

**ECCLESIASTES; OR, THE
CONFESSIONS OF AN
ADVENTUROUS SOUL. A PRACTICAL
APPLICATION OF THE BOOK OF
KOHELETH CALLED "ECCLESIASTES"**

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Ecclesiastes; or, The confessions of an adventurous soul. A practical application of the book of Koheleth called "Ecclesiastes" by Minos Devine

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MINOS DEVINE

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TORONTO

ECCLESIASTES

OR

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A PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE BOOK
OF KOHELETH CALLED "ECCLESIASTES"

BY

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FOREWORD

THIS book is not intended for scholars, but for the general reader. It is not a commentary, but the sympathetic study of an experience. Those who are interested in critical questions concerning this book are referred to the Appendix.

Whilst I have read these "Confessions" in the original tongue I have availed myself of the translation of the Revised Version, for which I beg to thank the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. But in a few instances I have adopted the marginal reading in preference to the text.

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I

INTRODUCTION

Does the road wind uphill all the way ?
Yes, to the very end.
Will the day's journey take the whole long day ?
From morn to night, my friend.

But is there for the night a resting-place ?
A roof for when the slow dark hours begin.
May not the darkness hide it from my face ?
You cannot miss that inn.

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI, *Uphill*.

I

IN all ages there have been thinkers who have taken life very much to heart. They have felt in different degrees, in Wordsworth's phrase—

The heavy and the weary weight
Of all this unintelligible world.

Their thoughts have been expressed in poetry, philosophy, and religion. Some have been crushed by this burden. It has produced the pessimist, the cynic, the misanthrope. There is a distorted type of melancholy, most sympathetic in Gautama Buddha, which has revealed itself in all the vagaries of temperament represented by such names as Lucretius, Omar Khayyám,