

**THE LEAVEN AT WORK; OR,
SOME OF THE CONCESSIONS
OF ORTHODOXY IN THE
DIRECTION OF UNIVERSALISM**

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The Leaven at Work; Or, Some of the Concessions of Orthodoxy in the Direction of
Universalism by J. W. Hanson

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IN THE DIRECTION OF

UNIVERSALISM.

The kingdom of heaven resembles leaven that a woman took and
concealed in three measures of meal till the whole was leavened.

JESUS THE CHRIST.

BY

J. W. HANSON, D.D.

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1893

I'm apt to think the man
That could surround the sum of things, and spy
The heart of God and secrets of His empire,
Should speak but love; with him the bright result
Should change the hue of intermediate scenes,
And make one thing of all theology.

GAMBOLD.

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INTRODUCTORY.

THIS volume contains material illustrative of the reformation—revolution rather—that the now departing century has experienced and is experiencing in religious thought and opinion relative to human destiny. The Reformation of Luther left untouched the fundamental errors of the mediæval creeds, but it opened the flood-gates of light, and prepared the minds of men for the reformation *of* the Reformation, for the perception and reception of forgotten truths. Those truths are contained in germ in an accurate view of the Divine character, which necessitates the essentials of a genuine Christianity.

When the first promulgators of Universalism as a distinct system, in its modern re-discovery, had reached the correct view of God as a Father, and discarded the idea then prevalent that he is a mere governor and executioner, they not only gave the world the germ of a new theodicy, but they deposited in the heart of Christendom an influence destined to give a new direction to all the currents of its life, a divine leaven whose fermentation was to transform, reform the beliefs of the Christian world. Already the most marvellous improvement has taken place.