

**NEW THOUGHTS
ON AN OLD BOOK**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649657506

New Thoughts on an Old Book by William A. Brown

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM A. BROWN

**NEW THOUGHTS
ON AN OLD BOOK**

NEW THOUGHTS ON AN OLD BOOK

BY
WILLIAM A. BROWN



THE ABINGDON PRESS
NEW YORK CINCINNATI

ANDOVER HARVARD
THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

H 47, 100

Copyright, 1920, by
WILLIAM A. BROWN

The Bible text used in this volume is taken from the American Standard Edition of the Revised Bible, copyrighted, 1901, by Thomas Nelson & Sons, and is used by permission.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. WHAT IS THE GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?.....	5
II. IT WAS THEIRS: IT IS NOW OURS.	15
III. A SIMPLE QUESTION OF AUTHORS.	24
IV. WHERE THEY ALREADY HAD BEEN	37
V. THE FIRST BOOK ABOUT THE LAST THINGS.....	47
VI. SO GENERAL THEY BECOME PARTICULAR.....	53
VII. ILLUSTRATING THE ANCIENT ART OF PERSONAL LETTER-WRITING	62
VIII. THE FIRST VOLUME OF AN INTERRUPTED SERIES.....	75
IX. WHY THEY WERE CALLED NAMES	83
X. NATIVE SONS USING EXCLUSIVELY A FOREIGN TONGUE.....	87
XI. MAP-MAKING WHICH WAS UNINTENTIONAL.....	94
XII. WHEN CHARITY BEGAN AT HOME.	98
XIII. ONE CONFERENCE THAT REGISTERED A DECISION.....	102
XIV. STRANGE TRAVELERS VENTURING ON NEW TRAILS.....	107

CHAPTER	PAGE
XV. FALLEN HERALDS WHO LIE IN FOREIGN LANDS.....	124
XVI. THE ATTRIBUTE OF EVERLASTING AS APPLIED TO BOOKS.....	151
XVII. THE HIGHEST EXPRESSION OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.....	140
XVIII. THE PROPOSITION AS IT NOW STANDS.....	149

CHAPTER I

WHAT IS THE GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

If you were asked to name the greatest achievement of all the long Christian centuries, what would you be most likely to suggest?

These twenty Christian centuries will be ever memorable as marking man's increasing mastery over the forces of the natural world. The partial liberation of the mind of man has resulted in eras of inventions and in epochs of discoveries. And in a world of majestic wonders, who shall name the most glorious single achievement of all the Christian centuries?

The Christian centuries have been particularly the centuries of discovery. There are no longer many unknown lands. Long-shut doors are now opened into all the world. Great freedom of travel tends to make the people of the planet at home anywhere. The tides of immigration are just setting in. People from almost everywhere are following freely

the fortunes of trade and the favors of developing industries. A higher power than the concert of nations is making for the open-door policy of the whole world. And that power will eventually set an open door into all nations—a door which no man can shut.

Then these are the centuries of the innumerable inventions which to-day lighten the loads too long borne in exhausting weariness by the beings who were made in the image of the divine. The shortened hours of toil afford added hours of leisure for the studied pursuit of culture and learning, and make for the amelioration of the untoward social conditions of mankind. These lessened hours of fatiguing labor are not the least among the manifest mercies which have come into the world through the inventive genius of man's free spirit.

And yet the greatest achievement of the Christian centuries is not found in the world of art or science, nor in the realm of discovery or invention. The greatest achievement of the Christian centuries is the Bible. Of the making of

books there is no end; but among all the myriads of books there is this one book which is above every book. "Bring me the book!" the man of letters exclaimed; and the attendants asked him, "What book?" And he replied, "There is but one book!" In that saying the man of letters expressed the true judgment of mankind.

The Bible is the literature of power. A youth gone wrong found his mother's copy of the Bible opened upon a bench in the garden, and read, "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof"; and this youth, wonderfully redeemed by that single, searching, convicting word of God, devoted his life to the work of the Lord, became the mightiest Christian thinker of his day, and, after the lapse of fifteen hundred years, still holds the theological thinking of the world in the grasp of his powerful hand.

The Bible is the literature of power. A German monk read the phrase, "The just shall live by faith," and, transformed by that living word of God, he found a