

**TO CHRIST
THROUGH
CRITICISM**

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To Christ Through Criticism by Richard W. Seaver

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RICHARD W. SEAVER

**TO CHRIST
THROUGH
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TO CHRIST THROUGH CRITICISM

TO THE
VERY REV. J. H. BERNARD, D.D.

DEAN OF ST PATRICK'S
ARCHBISHOP KING'S LECTURER ON DIVINITY
FELLOW OF TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN

PIGNUS OBSERVANTIÆ

TO CHRIST
THROUGH CRITICISM

BY

RICHARD W. SEAVER, M.A., B.D.

SCHOLAR, AND SENIOR MODERATOR IN MENTAL AND MORAL SCIENCE:
DONNELLAN LECTURER, TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN:
RECTOR OF ST JOHN'S, MALONE, BELFAST

*Containing the substance of the Donnellan Lectures delivered
before the University of Dublin, 1905-6*

EDINBURGH
T. & T. CLARK, 38 GEORGE STREET
1906

PREFACE

It has been my endeavour throughout these pages to indicate rather the trend than the result of modern religious thinking. There is an increasing number of Christian people whom the traditional presentation of Christianity—Anglican or Genevan—has ceased to influence. The imminent danger is that they, identifying Theology with Religion, Scholasticism with the Faith of Christ, may tacitly consider themselves outside the Christian Fellowship.

This class I mainly had in mind as I wrote, with whose mental attitude I largely sympathise, the loss of whose virile qualities to the Church must prove an incalculable disaster. Such—reversing the orthodox procedure, but “according to Christ Jesus”—I would urge to take Him, in the first instance, as Spiritual Teacher, Guide, Master, till perchance, from their experience of “following Jesus in the way,” He may at length approve Himself as indeed the Saviour Christ.

I have no fear lest he, who can now in heart and conscience call himself a disciple of Jesus,

may find some other test confronting him in God's Judgment Day.

There are passages here, I am aware, which to some may appear inconclusive, unsatisfactory, incapable of being labelled in any systematic category. God's many-sided truth, as it seems to me, refuses at times to be exactly comprehended in our formal schemes of theology. The honest leaving of a question unsolved is better and more reverent than a vain assumption of infallibility, in the endeavour to be consistent with the requirements of a cast-iron theory.

The date on which I pen these prefatory lines reminds me, were I at all likely to forget, of the indebtedness which I most gratefully acknowledge to that Catholic Brotherhood whose writings have so often proved themselves mental stimulus and spiritual enlightenment.

RICHARD W. SEAVER.

All Saints' Day, 1906.

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