

# **RELIGIOUS RECONSTRUCTION**

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Religious reconstruction by M. J. Savage

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# RELIGIOUS RECONSTRUCTION

BY

M. J. SAVAGE

V

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"The thoughts of men are widened with the process of the suns."

*Tennyson*

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BOSTON

GEO. H. ELLIS, 141 FRANKLIN STREET

1888

To MY own self this book I dedicate,—  
That self that shineth o'er me as a star,  
Still lifting, guiding, luring from afar,—  
That self which, though all-glorious, is my mate;  
That, though as high above my poor estate  
As o'er the earth the brooding heavens are,  
Still whispers that this distance is no bar  
To him who climbs th' ideal to create!

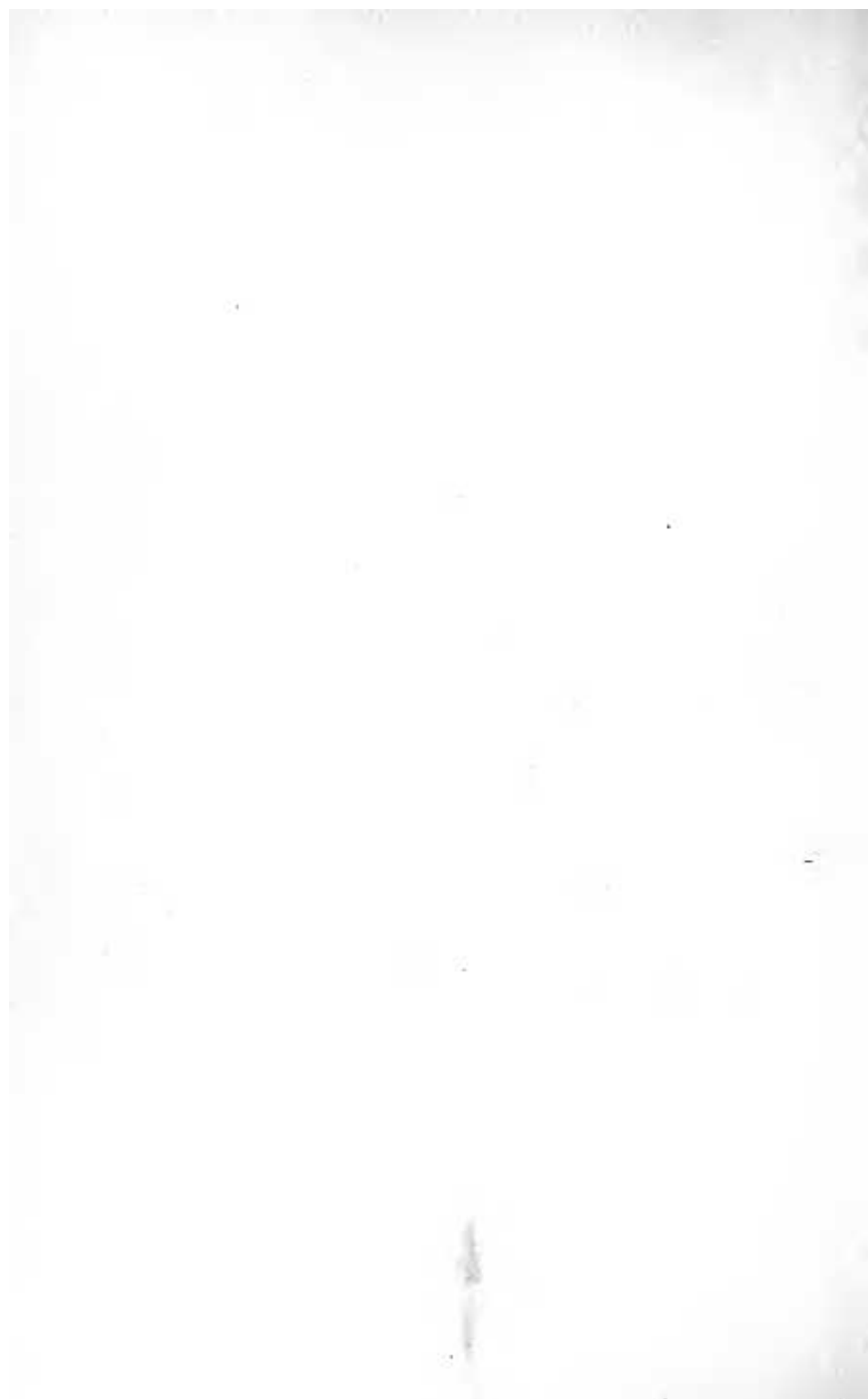
To this, God in me, of me, my life-love,  
That has inspired all my nobler past,  
To this all that I am I owe alone!  
My blessed counterpart, it shines above;  
And since, as with God's hand, it holds me fast,  
It bids me know it shall be all my own!

## PREFACE

THIS book is an earnest attempt to answer earnest questions that have come to me from all over the land. These questions are "in the air," and are a product of the most serious life of the age. If they are flippantly asked by a few, they are devoutly and courageously asked by many more. Too many to be answered privately, they are also too much a matter of public concern to be hidden in a corner.

Believing, as I do, that religion is a permanent and the supreme interest of man, I also believe that "the thoughts of men are widened with the process of the suns." People wish to be religious, but it is becoming more and more true that they are not willing to pay so high a price as their brains for what passes current under the name of religion. Along with the growth of knowledge, then, concerning the universe, God and man, there must go a parallel readjustment of the thought-side of the religious life. And this means only that God is the God of truth as well as of devoutness. He, then, shows the deepest faith in God who fearlessly faces the truth, and lets it build the temple in which he will worship.





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