

# **THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN SCIENCE AND SUPERSTITION**

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The struggle between science and superstition by Arthur M. Lewis

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**ARTHUR M. LEWIS**

**THE STRUGGLE  
BETWEEN SCIENCE  
AND SUPERSTITION**



# The Struggle Between Science and Superstition

*By*  
ARTHUR M. LEWIS

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## PREFACE

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This little book is the seventh volume to make its appearance as the result of the lecture courses delivered at the Garrick theater during the last nine years. Its theme is taken from the course of sixteen lectures on the same subject delivered in the season of 1914-15. I trust that this modest narrative will meet with as generous a reception as its half dozen predecessors. There is no lack of evidence that in this country in the coming years there will be a keen and bitter struggle between the representatives of superstition and the champions of social progress. This little book is intended to serve as a weapon in the hands of the latter.

My reason for writing it is, that most of the books covering this field, such as Draper's "Intellectual Development of Europe" and White's "History of the Warfare of Science with Theology," are expensive and therefore almost inaccessible to the general public. In overcoming this difficulty and furnishing what I hope will be an introduction and inducement to the study of the larger works, I hope to have aided the cause which they so valiantly served. I have followed as far as possible the method

of the story teller, hoping thereby to have rendered the book especially interesting. I have constantly kept in mind the idea of a book which one might give to another with the object of securing a new convert to the cause of intellectual liberty.

I wish here to acknowledge my great indebtedness to the authors named above, and also to McIntyre's biography of Bruno, Professor Bury's "History of Freedom of Thought," and especially to Karl von Gebler's splendid and scholarly work, "Galileo and the Roman Curia." I regret the lack of space that makes impossible an acknowledgement to many other authors, in whose works I have delighted while preparing this book. My thanks are also due for many valuable suggestions to my good friend Charles H. Kerr, who has always unflinchingly held that there is no hope of the emancipation of a proletariat the mind of which is cobwebbed with delusions. Last, and above all, I give cordial thanks to the Garrick audience, whose generous appreciation from year to year has made this and the preceding volumes possible.

ARTHUR M. LEWIS.

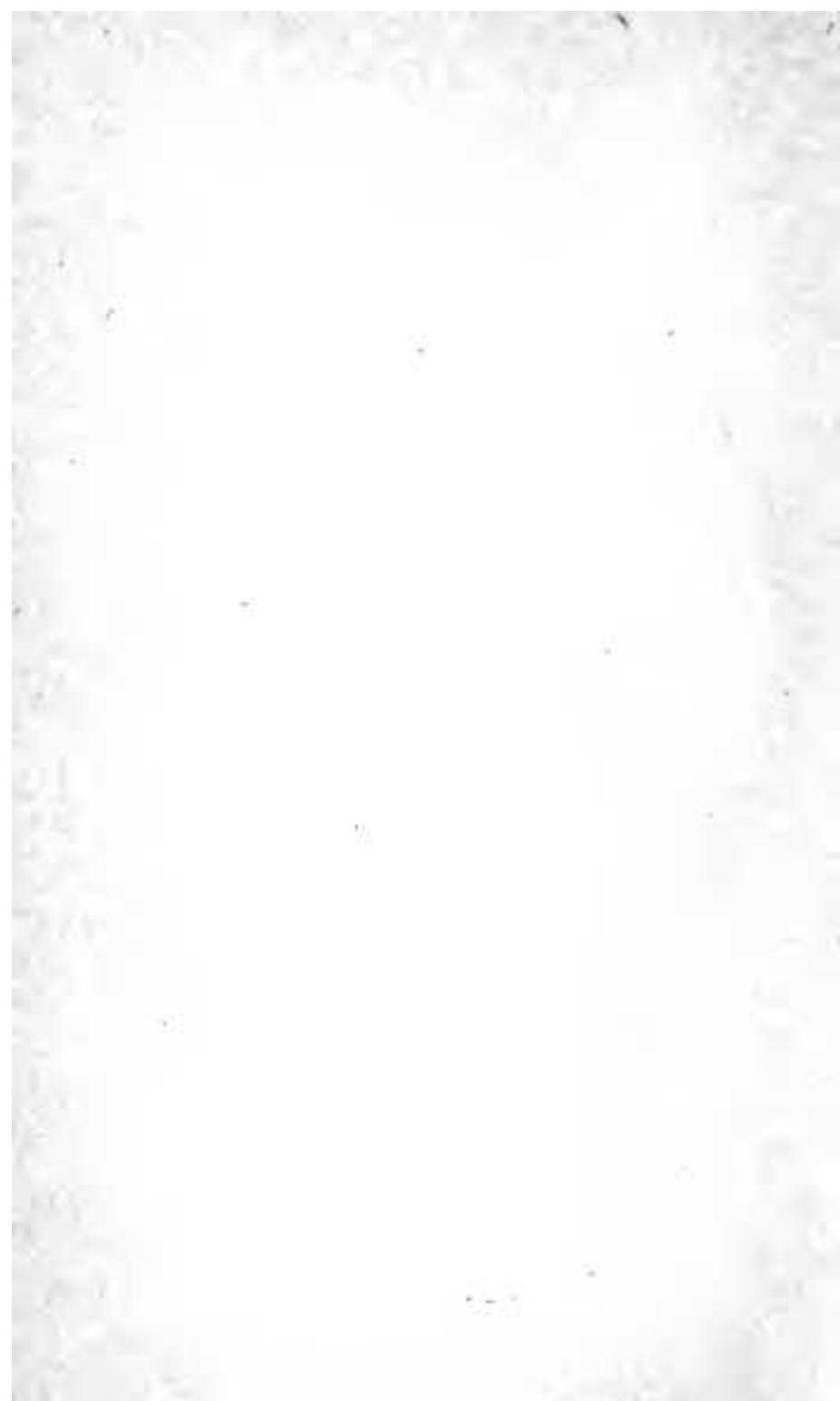
Chicago, October 2, 1915.



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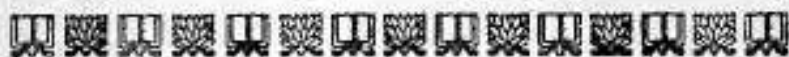
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# The Struggle Between Science and Superstition

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## CHAPTER I

### THE ANTAGONISTS

**B**EFORE we consider the historic struggle between superstition and science we shall briefly consider the natures of these age-long adversaries. The introduction of the antagonists will follow, not the order of their importance, but the order of their appearance—the historical order. This preliminary analysis will enable the reader to avoid later misunderstandings as to the sense in which these names are used. Superstition will have a much wider scope than is given it in common usage. The casting of articles over the right shoulder, the abstention from meat on Fridays, and similar practices, will not be regarded as superstition, but as merely the buttons of its uniform. Superstition will mean what is generally meant by the word religion, and from this point the