

**A LAYMAN'S MIND
ON CREED AND
CHURCH; PP. 1-227**

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A Layman's Mind on Creed and Church; pp. 1-227 by John Stewart Templeton

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BY
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CARPET MANUFACTURER

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INTRODUCTION TO THE EDITION
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IN four short letters written to the Editor of the *Glasgow Herald*, dated the 3rd, 6th, 10th, and 30th August, 1904, I urged that advantage should be taken of the disastrous decision of the House of Lords, then recently announced, to prepare a new short creed to supersede the Confession of Faith, and also to make some reform in the representation of the laity in the Church Courts. I have been asked to express these views in a more full and permanent form. To this request I have acceded the more readily that, in order to prove to myself that the task was not so difficult as might appear, I had actually begun to draft such a creed; and that, a few years previously, I had printed for private

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use a series of letters on kindred subjects addressed to an intimate friend, the father of three clergymen of the Church of England. This tentative creed, with some explanation of the theological views upon which it is founded, and these letters, I now venture to print for the use of relatives and friends.

Let me say that I have been influenced in coming to this decision by having received at that time, on the 11th August, the gift of a book entitled *Old Letters: a Layman's Thoughts on Current Religious Topics*, written by the late Mr. J. B. Mirrlees, of Redlands, Glasgow, with whom I had been acquainted. To my great surprise I found that, about forty years ago, he had given expression to many of my own thoughts. From these letters I purpose to quote largely, in the belief that such interest as may possibly attach to anything I may be able to say will be much enhanced by the coincidence of the opinions of two ordinary men of business. These opinions may neither be new nor original; but old truths sometimes secure attention by coming from a new and strange source. I even dare affirm that laymen may discuss the

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deeper mysteries of existence with greater candour than clergymen who are more or less entangled by subscriptions, and who cannot easily escape the influence of early theological training.

My aim in writing is practical. I have also the hope that I may be able to help others who find the problems of life perplexing.

Let me now add in this public edition that Mr. Mirrlees was the founder of the eminent firm, Messrs. Mirrlees, Watson & Co., engineers, and makers of sugar machinery, Glasgow.

GLASGOW, *October, 1906.*

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