

IN HIS IMAGE

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In His image by William Jennings Bryan

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WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

IN HIS IMAGE

*Dedicated to the memory of my
beloved parents*

SILAS LILLARD BRYAN
and
MARIAH ELIZABETH BRYAN

*to whom I am indebted for a Christian
environment in youth, during which they
instilled into my mind and imprinted
upon my heart the religious principles
which I have set forth and applied in
the lectures contained in this volume*

THE JAMES SPRUNT LECTURES

IN nineteen hundred and eleven, Mr. James Sprunt of Wilmington, North Carolina, by a gift to the Trustees of Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, established a lectureship in the Seminary for the purpose of enabling the institution to secure from time to time the services of distinguished men as special lecturers on subjects connected with various departments of Christian thought and Christian work. The lecturers are chosen by the Faculty and a committee of the Board of Trustees, and the lectures are published after their delivery in accordance with a contract between the lecturer and these representatives of the institution.

The lecturers up to the present have been :

REV. DAVID JAMES BURRELL, D. D., LL. D.

SIR WILLIAM M. RAMSAY, D. D., LL. D.

REV. PROF. JAMES STALKER, D. D.

REV. A. F. SCHAUFFLER, D. D.

REV. HARRIS E. KIRK, D. D.

PROF. C. ALPHONSO SMITH, PH. D., LL. D.

REV. A. H. MCKINNEY, D. D.

REV. G. CAMPBELL MORGAN, D. D.

REV. PROF. J. GRESHAM MACHEN, D. D.

HON. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN.

The tenth series is presented in this volume.

W. W. MOORE,

President.

Preface

THE invitation extended me by President Moore on behalf of Union Theological Seminary provided the opportunity for the presentation of an argument I had had in mind for years—an argument to the heart and mind of the average man, especially to the young. This purpose originated in two desires, one of which is to repay the debt of gratitude that I owe to my revered parents for having brought into my life the Christian principles upon which their own lives were builded. My appreciation of the importance of this early training has grown with the years. As those who brought me into the world, cared for me so tenderly during my early years and so conscientiously guarded and guided me during the formative period of my life, have passed to their reward, I know of no way in which this appreciation can be effectively expressed, except by transmitting these principles to others.

The second desire is to aid those who are passing from youth to maturity and grappling with problems incident to this critical age. Having spent eight years away from home, in academy, college and law school, I have reason to know the conflicts through which each individual has to pass, especially those who have the experience incident to college life. I never

can be thankful enough for the fact that I became a member of the Church before I left home and therefore had the benefit of the Church, the Sunday School and Christian friends during these trying days.

In these lectures I have had in mind two thoughts, first, the confirming of the faith of men and women, especially the young, in a Creator, all-powerful, all-wise, and all-loving, in a Bible, as the very Word of a Living God and in Christ as Son of God and Saviour of the world; second, the applying of the principles of our religion to every problem in life. My purpose is to prove, not only the fact of God, but the need of God, the fact of the Bible and the need of the Bible, and the fact of Christ and the need of a Saviour.

Therefore, I have chosen "In His Image" as the title of this series of lectures, because, in my judgment, all depends upon our conception of our place in God's plan. The Bible tells us that God made us in His image and placed us here to carry out a divine decree. He gave us the Scriptures as an authoritative guide and He gave us His Son to reveal the Father, to redeem man from sin and to furnish in His life and teachings an inspiring example by the following of which, man may grow in grace and in the knowledge of God.

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."

W. J. B.

Miami, Fla.

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