

**THE OUTERMOST RIM AND
BEYOND; A CONTRIBUTION
TOWARD PATIENCE, REVERENCE,
SILENCE AND SPIRITUALITY, IN THE
STUDY OF NATURE AND OF GOD**

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The outermost rim and beyond; a contribution toward patience, reverence, silence and spirituality, in the study of nature and of God by Charles Van Norden

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CHARLES VAN NORDEN

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AND BEYOND.

A CONTRIBUTION TOWARD PATIENCE, REVERENCE, SILENCE AND
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BY

CHARLES VAN NORDEN.

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"Philosophy begins in wonder."—PLATO.

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PREFACE.

THE following treatise is only a contribution toward reverential thought upon divine things and not an effort to end controversy. What it omits of sacred truth is not, therefore, to be held as denied, doubted or even slighted; and what it dwells upon is not purposely pushed forward into relatively undue prominence.

This little work does not presume to rebuild the ruins of the observatories of this or that school, but rather to show that patience and reverence and spirituality can study the heavens anywhere in the open fields. It is written in hope that it may strengthen faith and courage in the hearts of some that falter, panic-stricken over the perils which in this age beset the cause of religion; and it utters the firm and calm belief of the author, that, though stand-points may change and conceptions enlarge, the Truth will prevail.

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THE OUTERMOST RIM.

PART I.

CHAPTER I.

THE HORIZON.

“What an enigma then is man! What a strange chaotic, and contradictory being! Judge of all things, feeble earth-worm! depository of truth, mass of uncertainty! glory and butt of the Universe! If he boast himself, I abase him; if he humble himself, I glory in him; and I always contradict him till he comprehends that he is an incomprehensible monster.”—PASCAL.

ON the eastern shore of the Lake of Geneva there stands well-preserved an ancient castle, with draw bridge and moat, with turrets and donjon-keep. Time has dealt gently with Chillon, and the storms of ages have but roughened its walls for creepers and lichens. It rises from the blue waters of Lemán in the foreground and contrasts with the green slopes of Villeneuve in the background—colossal, formidable and picturesque as of old.

On one summer's day, three men of different