

**THE SCEPTIC'S CREED: CAN IT BE
REASONABLY HELD? IS IT WORTH
THE HOLDING? A REVIEW OF THE
POPULAR ASPECTS OF MODERN
UNBELIEF**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649698264

The Sceptic's Creed: Can It Be Reasonably Held? Is It worth the Holding? A Review of the Popular Aspects of Modern Unbelief by Nevison Loraine

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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NEVISON LORAINÉ

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THE SCEPTIC'S CREED.

"Bacon seized the just view respecting *credulity*, seeing plainly that 'to *disbelieve* is to believe." If one man believes that there is a God, and another that there is no God, whichever holds the less reasonable of these two opinions is chargeable with credulity. For the only way to avoid credulity and incredulity—the two necessarily going together—is to listen to, and yield to, the best evidence, and to believe and disbelieve on good grounds."—Essay xvi., *Whately's Annotations*.

"He fought his doubts and gather'd strength;
He would not make his judgment blind;
He faced the spectres of the mind
And laid them: thus he came at length
To find a stronger faith his own."

In Memoriam.

THE
SCEPTIC'S CREED:

*CAN IT BE REASONABLY HELD?
IS IT WORTH THE HOLDING?*

A Series of the Popular Aspects of Modern Unbelief.

BY
NEVISON LORAINÉ,

VICAR OF GROVE PARK WEST, LONDON.

*Author of "The Church and Liberties of England," "Discourses
on the Lord's Prayer," etc.*

London:
HODDER AND STOUGHTON,
27, PATERNOSTER ROW.

MDCCLXXXV.

923 . f . 2 .



BUTLER & TANNER,
THE SELWOOD PRINTING WORKS,
FROME, AND LONDON.

PREFACE.

IT is frequently observed that "the Pulpit does not sufficiently deal with questions of the day." To meet that objection, in my own case, I invited my congregation to suggest topics for a series of Sunday evening discourses.

Among the subjects proposed was "The Sceptic's Creed—an examination of popular aspects of Unbelief." This proposal commanded my instant sympathy and prompt compliance.

New difficulties of belief, old and often-answered objections, arrayed in modern

attire, the hasty speculations of unfriendly science, and many plausible objections to revealed religion, find place in the pages of current literature. A most active Atheist and Secularist propaganda is eagerly striving by popular lectures, extensively delivered, and cheap publications, very diligently circulated, to spread unbelief in its coarsest and crudest forms. Among different classes of society, in addition to open denial and defined unbelief, there exists a widely-spread disturbance of religious conviction and much indefinite doubt in respect even of the very foundations of the ancient faith. These facts are my apology for giving a larger circulation and more permanent form to my discourses on *The Sceptic's Creed*. I developed my notes into a lecture, which was delivered, as one of

a series on Modern Unbelief, to the Young Men's Christian Association at Liverpool and elsewhere. And now, at the request of many friends, I venture to publish it, somewhat enlarged, but otherwise very slightly altered from its original form. Both in substance and style it is intended as a popular treatment of the subject. Large and learned treatises, dealing exhaustively with various aspects of unbelief, exist in great variety. Very many, however, of those who are disturbed with sceptical questions or distressed with religious doubt, and who have neither leisure nor, it may be, inclination to engage in recondite research, may yet be willing and even anxious to read some easy handbook. To such doubters and inquirers, specially among young men, I offer, with fraternal sympathy, my little volume. I trust, not