

**THE BIBLE OF NATURE; OR, THE
PRINCIPLES OF SECULARISM:
A CONTRIBUTION TO THE
RELIGION OF THE FUTURE**

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The bible of nature; or, The principles of secularism: a contribution to the religion of the future
by Felix L. Oswald

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FELIX L. OSWALD

**THE BIBLE OF NATURE; OR, THE
PRINCIPLES OF SECULARISM:
A CONTRIBUTION TO THE
RELIGION OF THE FUTURE**

GIFT OF IRVING LEVINE
THE

BIBLE OF NATURE;

OR, THE

PRINCIPLES OF SECULARISM.

A Contribution to the Religion of the Future.

BY

6319
FELIX L. OSWALD.

"Light is help from Heaven."—G. E. LESSING.

NEW YORK:
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28 LAFAYETTE PLACE.

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1888.

TO
THE MEMORY OF
BENEDICT SPINOZA,

THIS WORK IS REVERENTLY DEDICATED

BY THE AUTHOR.

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GIFT OF IRVING LEVY

THE BIBLE OF NATURE ; OR, THE PRIN-
CIPLES OF SECULARISM.

INTRODUCTION.

From the dawn of authentic history to the second century of our chronological era the nations of antiquity were beguiled by the fancies of supernatural religions. For fifteen hundred years the noblest nations of the Middle Ages were tortured by the insanities of an antinatural religion. The time has come to found a Religion of Nature.

The principles of that religion are revealed in the monitions of our normal instincts, and have never been wholly effaced from the soul of man, but for long ages the consciousness of their purpose has been obscured by the mists of superstition and the systematic inculcation of baneful delusions. The first taste of alcohol revolts our normal instincts ; nature protests against the incipience of a ruinous poison-vice ; but the fables of the Bacchus priests for centuries encouraged that vice and deified the genius of intemperance. Vice itself blushed to mention the immoralities of the pagan gods whose temples invited the worship of the heavenly-minded. Altars were erected to a goddess of lust, to a god of wantonness, to a god of thieves.