# INSPIRATION AND THE BIBLE: AN INQUIRY

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

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## **ROBERT F. HORTON**

# INSPIRATION AND THE BIBLE: AN INQUIRY



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## INSPIRATION AND THE BIBLE

AN INQUIRY

ROBERT F. HORTON, M.A.

Late Fellow of New College, Oxford

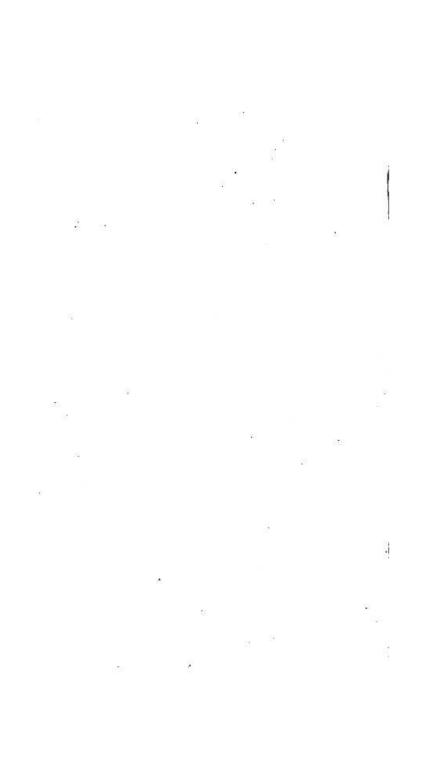
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"The only question concerning the truth of Christianity is, whether it be a real revelation, not whether it be attended with every circumstance which we should have looked for; and concerning the authority of Scripture, whether it be what it claims to be, not whether it be a book of such sort, and so promulgated, as weak men are ast to fancy a book containing a Divine revelation should. And therefore neither obscurity, not seeming inaccuracy 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.

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.