

**THE CHIEF THINGS;  
SECOND SERIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649384396

The chief things; Second series by A. W. Snyder

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**A. W. SNYDER**

**THE CHIEF THINGS;  
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*To that Important but Much-forgotten Creature*  
"THE AVERAGE MAN"  
I DEDICATE THIS LITTLE BOOK

TRANSFER DEC 30 1941



## Preface.

**T**HIS little book is respectfully dedicated to "The Average Man." He reads the newspapers and little else save works of fiction. Ordinarily he will not look at a theological book. Nor is it very strange. It does not generally appeal to him. It may be thoughtful and scholarly, but it is too bulky, and not always easily understood. It demands not a little time and patience. The "average man" has neither—to spare. If not scholarly, he is intelligent and thoughtful. He often thinks of the great questions of faith, duty and destiny, and will gladly hear them discussed, but it must be with becoming brevity, and in a language that he can understand. He has no time to waste, and so above all likes lucidity.

It is to this often forgotten man that the author makes his appeal for faith. He believes in what he says, and has tried to state what he has to say in a plain straightforward way—"in the language of to-day, to the men of to-day, for the needs of to-day."

In this he hopes he has not wholly failed. He will be more than glad should he help any one to Christian believing and living.

A. W. SNYDER.

*New York, Trinity Time, 1899.*



I.

THE NECESSITY OF BELIEF.

ROMANS XIV. 12.



## I.

### THE NECESSITY OF BELIEF.

PEOPLE are often roughly classed as believers and unbelievers, but it is an inaccurate, misleading classification. All men believe something. Every man has a belief of some sort unless he is an infant or an idiot. Every human being arrived at years of discretion, thinks. Every man thinks, has thoughts, convictions, opinions; and these constitute his beliefs. All men have their beliefs, such as they are; and their beliefs are to them, at least, of great importance. This will be granted readily enough, no doubt, as regards ordinary affairs, but possibly not so readily as regards religion. It must be seen, however, that the necessity of believing cannot be confined to the affairs of this life only. Not only must every man think, but he must have thoughts of some sort as to religion; must believe of God "That He is, and that He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him;" or that there is no God; or that if there be we can have no certain knowledge as to who He is, or as to His will and desire concerning us, or whether He has any. A man's thoughts may not be very clear or definite, still every man has,