

**THROUGH
FACTS TO FAITH**

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Through facts to faith by J. M. Thompson

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J. M. THOMPSON

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Being the
St. Margaret's Lectures for 1912

BY THE
REV. J. M. THOMPSON

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PREFACE

THE substance of this volume was delivered as the 'St. Margaret's Lectures' in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, during Lent, 1912, under the title of 'Miracles and the Christian Faith.'

In the previous year the Lecturer had published a book called *Miracles in the New Testament*, in which, after a critical discussion of the evidence, he suggested the conclusion that the alleged miracles either were not miraculous, or did not happen. The book did not profess to deal with the theological questions in which the problem of miracles is involved. In the few pages which were given to the discussion of such issues, all that could be done was to claim that the rejection of miracles is not incompatible with Christian faith.

In view of the discussion and other incidents to which the book gave rise, it was natural that the opportunity generously afforded by the Vicar of St. Margaret's should be used to develop the theological and constructive side of the argument.

Believing that the case against miracles had been

sufficiently proved, and finding no reason, in the argument of his critics, for withdrawing anything written in the book, the Lecturer, after devoting one hour to a summary of the critical position, spent the rest of his time in stating the positive principles that arise from that criticism, and in applying them to some main aspects of the Christian faith. The treatment was necessarily brief; but it is hoped that a consistent and positive line of thought can be traced throughout.

The lectures have been considerably revised since they were delivered. Were they to be kept back until they need no further improvement, they would never be published at all. It will be kind if those who read them will remember that their publication has to some extent been hurried on by the way in which the previous book was received.

But the time is too critical for extreme caution. Knowing how very many within the Church, clergy as well as laity, welcome the attempt to secure greater theological liberty, one cannot consent to a silence which some of those who are in authority vainly endeavour to impose.

J. M. T.