

**JESUS CHRIST AND THE CIVILIZATION  
OF TO-DAY; THE ETHICAL TEACHINGS  
OF JESUS CONSIDERED IN ITS  
BEARINGS ON THE MORAL  
FOUNDATIONS OF MODERN CULTURE**

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Jesus Christ and the civilization of to-day; the ethical teachings of Jesus considered in its bearings on the moral foundations of modern culture by Joseph Alexander Leighton

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JESUS CHRIST  
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*WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR*

TYPICAL MODERN CONCEPTIONS OF GOD—WITH  
A CONSTRUCTIVE ESSAY. 1901.

PERSONALITY AND REALITY—A TREATISE OF  
METAPHYSICS. (*In preparation.*)

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THE ETHICAL TEACHING OF JESUS  
CONSIDERED IN ITS BEARINGS  
ON THE MORAL FOUNDATIONS  
OF MODERN CULTURE

BY

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GENERAL

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To

MY DEAR WIFE

*"Das ewige Weibliche  
Zieht uns hinan"*

182304

## PREFATORY NOTE

As indicated by the title, the scope of this work is limited to a consideration of the ethical teachings of Jesus Christ in their bearings on the spiritual life of civilization. No account is taken of the external events of Christ's life or of his deeds, except in so far as has seemed necessary to interpret the meaning and application of his teaching. No questions of dogmatic theology are directly considered, nor, on the other hand, does the author mean to imply that there may not be aspects of that life, of deep significance for the individual and the church, that lie beyond the purview of the present work. He is simply concerned here with ideas that seem to him to be of broad and primary significance for the entire moral foundations of western culture. He has felt compelled to take some account of eastern culture, since the two are now meeting in the world-arena. He has done this with diffidence, since his knowledge of the East is purely literary.

The primary aim of the work is practical, and it is addressed to all intelligent persons who are honestly and open-mindedly seeking to determine the relation of the words of the great Master of Life and Religion to their own lives and to the

complex and confused life of contemporary civilization. Hence, technical discussions in biblical criticism and in philosophy have been, so far as possible, avoided. Philosophical questions have been dealt with as briefly and clearly as possible. If the style of treatment may savour, to the specialist, of dogmatism, the author's reply is that he has threshed out, to the best of his ability, questions at issue in the philosophy of mind in a forthcoming work. To the specialist in New Testament criticism and theology the author would say further that, while he has avoided burdening a work of popular character with references, he has considered in great part the recent literature both German and English.

But the writer's wish will be satisfied if some intelligent seekers after truth in matters of conduct and life are led to a fuller appreciation of the present significance of the teaching of Him whose words are "Spirit and Life."

GENEVA, NEW YORK,

January 10, 1907.