

**CHRISTIANITY AND
TRADITION,
PP. 1-214**

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Christianity and Tradition, pp. 1-214 by P. G. Blyth

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AND TRADITION

BY

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PREFACE

IN my youth I received a considerable amount of instruction in Christianity. The result for me was many difficulties, theoretical and practical, on which the words of professional Christian teachers did not throw light, so that it was necessary to make further search for solutions to them. There are, I think, many persons in a similar position to that in which I was; and I have tried to place my conclusions at their disposal.

To critics of traditional Christianity I am much indebted. I feel that they have helped me out of a close atmosphere. They have not weakened my religious faith, but assisted me to a sounder one. I think that by the nominal teachers of Christianity its essentially spiritual nature and its freedom are quite obscured.

P. G. B.

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I.

THE INDIVIDUAL AND AUTHORITY

THE allegation which has been made that men in this age are indifferent to religion, if by this word is meant the essence of religion and not its conventions, is not supported by the facts. The great sales of religious literature, the increasing prominence given to religious topics in the daily Press, the extraordinary interest which was shown in the *Daily Telegraph* "Do We Believe?" correspondence,¹ are some of the indications which should render it hardly possible to repeat the accusation. As thinking beings, who do not, and cannot, live entirely for the present moment, men are naturally interested in questions concerning their own nature and prospects, not only from curiosity, but from the wish to spend their lives to the best advantage. "Religion is one thing," says Sir Oliver Lodge; "church services as often conducted are quite another thing.....It is not religion to which people are indifferent."² That there is indifference, or even scorn, shown towards much that passes under the name of religion is undoubtedly true.

¹ *Daily Telegraph*, September 26th to December 31st, 1904, averaging three columns daily (only a percentage printed).

² *Hibbert Journal*, January, 1904.