low level of a respectable naturalism, and thus dishonor God's revelation. Sincerity (a sincerity, too, which scorns all seeking after God) is considered quite as good as regeneration ; and a man is counted a Christian who utterly ignores the person, work, and word of Christ. It is considered a beautiful liberality to put Mohammed, Vishnu, the Virgin Mary, and Ormuzd on a par with Jesus, and to count science, reason, poetry, and revelation as equal authorities. This is the prevailing style of religion that we find in the newspapers which have to cater to every sort of taste, and which, therefore, deemed an undefined *olla podrida* the most suitable form of religion for journalism. Weak souls are snared by this popular and human thing, and the *vox populi* becomes to them the *vox Dei*. The true voice of God in his revealed word is first neglected, then despised, then assailed.

The only remedy for this evil is for each individual Christian to renew his application to that word, and, under its guidance, to come out and be separated from the world at whatever cost of social position, political honors, or pecuniary fortune. We are to trust in the Lord and go forward, and we shall find in him our exceeding great reward.



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THE
HEALTHY CHRISTIAN.

CHAPTER I.

THE GENERAL VIEW.

"THAT THEY MAY BE SOUND IN THE
FAITH."

THE old English word "*sound*," like the Greek *ὑγιαίνωντες* of this passage in Paul's epistle to Titus, is equivalent to the ordinary English "healthy." The apostle urges his representative in Crete to secure healthiness in the faith to the Cretan Christians. Titus 1:13.

As to the *faith* he speaks of, it is too often referred merely to doctrine. Faith in the