

**THE RELIGION OF A
SENSIBLE
AMERICAN**

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The Religion of a Sensible American by David Starr Jordan

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DAVID STARR JORDAN

**THE RELIGION OF A
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THE RELIGION OF A SENSIBLE AMERICAN



BY DAVID STARR JORDAN



"Believe and venture; as for
pledges, the gods give none"

YONKERS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
WORLD BOOK COMPANY

1922

TO THE MEMORY OF
WILBUR WILSON THOBURN
PROFESSOR OF BIONOMICS
IN
STANFORD UNIVERSITY
BORN AT SINCLAIRSVILLE, OHIO
JUNE 10, 1859
DIED AT PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA
JANUARY 6, 1899

542529


PREFATORY NOTE



THE writer of this little book was asked by the Editor of "The Hibbert Journal" to write an article on "the religion of a sensible American," to be the second of a series covering the religious experiences of "sensible" men of different nations, the first being "the religion of a sensible Scotsman." The title assigned seemed to shut out the possibility of a personal confession of faith, even were such a confession acceptable. For that reason and for other reasons the writer chose to set forth the religious belief and work of a friend, no longer living; one who could stand without question as a sensible man, and one whose thought and whose life were typical of the best which we may call American.

In reprinting this article as a booklet it has been considerably extended in length by the inclusion of some matters omitted from the article as printed in "The Hibbert Journal."

D. S. J.

“UT of your lives
take the love
and sympathy,
the purity, the
truth, the ten-
der things, and all that
grows into the larger life.
Put these on the cold altar
of your heart. Cut out
those lonely words, ‘To an
unknown God,’ and write
‘Our Father.’ Then bow
before him. This is your
God. He will not with-
hold any good thing from
you if you walk uprightly.”

THE RELIGION
OF A
SENSIBLE AMERICAN

IN these pages I have tried to set forth the religion of a wise man, forceful and helpful, whose religion justified itself by swaying the lives of many young men and women toward noble thoughts and sturdy righteousness.

My friend was a man whose religion appeared in deeds rather than in words, more in life than in precept. But the power of speech was his and in good measure, and his words were often in demand at gatherings of students. After his untimely death, various memoranda of his notes and talks to young people were saved and brought together by his associates. For these fragments, privately printed and nowhere for sale, we chose a title which tells the whole of his religion in four clear words, "In Terms of Life." From these notes and from my own recollections I venture to reconstruct the religion of a "sensible American," a religion which, however incomplete, is not far from the ideal toward which