

OUTSKIRTS OF REVELATION

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Outskirts of revelation by Henry Harris

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HENRY HARRIS

**OUTSKIRTS
OF REVELATION**

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OF
REVELATION

BY

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NOTICE.

THE subjects here treated of, with the exception of the last, lie almost entirely on the extreme verge of the light diffused by revelation. It is, therefore, with great diffidence that I submit the conclusions at which I have arrived respecting them to the impartial judgment of the reader.

With one exception, again, that of "The Serpent in Paradise," this little volume is composed of the substance of papers read by me at meetings of the Calne Valley Clerical Society within the last few years.

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OUTSKIRTS OF REVELATION.

I. THE SERPENT IN PARADISE.

INTRODUCTION.

It was a favourite remark of the late J. S. Mill that a world so full of evil as this is cannot have for its Author and Governor one who is both absolute in power and perfect in goodness. Now, however we may dispute the validity of this objection, it is impossible to deny the fact on which it is grounded. Not only is there a tremendous amount of evil in the world, but much of it at least cannot fairly be regarded simply in the light of an imperfection, such as naturally attends the transition from a lower stage of growth into a higher. We cannot shut our eyes to the plain fact that this evil of which I am speaking is, in very many instances, of a positive, and not merely negative character. If the good which is in the world is real good, so also is the evil real evil, the result of some influence distinctly and decidedly antagonistic to the working of the Good Spirit.

Again, if the most pronounced forms of the evil in the world are traceable directly or indirectly to human agency, there is also a by no means inconsiderable residuum which cannot be in any way attributed to such agency. It lies altogether outside the world of man. And although