

**THE ENLARGING
CONCEPTION
OF GOD**

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The enlarging conception of God by Herbert Alden Youtz

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HERBERT ALDEN YOUTZ

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OF GOD**

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CONCEPTION
OF GOD

BY

HERBERT ALDEN YOUTZ

PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY
AUBURN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

New York

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1914

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THIS BOOK
IS INSCRIBED WITH GRATITUDE AND AFFECTION
TO THE MEMORY OF
BORDEN PARKER BOWNE
PHILOSOPHER AND TEACHER
BY ONE OF HIS STUDENTS TO WHOM HE COMMUNICATED
SOMETHING OF HIS ZEAL FOR THE TRUTH WHICH
SETS FREE, AND SOMETHING OF HIS
ENTHUSIASM FOR THE TEACH-
ER'S LEAVENING POWER

PREFACE

THESE essays, with the exceptions of Chapters III and IV, were not originally designed to form chapters of a book. Chapter I is an address given before the New York State Conference of Religion. Chapters II and V were published in the *Harvard Theological Review*, by the courtesy of whose editors they are used here. The unity of theme and treatment, we believe, does not suffer from this undesigned assembling; and there is a gain in concreteness by reason of the fact that each chapter was intended to stand in its own right. Certain repetitions were almost inevitable, but all of the discussions have been revised to make the argument as concise as seemed consistent with its pedagogical purpose. The last chapter is a sermon preached to students; and as a "laboratory" example of the theological method advocated will be more effective than a theoretical discussion

of the subject. I make grateful acknowledgment here to many whose writings have helped me, from a number of whom I have quoted without specific acknowledgment.

HERBERT ALDEN YOUTZ.

AUBURN, N. Y.,

January 1, 1914.

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THE ENLARGING CONCEPTION OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

OF all the forms of human hunger, none are more persistent and universal than the hunger for the spiritual. "Man's search for God is as plain a fact as his search for food." To one who sympathetically traces in history this spiritual search, the pathos, the greatness, the sacredness of the quest for religious reality is awesome. No famine has ever starved and devastated like spiritual famine. On the other hand the great, courageous, conquering spirits of earth have been those who have gone forth "in the power of the spirit." Spiritual religion has been the energy of all great achievement. The motive and the leadership of all human progress have been supplied by men and women who, like Jesus, have had meat to eat which their followers knew not of.