

**MISTAKEN SIGNS: AND
OTHER PAPERS
ON CHRISTIAN
LIFE AND EXPERIENCE**

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Mistaken Signs: And Other Papers on Christian Life and Experience by W. L. Watkinson

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W. L. WATKINSON

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*OTHER PAPERS ON CHRISTIAN LIFE
AND EXPERIENCE.*

BY

REV. W. L. WATKINSON.

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TO

MRS. JAMES WALKER,

EASTRANK, BOLTON;

IN RECOGNITION OF MANY KINDNESSES,

AND WITH MUCH RESPECT

AND SYMPATHY.

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I.

MISTAKEN SIGNS.

'Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this.'—ECCLES. vii. 10.

ON the whole we may confidently affirm that the world improves, and yet in certain moods we are apt to regard its condition as increasingly desperate. Thus we are persuaded as it sometimes with our religious life—we mistake the signs of progress for those of retrogression, and through this mistake do injustice to ourselves. There is always, of course, the danger of regarding ourselves with too indulgent eye, but with really sincere men the chief peril, we must insist, lies the other way: they more frequently write unjustifiably bitter things against themselves than lay flattering unction to their soul.

'The mind,
An artist at creating self-alarms,'

is not more ingenious or fertile in creating needless fears about the natural life than it is in creating such