

**THE RIGHT
TO BELIEVE**

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The Right to Believe by Eleanor Harris Rowland

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ELEANOR HARRIS ROWLAND

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TO BELIEVE**

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BY

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TO MY FATHER
LYMAN SIBLEY ROWLAND, D.D.
TO WHOSE CRITICISM AND APPROVAL
I WOULD SO GLADLY SUBMIT
THIS BOOK

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	ix
I. THE NECESSITY FOR A BELIEF	1
II. DOES GOD EXIST ?	16
III. THE NATURE OF GOD AND OF MAN	55
IV. THE DIVINITY OF CHRIST	105
V. THE PROBLEM OF EVIL	140
VI. PRAYER	169

INTRODUCTION

IN these days of many books, the appearance of a new volume seems to demand from its author a justification of his right to foist more print on an already over-burdened public. This explanation is the more necessary, if his book treats of subjects in a field which is not his own ; for specialized knowledge has come to be the one requisite of all serious authorship ; and in order to put some brakes on too ready pens, we demand that every man shall stick to his trade. Yet with all this, there exists a certain reverence for facts, whether their exploiter has run across them by chance or by intention. An astronomer has the right to make by-observations on the flights of birds, even though his telescope be pointed at the moon ; nothing need prevent a man from observing plant heredity even though his profession be that of a cloistered monk ; and if a teacher of psychology has happened upon some religious facts may he not express them, granted that they *are* facts ?

My profession is one that naturally gives