

**ABOVE AND
AROUND; THOUGHTS
ON GOD AND MAN**

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Above and Around; Thoughts on God and Man by John Hamilton

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JOHN HAMILTON

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BY

JOHN HAMILTON,

AUTHOR OF "THOUGHTS ON TRUTH AND ERROR," ETC.



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PREFATORY NOTICE.

THERE are three sources in the Bible from which thoughts on God and man find suggestions and help. *Historical* records, *prophetical* declarations, and *utterances which have evidence in themselves of their own truth.*

The two first depend upon proof that the writings are genuine and the writers authentic. The last has its proof and voucher in itself.

It is no want of respect to the two first-sources that *these thoughts* are chiefly suggested by the internal evidence of Scripture, followed up by such reasoning as this evidence leads the mind to. There are but few who can so test historical and prophetical writings as to ascertain that they are genuine and authentic; but any person of fair education can test those principles, the truth of which being *in* them shines out of them, and by

doing so gives a light which illuminates the truths that may be in the historical or prophetic writings.

In the confidence that thoughts founded on those principles which have their evidence in themselves, and, followed up in the line of those principles, will lead to essentially true conclusions, these pages are published. In the hope, too, that these thoughts may help to fill the chasm that separates and keeps asunder persons who, seeking the truth, should pull together ; for truly Bible and Reason, Religion and Science, are at one, and it is only by a distortion of these that they are made contrarities.

INTRODUCTION.

I WOULD fain introduce myself to you, my Reader, as an old friend, holding out my hand for a friendly grasp in return, depending for any satisfactory intercourse, as much, at least, upon your inclination to receive me favourably as upon my wish and endeavour to make a favourable impression on you.

I offer you this little book in the hope that you may get some good out of it ; but truly not in the hope that it will satisfy you, for that would be a most unsatisfactory failure of its purpose, which is rather to act as a *whet* to the appetite of inquiry than to supply what can even approach to the satiating that appetite which it should rather stimulate.

It is not in my thoughts that you will find here what I hope you look for, but if you will exercise your own mind in pursuing with me some " thoughts