

**THE RELIGION OF H.
G. WELLS, AND
OTHER ESSAYS**

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The religion of H. G. Wells, and other essays by Alexander H. Craufurd

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ALEXANDER H. CRAUFURD

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THE RELIGION OF H. G. WELLS

AND OTHER ESSAYS

BY
THE REVEREND
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PREFACE

THE essays in this volume were not all written at the same time. Consequently the points of view may be found to be slightly different here and there. But I believe that any attentive reader will easily discover a real underlying unity of thought, of feeling, and of purpose in the whole work. All the essays are intended to set forth the indispensable ethical and spiritual necessity of a thoroughly broad and yet distinctively Christian form of Theism. My chief aim has been to show that man's whole higher life, intellectual, social, and emotional, as well as moral and religious, is rooted and grounded in God, and that without God it must inevitably lose the greater part of its noblest and deepest significance. I have also endeavoured to make it clear that the original and genuine Christianity, as contrasted with its many ecclesiastical per-

The Religion of H. G. Wells

versions, is profoundly natural, the faith of the normal human soul when it "comes to itself," when it realises its own vague potentialities, and is touched to fine issues by the spirit of God. To me the supernatural is not the cancelling of the natural, but its interpretation and its best education and development.

Some critics may be of opinion that I have devoted too much time, attention, and space to the consideration of the views of Mr H. G. Wells, as he is neither a great philosopher nor a learned theologian. (But he is, at all events, a man of large and varied knowledge, possessing at once great intellectual force and very rare intellectual honesty and sincerity. And, if Christian thinkers would indeed minister at all adequately to the wants of this perplexed and inquiring age, I believe that they must do so by addressing themselves chiefly to the vivid thoughts and feelings of detached, unsystematic, and more or less representative minds, rather than to the dry-as-dust professors of an antiquated learning that has well-nigh lost all true vitality.