

**THE SPIRIT OF LIFE: OR,  
SCRIPTURE TESTIMONY  
TO THE DIVINE PERSON AND  
WORK OF THE HOLY GHOST**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649710508

The Spirit of Life: Or, Scripture Testimony to the Divine Person and Work of the Holy Ghost by  
E. H. Bickersteth

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](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**E. H. BICKERSTETH**

**THE SPIRIT OF LIFE: OR,  
SCRIPTURE TESTIMONY  
TO THE DIVINE PERSON AND  
WORK OF THE HOLY GHOST**



**THE SPIRIT OF LIFE;**

**OR,**

**SCRIPTURE TESTIMONY TO THE DIVINE PERSON  
AND WORK OF THE HOLY GHOST.**

## By the Same Author.

---

### I.

#### YESTERDAY, TO-DAY, AND FOREVER. A POEM IN TWELVE BOOKS. 12mo. \$2.00.

"It is something remarkable in these latter days to find the world stirred with a new poem. Not that the presses are at rest and the bards silent, but their strains are mostly small wood notes, and not at all like the lark's in middle sky. One can count on the fingers of a single hand the worthily sensation poems of the past two decades; and one of these is the remarkable production, which had made a profound impression upon the English mind before any American publisher dared to put its four hundred pages of blank verse into a reprint. Book-buyers, who have again and again turned over unpromising-looking pages, as these appear at the first glance, and who have dipped here and there into their literally blank expanse, have been as astonished as delighted to catch the thickly shining gleams of rare poetic genius in this work. It is one of the few books ever written on a very solemn subject, the gravest that can hold human contemplation, of which it can be said, that the thread of the narrative once taken up, the reader is led resistlessly onward. It is something wonderful to find ordinary readers perusing for hours the form of verse which has not the charm of rhyme, treating of themes of death and life and immortality, the upper and nether worlds, and enchainèd through the whole perusal. Yet all this is declared of 'Yesterday, To-day, and Forever,' and the fame of this great sacred poem is assured. Milton has many admirers — and so has Dante — who would not deem their book collections complete without them, and yet who never have read four consecutive pages of either. We fear that Pollok is better known in the parsing classes than among any other American readers. But the new claimant for the laurel these wear unchallenged has produced a work that will do more than live; it will be read, and that, too, by many who, without accepting the scheme or the creed, will be charmed with its marvellous imagination, its wonderful diction, the perfect pictures of its poetical visions." — *Chicago Republican*.

### II.

#### HADES AND HEAVEN; OR, WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE REVEAL OF THE ESTATE AND EMPLOYMENTS OF THE BLESSED DEAD AND THE RISEN SAINTS. 24mo, gilt. Price \$1.00.

### III.

#### WATER FROM THE WELL-SPRING FOR THE SABBATH HOURS OF AFFLICTED BELIEVERS. 16mo. \$1.00.

THE  
SPIRIT OF LIFE;

OR,

Scripture Testimony

TO THE DIVINE PERSON AND WORK  
OF THE HOLY GHOST.

BY

E. H. BICKERSTETH, M.A.,

VICAR OF CHRIST CHURCH, HAMPSTEAD, AND CHAPLAIN TO THE BISHOP OF EIPON;  
AUTHOR OF "YESTERDAY, TO-DAY, AND FOREVER."

NEW YORK:  
ROBERT CARTER AND BROTHERS,  
530, BROADWAY.  
1870.

151  
25

CAMBRIDGE:  
PRESS OF JOHN WILSON AND SON.



## P R E F A C E.

---

SOME years since it was permitted me to write a treatise entitled "The Rock of Ages," on the One Eternal Godhead of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. The book was adopted by the Religious Tract Society, and has been widely circulated in England and America: it has also been translated into German: and I have received most grateful assurances from many anxious inquirers after truth, that the testimony of Scripture set forth in that work has, through God's infinite mercy, led them to the Saviour's feet. The communications which have reached me on this subject, some of them sent to me from dying-beds, and others from the bosom of home-life, may not be made public, but they lie deep in my heart, among the choicest and most cherished memories of my ministry. I may, however, mention that the book has been used as a class-book, not only in schools at home, but also among the native catechists of Hindûstan, and by brethren engaged in missions to the Jews. That God should deign to use so humble an instrument in the promotion of his kingdom is only another proof

how sometimes he is pleased to choose the things which are not to bring to naught things which are.

There was one chapter in that treatise, which was designed to establish the proposition, *That Scripture in the Old and New Testament alike proves the co-equal Godhead of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.* But it was of course impossible in a chapter, which only extended to twenty-five pages, to enter at any length into the Scripture testimony regarding the Spirit's Divine operations. I could do little more than barely indicate the evidences, which might be gathered from every field of his manifold work, to his Personality and Godhead. These evidences, enlarged and expanded, are embodied in the work now presented to the reader.\* And in addition I have sought (humbly and reverently I trust, remembering how great a mystery is here treated of) to inquire what is the teaching of the word of God with respect to the Spirit's infinite unction of the Son of Man, to His inspiration of Holy Scripture, to His striving with the world, to His quickening of those dead in sins, to His progressive sanctification of those who

---

\* Where the words, employed in the chapter alluded to above, expressed my meaning more clearly than any others which I could command, I have not scrupled to repeat them. And the same remark refers to the quotations I have made from my "Commentary on the New Testament" on some of the leading Scriptures which treat of the Holy Spirit's work, especially John iii. 1-16; xvi. 7-11; and Rom. vii. 14, to viii. 17.

are quickened, and finally with respect to the issue of His work in the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. So that this treatise may be in some measure regarded as the supplement and complement of the former.

My object in this later as in that earlier essay has been to present the witness of Holy Writ in its simplicity and power, when spiritual things are compared with spiritual. And I would therefore beg the reader not to expect here any learned disquisitions on abstruse points, nor even critical investigations further than are necessary to establish the plain meaning of the passages adduced. My hope is that teachers in our schools, and missionaries to Christ's poor, and possibly evangelists and pastors, may find in these pages a repertory of Scripture proofs to which they can easily refer for at least the leading subjects of this great and exhaustless theme.

From the blessed Reformation to our own day, the Church of Christ has had many times of refreshing from the presence of her Lord. There have been many and marked effusions of the Divine Spirit. But the very abundance of the grace vouchsafed has often seemed to tempt the enemy to produce transient but specious counterfeits of the Spirit's holy and abiding operations, and has rendered the necessity the greater of distinguishing between emotional excitement and transforming grace. It would have been foreign to the character of this treatise to enter into any discussion