

THE LARGER VISION

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The Larger Vision by A. R. Lambert

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A. R. LAMBERT

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BY
A. R. LAMBERT

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TO THE "HELPMET" OF THE YEARS OF A
BUSY LIFE, WHOSE WISE COUNSELS HAVE
FURNISHED SOLUTION TO VEXED PROBLEMS;
WHOSE FAITH IN HER HUSBAND HAS STIMU-
LATED THE HIGHEST ENDEAVORS; WHOSE
CHEERFUL SPIRIT HAS DRIVEN DULL CARE
TO THE WINDS; WHOSE LOVE HAS BEEN AS
AN EVANGEL OF HOPE; WHOSE UTTER CONSE-
CRATION TO THE COMFORTS OF THE ROOF-
TREE HAS MADE THE HOME A RETREAT FROM
THE TOILS AND INQUIETUDES OF LIFE—

TO

MY WIFE

I DEDICATE THIS BOOK

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FOREWORD

Through the years of my ministry I have sought to be a close observer of men and things — noting the trend of the times.

I have not failed to appreciate the introduction of multiplied, multiform labor-saving devices; the increase in philanthropic movements — men of large means who have caught the spirit of the declaration “the time is near at hand when it will be regarded a sin for a man to die rich,” a sentiment in keeping with the thought of the Master, who declared: “The poor ye have always with you” — reference being had to the unfortunate and impotent of earth; the gradual disappearance of the hated system of “caste,” and the swinging of the pendulum of human thought in the direction of the democracy of the people.

The introduction of reform movements, looking towards the elimination of vice, graft, and greed in the body politic; the placing of the stamp of public disapproval upon the practice of polygamous cohabitation, the “white slave traffic,” and the utter annihilation of the greatest curse of the ages, the liquor traffic; the

FOREWORD

opening, one by one, of the doors of the heathen world, admitting the ambassadors of Jesus Christ; the displacement of monarchial forms of government by newly born republics — all these things have branded as false the statement, oft repeated, that "the world is growing worse," and stressed the truth that the world is growing better.

"The apostles of despondency and complaint" are retreating before the oncoming spirit of optimism: "God is in his heaven, the world's all right."

As a result, in large part, of these observations, I have become an out-and-out optimist, and have found myself possessed of the larger vision; my study of the word of God has led me to see and feel that God is not "a blind force, making for righteousness," but an all-wise and loving heavenly Father, who takes note of the end of life from the beginning, making the amplest provision therefor.

The old book has thus become a new book to me, for I have found myself crying out, again and again, in the language of the inspired writer: "Open thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." And as a result the sublime symbolism of the Bible has assumed, not a poetical significance — rather the opening up of new vistas of eternal verities.

FOREWORD

Red seas of opposition have but emphasized passageways over which God's children may pass "dry shod." Fiery furnaces have but stressed the keeping power of God. Mountain tops, surrounded by the horses and chariots of the enemy, have furnished an emphasis of the need of "opened eyes," and the recognition of the fact that "they that be for us are more than they which be against us." Storm-tossed Gen-essarets have but directed my thought to the presence of Him whose voice rocks the winds and waves of adverse experiences to sleep. Hungry multitudes have become suggestive of that multiplying power, providing enough and to spare. The day seems drawing nigh when the words of the poet-prophet shall be fulfilled — when

"Jesus shall reign, where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom spread from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more."

In a word, running through all the messages of my ministry, of which these contained in this volume are a part, will be found "the golden thread of optimism," the larger vision; and in the hope that others may catch this spirit, I send them forth trusting and unafraid.

A. R. L.

