

**THE WORLD OF THE
UNSEEN: AN ESSAY ON THE
RELATION OF HIGHER
SPACE TO THINGS ETERNAL**

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The World of the Unseen: An Essay on the Relation of Higher Space to Things Eternal by
Arthur Willink

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ARTHUR WILLINK

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BY
ARTHUR WILLINK



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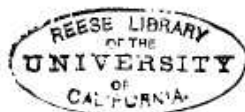
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I

INTRODUCTORY

EVEN the most casual observer of the characteristics of contemporary thought must be struck by the appearance of many symptoms which speak of a prevailing restlessness in the minds of men.

Impatience of old boundaries, whether of creed or of opinion, is manifested by vehement denials of orthodox beliefs; and the same impatience shews itself in equally vehement assertions in favour of new standards whether of faith or morals.

Some persons, under the influence of this feverish restlessness, take refuge in a dreary scepticism; some in credulity or

superstition. Some are led to exalt private judgement ; some, submission to authority, as the only panacea for the cure of the uneasiness from which they suffer. Some, again, can see no remedy, and with however great reluctance, accept the conditions which they find so irksome, as being of necessity ; and according to their dispositions, proceed as they would say, to make the best of what remains to them.

All, in whatever way, seek for some cure, or at least some alleviation of this epidemic ; and no remedy can be suggested but has its troop of strong believers, no charlatan appears but finds a following.

In a word, the most opposite extremes of devotion and dissipation, of selfishness and self-denial, unite in this that they point to the existence of a deeply-rooted prevalence of dissatisfaction.

This restlessness, impatience, uneasiness, call it what you will, is not however all an evil. It gives a motive for a search after better things, and though in the search

some individuals may go astray, the human family will eventually find a benefit.

Among the more hopeful aspects of the restlessness of which we speak is this, that it has driven men to look beyond this world, to think of the Unseen, whether of the future or of the present ; and in it to seek for satisfaction, for freedom from the unrest of earth ; in it to find some hope of peace, or at least of comparative repose.

A strong, even overwhelming desire is evident on many sides to gain some knowledge of the Hidden World and its conditions. Many Societies have been established on many different foundations, whose object, if they may be said to have a common object, is to investigate the phenomena of the Unseen.

The feeling that this object is of surpassing importance is very widely spread abroad ; and the hold that it has taken on men's minds is clearly manifested by the enthusiasm of those who are dominated by it, and at the same time by the vigour