

**THE GOSPEL  
ACCORDING  
TO DARWIN**

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The Gospel according to Darwin by Woods Hutchinson

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"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.

Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard."—PSALMS xix. 1-3.

"For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things of the law, these \* \* are a law unto themselves: which shew the work of the law written in their hearts."—ROMANS ii. 14.

"And as Natural Selection works solely by and for the good of each being, all corporal and mental endowments will tend to progress toward perfection. There is a grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers having been breathed by the Creator into a few forms as into one; and that while this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed laws of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been and are being evolved."—DARWIN. (*Origin of Species*).

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BY  
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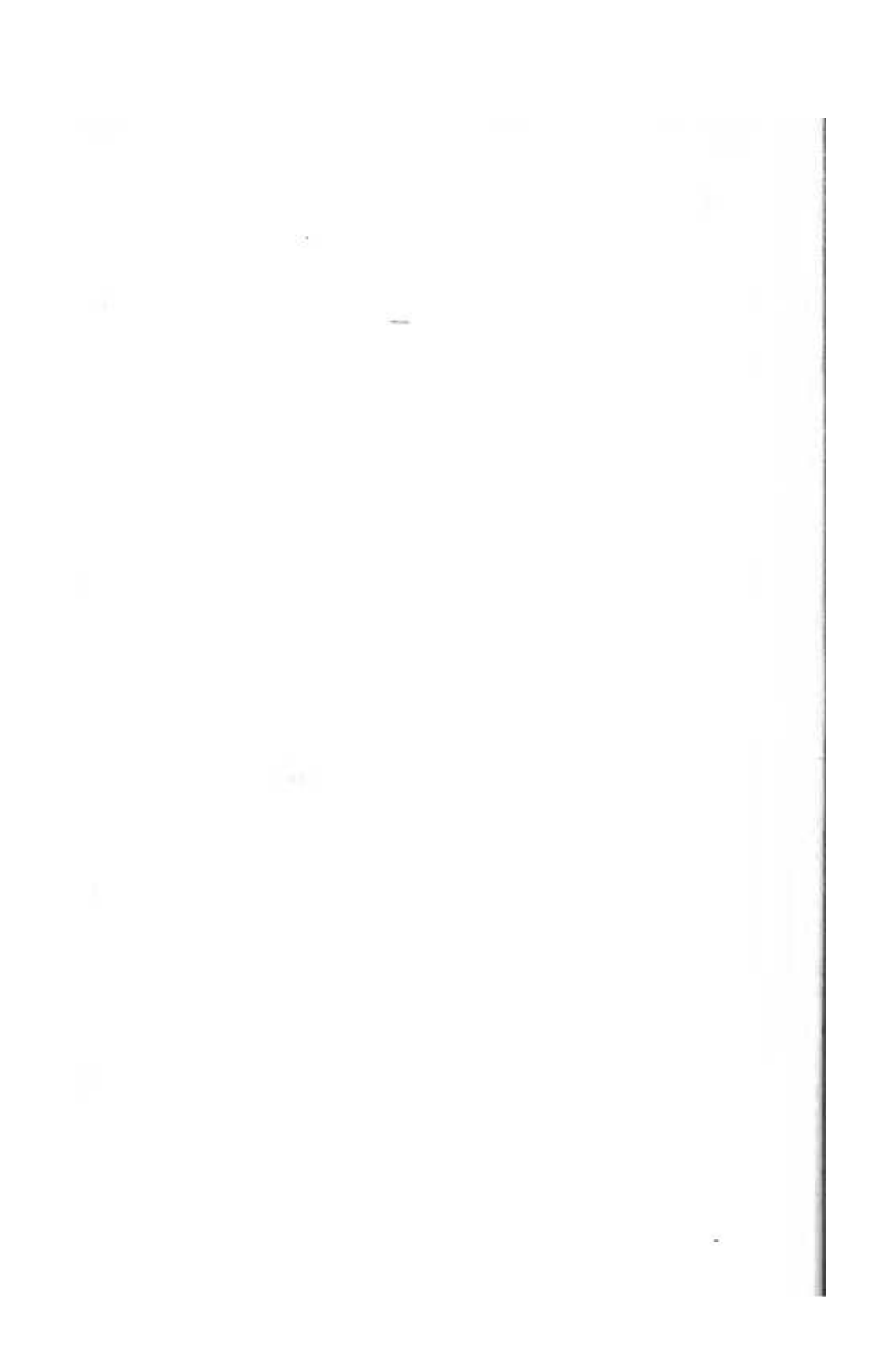
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TO  
MY WIFE,  
WITHOUT WHOSE SYMPATHY AND  
ASSISTANCE  
THIS LITTLE VOLUME  
COULD NOT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN.



## PREFACE.

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THE purpose of a preface is twofold. First, to disarm, in advance, the criticism of the reader—not to mention the reviewer. Second, to explain what the author would have done—if he could.

To the former end I wish simply to say that it is in no sense the purpose of this little volume to furnish a system of ethical or religious thought, or the germ of a new religion, as perhaps its title might lead some to infer, least of all to enunciate truths which are original with, or peculiar to its author. It is merely an attempt to get a bird's-eye view of a few of the influences affecting human hope and human happiness from the standpoint of that view of and attitude towards the universe which is best expressed by the term Darwinism.

This term is not used of course in the narrow sense of the personal views of Charles Darwin in contrast with those of other evolutionists, be they his predecessors or his successors, but simply as typifying the evolutionary movement and its wonderful consequences by the name of its greatest thinker and ablest champion, who first made the theory of evolution credible or even thinkable.

Its effort is to show that this attitude possesses a broad and secure basis for courage and happiness in the present and hope for the future.