

**GOSPELS OF YESTERDAY:  
DRUMMOND:  
SPENCER: ARNOLD**

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Gospels of yesterday: Drummond: Spencer: Arnold by Robert A. Watson

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**ROBERT A. WATSON**

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GOSPELS OF YESTERDAY.

# GOSPELS OF YESTERDAY.

*DRUMMOND : SPENCER : ARNOLD.*

BY

ROBERT A. WATSON, M.A.

"Ah, what pitfalls are in that word Nature!"

MATTHEW ARNOLD.

"Let us speak naturally and like philosophers."

SIR THOMAS BROWNE.

LONDON:

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MDCCLXXXVIII.

To write frankly on Christian topics without offending some Christians, or on scientific topics from a Christian point of view without earning the scorn of some scientists, is, one may say, an impossible task. The fate of those who still maintain that there is positive doctrine in Christianity and at the same time divine munificence, a real creed to be believed and contended for, a great gift freely bestowed on the world—the fate of all such is to run the gauntlet between derision and denunciation. One of these essays has already been called the work of an agnostic and the fruit of envy. Its appearance in a new form may only expose it to fresh condemnation of the same kind. As for the others, are they not wanting in courtesy towards men who are most courteous? But a critic is not always bound to speak under breath lest he should appear rude or incur derision. He may brave fate if he will, is bound to do so if it seems possible to advance even one point of truth against fatal error. Science and philosophy are just now in that irritable state which betrays secret doubt; and an attack on opinions may be more disturbing than one would imagine, because those who are committed to theories feel themselves on very thin ice which may yield anywhere. If this be so, however, it

is neither improper nor unkind to them to use strong language; and, besides, they pose as guides. That they are all engaged, according to their own account, in leading people off the ice marks the irony of the situation.

It is only needful to say further that the first essay, the substance of which appeared in the *Contemporary Review*, is rewritten and expanded for this volume, and to thank the proprietors of the *British and Foreign Evangelical Review* for leave to reprint the last of the papers.



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*THE GOSPEL OF THE HIGHER BIOLOGY.*

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HENRY DRUMMOND.