

**"J.B." J. BRIERLEY:
HIS LIFE AND WORK**

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"J.B." J. Brierley: his life and work by H. Jeffs

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H. JEFFS

**"J.B." J. BRIERLEY:
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J. BRIERLEY



Carl K. ...

Very Sincerely
J. ...

“J. B.”

J. BRIERLEY

HIS LIFE AND WORK

BY

H. JEFFS

AUTHOR OF “THE ART OF EXPOSITION,” “PORTRAIT PREACHING,”
“CONCERNING CONSCIENCE,” ETC.

“HAFFLED TO FIGHT BETTER”

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FOREWORD

THE soul of a saint in the body of a man of the world. The man of the world tingled to the finger tips with the thrill of the life of his time, yet the body was the frailest encasement of the virile soul. A chosen career broken by ill-health that dogged his steps from the beginning ; then, after four years' cessation of work a second career begun, in an untried profession. Jonathan Brierley at once made his chair in a Fleet Street newspaper office the generating station of an intellectual and spiritual force that for well on to a quarter of a century was powerfully felt in every part of the English-speaking world. " Out of weakness he was made strong," and tens of thousands owed to him a faith that ceased to fear, a bluer sky, and a more genial climate of the soul.

My thanks to the many who, in response to a request, sent letters from "J.B.," and personal recollections. Most of all are my thanks due to the Rev. Harold E. Brierley, Pastor of Highbury Quadrant Congregational Church, who honoured me with the suggestion that I should write the life of his father. Mr. Brierley placed in my possession his father's journal, his note-books, much correspondence, and other invaluable material.

Foreword

To Mr. John Brierley, of Leicester, only surviving brother of "J.B.," I am indebted for the means of filling in the chapter of his early life and education.

"The more one thinks of it," said "J.B.," "the more plainly it appears that in all regions of thought—religious, scientific, artistic, literary—the question of questions, the pivot on which everything turns, is personality." His absorbing interest, as a "student of the soul," was personality. He is never happy if he is not getting at the innermost, original personality of an author, a saint, a mystic, an artist, a man of the world. His own journal is a most affecting human document in its revelation of the personality of a highly gifted man, but most of all of a good man struggling against adversity, refusing to accept defeat, keeping the springs of his life always sweet, intent on using every ounce of his strength and every golden moment of his time in the service of the Master to whom the whole allegiance of his heart was given.

If for no other reason this Life would be worth issuing for the model it offers of the Faithful Pastor—a challenge to the indolent in the ministry, an inspiration to those who, at times, feel the burden is too heavy and are tempted to lose heart and slacken down.

H. JEFFS.

13 and 14, Fleet Street,
February 25th, 1915.

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