

THE FASCINATION OF THE BOOK

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The Fascination of the Book by Edgar Whitaker Work

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EDGAR WHITAKER WORK

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BY
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TO
MY REVERED TEACHER
EDWARD D. MORRIS
EMINENT IN THE GRACES OF CHARACTER
AND IN
THE GIFTS OF INTELLECT

PREFACE

THE author of this volume has sometimes thought that he would be glad to devote the remainder of his ministry to the simple task of helping men to see that the Bible is an interesting Book. He is aware that to some this might seem an insignificant task, while to others it might appear unduly ambitious, if not presumptuous. To himself it seems not unworthy and not without the insistence of pressing need.

The hour is apparently at hand when the church, with its affiliated organizations, is prepared to recognize that the problem that overtops every other is the problem of bringing the Word of God to the world, and bringing the world to the Word of God. To say this is not to forget the emphasis that has been rightfully laid in this generation upon Christian activity; but the very energy of this activity has revealed anew the necessity for close contact with the Scripture. Teaching and preaching, two functions that condition the very life of the church, must receive attention all the more because of the intellectual and spiritual vigor of the age. Despite the brilliancy of the modern pulpit, and the strength and resource of modern methods of biblical teaching, the conviction slowly dawns upon many that the church is not abreast of the educational spirit of the times. Religious education is by no means commen-