THE BIBLE AND MODERN LIFE: AND BIBLE WORDS AND PHRASES

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The Bible and Modern Life: And Bible Words and Phrases by Joseph S. Auerbach

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JOSEPH S. AUERBACH

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JOSEPH S. AUERBACH, A.M., LITT.D.

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TO

A BEAUTIFUL SOUL

I see thee richly dowered with the pride
Of youth's estate, and tremulous with joy
Agaze on its expanse, eyes wonder-wide
To window a pure soul without alloy
Of vaunting self, but of zeal measureless
For an abundant life; though of years long
Thy faltering frailty could not brook the stress
Nor leave with earth thy ministry and song.

And since thy radiant task was not full done
To thy desire, belike in gladdened sphere
With spirits kin to thine, if such there be,
Thou art the Ardor of new homage won,
Yet Vigil's smile to loving purpose here,
Votaress of life and immortality.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Ar the request of a great number of readers, "The Bible and Modern Life," included in Essays and Miscellanies, by Joseph S. Auerbach, is now reprinted as a separate volume.

It is a unique and notable work; for, though numberless worthy books have been written on the Bible as a Book of religion and of literature, few if any authors have ever succeeded, within such limited space, in presenting these two claims with such sustained eloquence and power.

Its value cannot be fully appreciated until this double purpose is understood. As the New York Times Book Review says, in an enthusiastic though discriminating article:

While no critical conclusion as to the textual or higher criticism is ignored, the Bible in this presentation is not only a great Book of literature, but a

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

great Book of inspiration and of religion. It is difficult to overstate this intellectual accomplishment.

Then, too, such a view as that of Mr. Nicholas Murray Butler (President of Columbia College) must be borne in mind:

It is a powerful aid in regaining the lost knowledge of this Book of Books.

For if we are wise we must admit that for this lost knowledge the world can have no real substitute. And until we come back to an understanding of the deep significance of what that knowledge was, both for its ethical as well as its literary value, men will not have, as they once had, a right point of view of life or a true realization of the wealth of the language of the emotions.

Moreover, "The Bible and Modern Life" is written for a distinctly practical end, inasmuch as it is intended as a persuasive introduction to this Book of Books and an incentive to turn again to its wisdom and inspiration with affection and reverence. To put it differently, it is an index to imperishable spiritual and literary treasures without which—whatever else we may possess—we are poor indeed.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

No man who studies this volume can fail to be wiser and equipped with greater proficiency for work or thought, whatever may be his vocation in life.

As Bishop Greer says: "It is a reverent, scholarly, and illuminating appreciation which will open the eyes of its readers to the wonderful truth and beauty of the Bible."