

REGENERATION

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Regeneration by Edmund H. Sears

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EDMUND H. SEARS

REGENERATION

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BY

EDMUND H. SEARS,

AUTHOR OF "FOREGLEAMS AND FORESHADOWS OF IMMORTALITY," "THE HEART OF CHRIST," ETC.

"The existing state of Christianity amongst those who profess it does not warrant the objection, that all further advance in the development of the perception we possess of its nature and application is impracticable or unnecessary. If we have the perfect conception of Christianity, we are making a lamentably imperfect application of it; for the world, alas! is to a very small extent under its power; if we have not the perfect conception of it, then every attempt to regard it from a more lofty moral point of view should be welcomed as a real and earnest attempt for the highest welfare of mankind."—MORILL.

1889

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PREFACE.

THE following treatise had passed through eight editions, and as it was still called for and seemed to have acquired a somewhat permanent place in our religious literature, I have prepared a new edition, corrected and enlarged, and made uniform with "The Heart of Christ." The corrections, however, are mainly verbal and typographical. The additions consist of an enlargement of Part II. and Part III. Impressed with the importance of the theme quite as much as when the work was first written, the author hopes that his treatment of it will still find a candid hearing among all denominations.

E. H. S.

CONTENTS.

INTRODUCTION	PAGE
------------------------	------

PART I.

THE NATURAL MAN.

CHAP. I. THEORIES	18
II. HEREDITARY CORRUPTION	18
III. ACQUIRED INSTINCTS	29
IV. TESTIMONY OF CONSCIOUSNESS	36
V. CHILDHOOD	40
VI. THE MYSTERY OF DEATH	46
VII. THE "ADAM" OF ST. PAUL	52
VIII. THE LAW OF DESCENT BENEFICENT	59

PART II.

THE SPIRITUAL NATURE.

CHAP. I. THE HOLY SPIRIT	67
II. ITS GENERAL AND SPECIAL INFLUENCE	73
III. SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE	81
IV. THE PRIMAL INNOCENCE	89
V. HUMAN LIFE IN ORGANIC UNITY	99
VI. LIGHT IN DARKNESS	105
VII. DISTINCTIONS	110
VIII. TOTAL DEPRAVITY	116

PART III.

THE NEW MAN.

CHAP. I.	REGENERATION	127
II.	CHOICE	142
III.	THE BOOKS OPENED	154
IV.	THE BOOKS OPENED	157
V.	THE BOOKS OPENED	167
VI.	ANOTHER BOOK OPENED	173
VII.	CONFLICT AND VICTORY	189
VIII.	THE MEDIATOR	197
IX.	GETSEMANE	215
X.	THE ATONEMENT	220
XI.	NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH	238
XII.	THE CHRISTIAN ASSURANCE	245
XIII.	RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT	255
XIV.	VICTAS	260

INTRODUCTION.

No higher question can be offered to the human intellect, than that of the method of salvation by Jesus Christ. Its unmeasured importance is obvious to us, whenever in contemplative mood we open the pages of the New Testament, and find that a splendid apparatus of means has been provided; for we know that this would not have been done unless momentous interests were at issue. These two questions, What are we? and Whither do we tend? will at times press painfully upon thoughtful minds, and demand an answer. Ideals of a better state are haunting them, and producing within them unutterable longings after peace.

There are three topics which cannot fail to command the interest and attention of those whose minds are revolving the great problem of life:—

The evil, depravity, and suffering involved in the human condition; the darkness that broods upon the earth and upon our own spirits.

Conceptions of a better state; dreams of perfec-