

**THE PHILOSOPHY OF INGERSOLL  
TO PLOW IS TO PRAY TO  
PLANT IS TO PROPHECY AND THE  
HARVEST ANSWERS AND FULFILLS**

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The Philosophy of Ingersoll to Plow Is to Pray to Plant Is to Prophecy and the Harvest Answers  
and Fulfils by Vere Goldthwaite

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**VERE GOLDTHWAITE**

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The  
Philosophy of Ingersoll

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EDITED AND  
ARRANGED BY

VERE GOLDTHWAITE



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tion of Col. Ingersoll's Com-  
plete Works. Copyright, 1900.*

TO  
THE MEMORY OF MY MOTHER  
LOMA ARMOUR-GOLDTHWAITE

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## PREFACE

*Probably no man or woman of history has been so universally misjudged as Robert G. Ingersoll. Those who did not know him personally,—and they were of course the greater number,—believed him a mere, mental gladiator, rudely disturbing the foundations of established faith, and giving nothing better in return. Many, who never heard him speak, or read a word of his, thought him incapable of giving to the world any system of constructive philosophy—some even going so far as to question his sincerity.*

*This book is published to dispel in some measure that belief, and is submitted to the public with the single hope that it may be read without prejudice and criticized without fear.*

*I acknowledge with gratitude much personal kindness received from Mr. C. P. Farrell and the members of Col. Ingersoll's family.*

VERE GOLDTHWAITE.

BOSTON, MASS., January 1, 1906.



## BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR

*Robert Green Ingersoll was born in Dresden, County of Yates, New York, on the 11th day of August in the year 1833, and died at "Walston," Dobb's Ferry-on-Hudson, July 21, 1899.*

*He was a teacher, a lawyer, a soldier, a statesman, a diplomat, an author, a lecturer and an honest man. He was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress in 1860; organized the 11th Illinois Cavalry in 1862, and went to war as its first Colonel; was Attorney-General of Illinois in 1866, and declined the post of Minister (now Ambassador) to Germany in 1877. During several presidential campaigns he was prominently connected with politics, and in 1876 startled the world with his brilliant eulogy of James G. Blaine, in a speech delivered before the Cincinnati Convention of that year which nominated Rutherford B. Hayes for President of the United States. This speech, says Mr. Justice Brewer, in his "Library of the World's Best Orations," was probably the most celebrated speech ever made in an American convention.*

*About the early life of Ingersoll little that could be called authentic was ever published up to as late as the year 1888, for in that year Col. Ingersoll himself said: "I have never given to any one a sketch of my life. According to my idea, a life should not be written until it has been lived." (Vol. XII, p. 358, Dresden Edition.) This memoir, however, is published with the approval of the late Colonel's family and can therefore be considered reliable.*

*Ingersoll's father was a Congregational clergyman, but it is not true that there was ever any coldness existing between him and his gifted son because of their respective theological or anti-theological views. On the contrary, their relations were of the kindest and most confidential character, and the father died in the Colonel's arms, won over to many of his gifted son's most radical beliefs.*

*It is also a mistake to suppose, as many people do, that Ingersoll ever denied the existence of a God. On that subject he neither denied nor affirmed, he simply said, "I do not know." Recent publications, however, still*