

ASPECTS OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICISM

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Aspects of Christian Mysticism by W. Major Scott

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W. MAJOR SCOTT

**ASPECTS OF
CHRISTIAN
MYSTICISM**

ASPECTS OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICISM

BY THE REV.

W. MAJOR SCOTT, M.A.

I will go unto the altar of God

BOOK OF PSALMS

The Mystery of Union with the Son of God

JOHN BUNYAN

LONDON

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET, W.

1907

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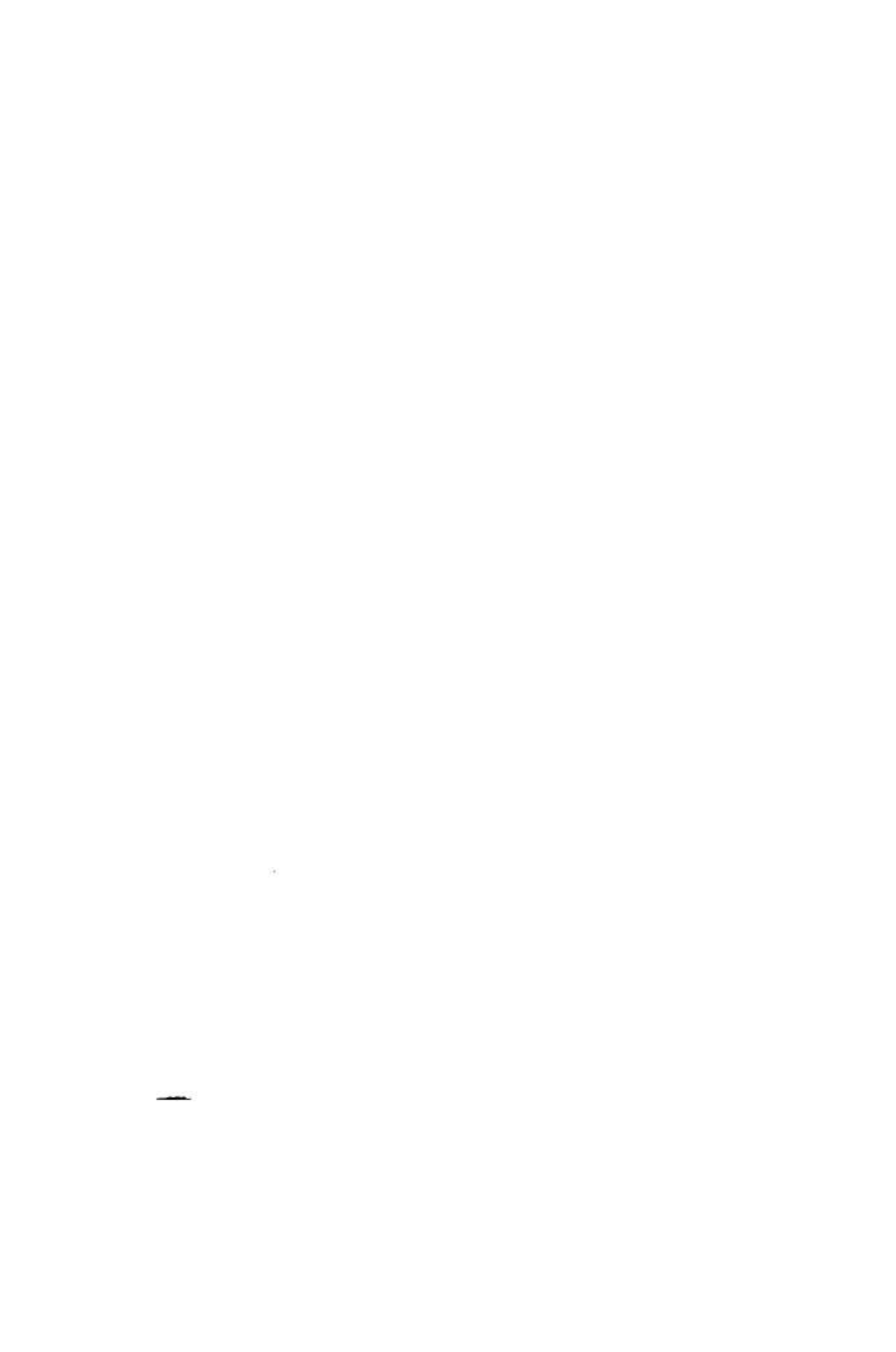
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TO
MY FATHER
AND
MY MOTHER



PREFACE

THE studies of Christian mystics here presented do not profess to be, in any sense, summaries of their teaching; they are statements, partly expository, of certain aspects or elements of mystical truth. If, to any reader, they should serve as an introduction to that vast and fascinating field of study—Christian mysticism—they will have achieved their purpose.

For the awakening, the sustaining, and the deepening of the spiritual life in the soul of man, perhaps no study, if it be undertaken with humility, is more fruitful than a patient reading of the great Christian mystics. Of such, this little volume may claim to be, not untruly, an outcome. As far as possible, I have endeavoured to use the *ipsissima verba* of the mystics themselves.

My indebtedness to many writers is great. Despite its unsatisfactory character and unsympathetic tone, Vaughan's *Hours with the Mystics* is still, in many ways, indispensable. I have constantly consulted the "Bampton Lectures" on *Christian Mysticism*, as well as other books by Dr. Inge, with whose attitude towards the subject, I am, however, only imperfectly in sympathy, but to whom my gratitude is nevertheless sincere. In one or two instances I have quoted his translations. The writings of the late Rev. J. M. Neale, D.D., I have found ever suggestive; and among other writers whose work has laid me under a lasting obligation, it is a pleasure to name Mrs. Frances A. Bevan, Mr. A. E. Waite, the Rev. C. Bigg, D.D., the Rev. W. Robertson Nicoll, LL.D., the Rév. Alexander Whyte, D.D., and Mr. J. Rendel Harris, Litt.D. I have endeavoured to acknowledge points of special indebtedness—if any have been inadvertently overlooked, I ask forgiveness.

From my wife I have received much help

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throughout, but especially in the chapter on St. Teresa. My friend, the Rev. G. Currie Martin, B.D., whose counsel and aid, in the midst of his professorial duties, have been generously given me, added to his many kindnesses by reading and criticizing certain chapters of the book, and to him I tender my best thanks.

W. MAJOR SCOTT.

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