

**INSPIRATION AND  
THE BIBLE:  
AN INQUIRY**

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Inspiration and the Bible: An Inquiry by Robert F. Horton

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*INSPIRATION AND THE BIBLE.*



### Press Notices on the First Edition.

"We must content ourselves with expressing a hearty approval of Mr. Horton's able and courageous treatment of his subject. A more rational, and at the same time reverent, handling of this difficult topic of inspiration could not be. . . . The churches owe him a debt of gratitude for this powerful apology."—*Full Mail Gazette*.

"We give the heartiest welcome to this book for the sake of what it is, and for the sake of the promise of what will be done by its author in the maturer years to which we trust he will be spared. To write a really fresh book on 'Inspiration' is a great achievement. And this is a fresh book. Mr. Horton has that to say which is worth saying, and he says it well. . . . We again very earnestly commend this really wise and conservatively toned work to our senior class teachers, who will find it invaluable as a help, if they allow it to direct their own studies."—*Sunday School Chronicle*.

"It will be found to be a good summary, written in no iconoclastic spirit, but with perfect candour and fairness, of some of the more important results of recent Biblical criticism."—*Scotsman*.

"Comprehensive and lucid in treatment, devout and frank in spirit, it is a timely contribution to this important doctrine."—*Christian Leader*.

"This is an interesting, well-written book. . . . We cannot but commend the book."—*Scottish Leader*.

"In the present distress I can think of no better book than a freshly-written and stimulating, though necessarily incomplete, volume by Mr. R. F. Horton, called 'Inspiration and the Bible,' which displays in a high degree that sympathy with our weak brethren which is no less essential to the teacher than critical insight."—*Cannon Chayne in paper read at Church Congress, 1888*.

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# INSPIRATION AND THE BIBLE

*AN INQUIRY*

ROBERT F. HORTON, M.A.

*Late Fellow of New College, Oxford*

THIRD EDITION

*1st ed. 1888*

*C*  
**London**

T. FISHER UNWIN

26 PATERNOSTER SQUARE

MDCCLXXXIX

"The only question concerning the truth of Christianity is, whether it be a real revelation, not whether it be attended with every circumstance which we should have looked for; and concerning the authority of Scripture, whether it be what it claims to be, not whether it be a book of such sort, and so promulgated, as weak men are apt to fancy a book containing a Divine revelation should. And therefore neither obscurity, nor seeming insecurity of style, nor various readings, nor early disputes, about the authors of particular parts; nor any other things of the like kind, though they had been much more considerable in degree than they are, could overthrow the authority of the Scripture; unless the prophets, apostles, or our Lord had promised that the book containing the Divine revelation should be secure from those things."

BUTLER: *Analogy*, part ii. ch. iii.





## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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*I must ask my readers to remember that this is only an inquiry. If they assume it is anything more they must inevitably be disappointed. Some of my critics have complained that the work is destructive; the constructive element in it is given rather in the way of hint and suggestion than in a final and satisfactory form; of this fault I am painfully conscious. But to me, at any rate, the work of destruction is only a step to better and more permanent construction. Where narrow and partial views of Inspiration prevail, it is impossible to shape that nobler conception and doctrine of Inspiration for which the Church is at present waiting.*

*In the midst of many severe, and some unjust, attacks upon my work I have had abundant evidence, for which I humbly thank God, that "Inspiration and the Bible" has helped some inquiring spirits to make the difficult step from a traditional dogmatism into a position of greater strength and security; and with the fervent prayer that others may be helped, I issue a Second Edition.*

viii PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

*If God grant me life and strength and opportunity, it is my great desire to issue a companion volume, "Revelation and the Bible," in which I shall try to review, sum up and estimate, those incalculable treasures of spiritual truth and practical help which have been stored up for our use by our Gracious God in the Inspired Book.*

*Should some other hand, abler than mine, be led to forestall me in this attempt, none will rejoice with a more genuine joy than the author of the present little book.*

ROBERT F. HORTON.

October, 1888.