

**ESSAYS FOR THE TIMES:
STUDIES OF EMINENT MEN
AND IMPORTANT LIVING
QUESTIONS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649293360

Essays for the times: studies of eminent men and important living questions by E. H. Dewart

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

E. H. DEWART

**ESSAYS FOR THE TIMES:
STUDIES OF EMINENT MEN
AND IMPORTANT LIVING
QUESTIONS**

LE
D 5012d

ESSAYS FOR THE TIMES.

STUDIES OF EMINENT MEN

AND

IMPORTANT LIVING QUESTIONS.

REV. E. H. DEWART, D.D.

TORONTO:
WILLIAM BRIGGS,
WESLEY BUILDINGS.

MONTREAL: C. W. COATES.

HALIFAX: S. F. HUESTIS.

1898

24470
6/3/99

BR
85
D48

Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year one thousand
eight hundred and ninety-eight, by WILLIAM HUGGS, at the Department of
Agriculture.

THE AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

EVERY author who appeals to the public to purchase and read a new book, should have a reason to give for such a demand. Some people think, because of the vast number of books already in existence, that there can be no need for publishing new books. But the literature of a country or age is the record of its thought and progressive life; and, unless all mental activity should cease, there must be a necessity for some literary expression of the thoughts of the thoughtful on subjects of living interest. Besides, it should be borne in mind that every age has its own forms of error, which require some suitable exposure or refutation in the religious literature which is provided for the people.

As every Essay in this volume was written, because the subject discussed took a special hold of my thoughts, and was felt to be a living question requiring to be studied and discussed, I have been led to think that their publication in book form would interest and help many readers, who have not had the same time and opportunity for studying these subjects.

I was confirmed in this opinion by re-reading my review of "The Life and Letters of Frederic W. Robertson," published in the *Methodist Quarterly Review*, of New York, over thirty years ago. I was gratified to find how well the views then expressed have stood the test of time, and how strikingly my opinion of the tendency of Robertson's theological views has been justified by the developments of recent years. I may venture to claim for this article

that it presents an appreciative recognition of Robertson's great intellectual gifts and moral courage, while fairly pointing out some of his unsound and fanciful doctrinal theories. As Robertson's sermons are still widely read, this Essay should possess a living interest for many readers. James Arminius, the eminent Dutch theologian, is a subject of even greater interest; not merely because of his far-reaching influence on theological belief, but also because the great majority of those who hold his views of Scripture truth know very little about his noble character and stirring life-history.

In "Questionable Tendencies in Current Theological Thought," I have pointed out some exaggerations of truth, against which it is necessary to guard at the present time. "Theological Teaching in Public Schools" is a subject of special living interest. The same may be said of such questions as: "What Should Ministers Preach?" and "Is the World Growing Worse?" If the views I have presented, in answer to these and other questions discussed in this volume, are sound and scriptural, I may indulge a hope that the book will be instructive, as well as interesting, to younger ministers and other seekers after truth who read it.

The essay on Charles Sangster, and the selections from the Poems I have written since the publication of my "Songs of Life," may interest readers to whom Poetry is more attractive than Theology. As these articles were written at widely different times and for different periodicals, each Essay discusses the subject of which it treats without regard to what may have been said in any other Essay in the volume.

E. H. DEWART.

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1898

CONTENTS.

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| I. ROBERTSON OF BRIGHTON | 7 |
| II. CHARLES SANGSTER, A CANADIAN POET OF THE LAST GENERATION | 38 |
| III. JAMES ARMINIUS, THE GREAT DUTCH THEOLOGIAN . | 52 |
| IV. QUESTIONABLE TENDENCIES IN CURRENT THEOLOGICAL THOUGHT | 71 |
| V. THE TÜBINGEN SCHOOL OF CRITICISM | 87 |
| VI. CONFESSIONS AND RETRACTIONS OF AN EMINENT SCIENTIST | 99 |
| VII. WHAT SHOULD MINISTERS PREACH? | 109 |
| VIII. MORAL TEACHING OF THE OLD TESTAMENT . . . | 115 |
| IX. THE LAST OF THE GREAT PROPHETS | 125 |
| X. IS THE WORLD GROWING WORSE? | 155 |
| XI. THEOLOGY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS | 161 |

LATER POEMS

Written since the publication of "Songs of Life."

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| THE LONG VICTORIAN REIGN - | 171 |
| TO THE CANADIAN NIGHT-HAWK | 173 |
| ON THE DEATH OF LORD TENNYSON | 175 |
| THEN AND NOW | 177 |
| OUR DEAR DEAD BOY | 183 |
| DEATH OF JOHN KEATS | 187 |
| LINES TO A PESSIMIST | 190 |
| CHRISTMASTIDE | 193 |
| THE SONG OF THE WIND | 194 |
| WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE | 197 |

ESSAYS FOR THE TIMES.

I.

ROBERTSON OF BRIGHTON.*

SOME men owe their chief distinction to the circumstances with which they happen to be connected. Others owe little to externals, and interest us mainly by the history of their interior life—by what they thought and felt, the development of their moral and intellectual power. There is no doubt that every thoughtful mind has an inward history, which if it could be distinctly portrayed would prove worthy of attention and study. These volumes are pre-eminently a mental history, which chains our attention by laying bare the growth, conflicts and thinkings of a gifted and impassioned soul. It is frequently said that the organized associations which occupy every department of human activity, and other features of this age, are unfavorable to the development of individuality of character. The most laudable efforts of the solitary artisan are eclipsed and superseded by the result of the combined skill and

* "Life and Letters of Frederick W. Robertson, M.A.," Incumbent of Trinity Chapel, Brighton, 1847-53. Edited by Stopford A. Brooke, M.A., late Chaplain to the Embassy at Berlin. In two volumes. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 1865.