

**THE BIBLE AND REASON
AGAINST
ATHEISM: IN A SERIES
OF LETTERS TO A FRIEND**

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The Bible and Reason Against Atheism: In a Series of Letters to a Friend by Martin Luther Edwards

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MARTIN LUTHER EDWARDS

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ATHEISM,

IN

A Series of Letters to a Friend.

BY

A GENTLEMAN OF THE BAR.

Martin Luther Edwards

I AM—*Old Testament.*

One God and Father of All.—*New Testament.*

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PREFACE.

A few words are called for in the way of preface to the following pages. The occasion of which they are the outcome, seems to the writer to have been providential. Unsought, on his part, it certainly was. The correspondence, of which the volume so presented is a part, was commenced, and for some time continued, with no thought of its ever meeting the public eye. The chief reason for its publication is found in the importance of the subject treated, and in the attitude of the public mind in regard to it.

The style of the volume is of necessity controversial. This, in the minds of some, may add to its interest. It is to be hoped that the considerations presented will not, on such account, be less candidly weighed by any of its readers.

Claiming nothing on the score of originality, the writer has simply put forth what, from reading and reflection, he believes to be true,—and this without aiming to accommodate any particular class of thinkers.

In stating matters of history, and quoting the opinions and sentiments of authors, outside of the

Bible, the writer has not had access, to any extent, to original sources of information; and he here gratefully acknowledges his indebtedness therefor chiefly to the following works, which happened to be convenient:—Thayer on Infidelity; Manley's Biblical Review; Smith's Bible Dictionary; Paige's Commentaries; Paige's Selections from Eminent Commentators; Alger's Doctrine of a Future Life; Sawyer's Endless Punishment Examined; and the Encyclopædia Americana.

In preparing the correspondence for publication, liberty has been taken, here and there, to add or omit a word, or phrase, or sentence, or a few sentences—yet not so as to change the essential meaning. The greatest change has been made, mostly in the earlier numbers, in the way of condensation.

The writer is deeply sensible of the imperfection of his performance, and regrets his inability to treat the subject presented in a manner more befitting its importance. While he confesses some misgiving as to how the volume he presents may be received by the different classes of persons into whose hands it may come, yet, with strong confidence in the general correctness of its views, he ventures to send it forth, hoping it may contribute something toward the right settlement in the public mind of the momentous questions involved.

THE AUTHOR. •

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