

**PROTESTANT
THOUGHTS,
IN RHYME**

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Protestant Thoughts, in Rhyme by Baptist W. Noel

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BAPTIST W. NOEL

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BY

BAPTIST W. NOEL, M.A.

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When nations are to perish in their sins,
'Tis in the church the leprosy begins.
.....
Then Ceremony leads her bigots forth,
Prepared to fight for shadows of no worth ;
While truths on which eternal things depend
Find not, or hardly find, a single friend.
As soldiers watch the signal of command,
They learn to bow, to kneel, to sit, to stand ;
Happy to fill Religion's vacant place
With hollow form, and gesture, and grimace.
.....
Their learning legendary, false, absurd,
And yet exalted above God's own word.

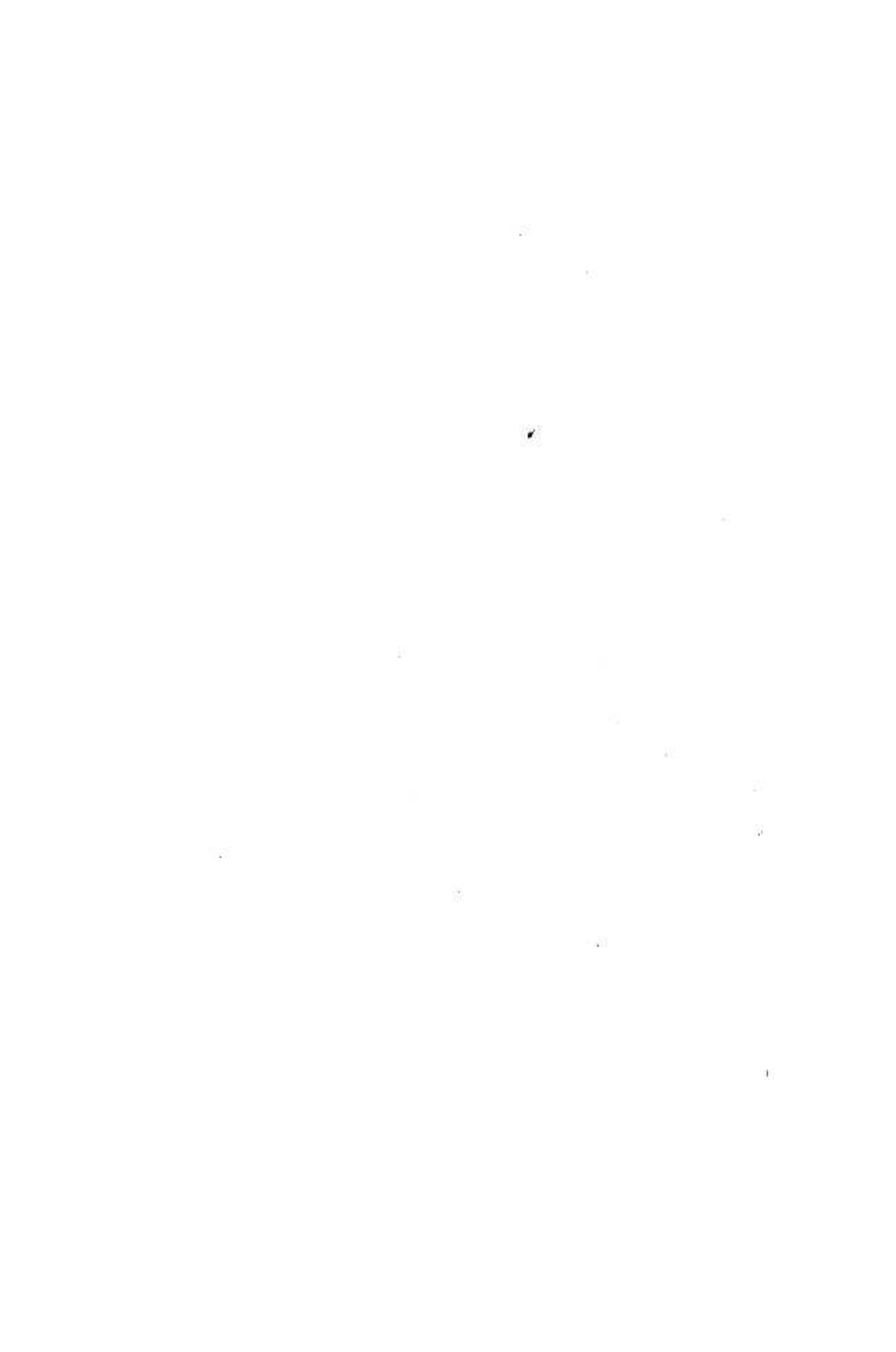
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PROTESTANT THOUGHTS.

THE OLD MAN'S DREAM.

I DREAMED last night a woeful dream,
Such as I'd fain forget ;
But thrilling as a woman's scream,
It haunts my spirit yet.

I seemed upon a raging sea,
My boat was small and frail ;
And the roaring winds had torn away
My rudder and my sail.

From evening till the morning dawned
I felt the tempest's power ;
And fearfully the ocean yawned,
As though it would devour.

I longed as never wretch before
To touch the distant land ;
And safe upon the quiet shore,
Escaped from dangers stand.

A weary watch I seemed to keep,
Toiling in wind and surf ;
But then I'd lay me down to sleep
Upon the verdant turf.

Famine had preyed upon my cheek,
And I was almost dead ;
But I should hear sweet voices speak,
And find enough of bread.

And I should cool my burning brow
With water from the spring ;
And lay me where the myrtles grow,
To hear the wild birds sing.

I reached it : 'twas a dismal land,
Where never herbage grew ;
A boundless continent of sand,
With neither rain nor dew.