

**THE BIBLE IN BROWNING:  
WITH PARTICULAR  
REFERENCE TO THE RING  
AND THE BOOK**

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The Bible in Browning: With Particular Reference to the Ring and the Book by Minnie Gresham Machen

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**MINNIE GRESHAM MACHEN**

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THE BIBLE IN BROWNING

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# THE BIBLE IN BROWNING

WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO  
THE RING AND THE BOOK

BY  
MINNIE GRESHAM MACHEN

"My masters, there's an Old Book you should con"

New York  
THE MACMILLAN COMPANY  
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1903

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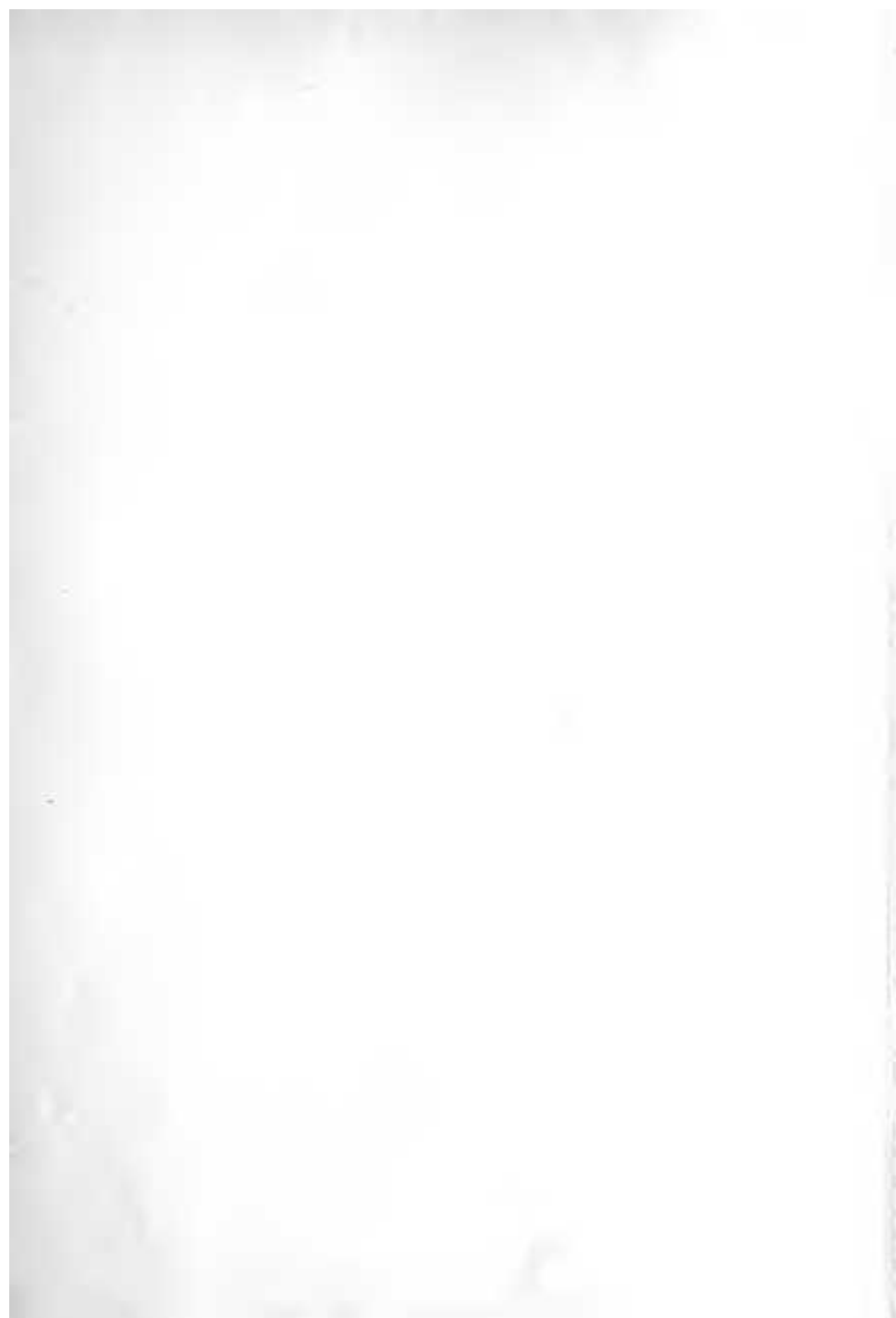
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I DEDICATE THIS BOOK  
TO THE MEMORY OF

*My father*

JOHN J. GRESHAM



# THE BIBLE IN BROWNING

## PART I

THE influence of the Bible upon English literature has frequently attracted the attention of scholars. Our poets adorn their pages with its beautiful imagery, our orators point their periods with its strong and musical language, our philosophers enforce their theories with its terse and vigorous aphorisms, all of our best writers find fertile sources of inspiration in the deeds of its heroes and the vivid incidents of its narrative. "We hear the echoes of its speech everywhere, and the music of its familiar phrases haunts all the fields and groves of our fine literature."

Dr. Henry Van Dyke has made a careful study of the Bible in Tennyson, and has shown how deeply that poet has drawn from the "well of English undefyled" known as King James's Version. Kipling's strenuous lines also are full of Scriptural allusions. But no modern poet has manifested such intimate acquaintance with the Bible as Robert Browning. His writings are thoroughly interpenetrated by its spirit, and in many of