

**THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION:
LECTURES WRITTEN FOR THE
ELLIOTT LECTURESHIP AT THE
WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PITTSBURGH, PENNA, U. S. A., 1916**

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The Philosophy of Religion: Lectures Written for the Elliott Lectureship at the Western Theological Seminary Pittsburgh, Penna, U. S. A., 1916 by Alexander Thomas Ormond

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W. J. ORMOND



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1916
UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA
BY

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FOREWORD

I am glad to contribute a brief foreword to this volume because it affords me an opportunity to pay a tribute of affectionate admiration to my friend and colleague, Alexander T. Ormond.

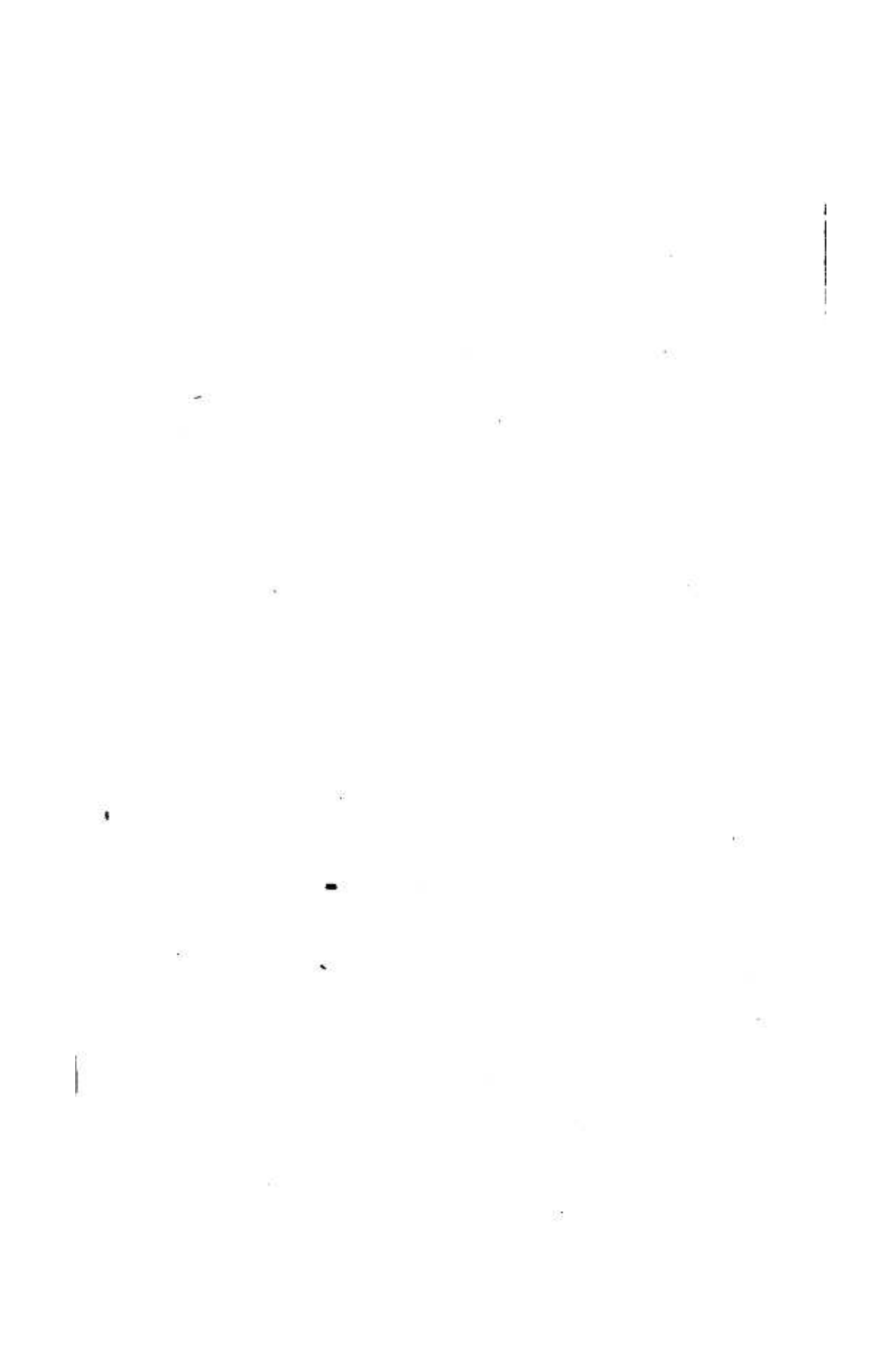
He was a man of the most transparent sincerity and simplicity of character who could absolutely be relied upon in every relation of life. There was, besides, no lecturer in the University whose lectures were more worth while. All his work was characterized by the most honest industry and solid judgment.

I consider it a privilege and honor to have been his colleague.

WOODROW WILSON.

5th July, 1921.

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PREFACE

The eight lectures in this volume were written during the summer and autumn of 1915 and were to have been delivered under the Elliott Lectureship at the Western Theological Seminary, as explained in Dr. Kelso's introduction. The author's interest for several years had centered in the philosophy of religion and it had been his expressed purpose to write a book on the subject. These lectures were the first fruits of that intention, and death prevented any further elaboration of his ideas.

The majority of the lectures were left in manuscript in the author's handwriting, and were typed after his death. They were later read, and the proofs corrected, by us, his children; and any inaccuracy or lack of clarity that may appear can be attributed to the fact that the text was never reviewed by the author, and we hesitated to make any but very minor changes in the text as received by us. In this connection we wish to acknowledge gratefully aid from Dr. Calder of Grove City, Professor Armstrong of Wesleyan, and Mr. Minot Morgan of Detroit.

Alexander Thomas Ormond was born in Punxsutawney, Pa., in April, 1847, received the ordinary country school education and began to

teach school himself at the age of seventeen. He taught and farmed till he reached the age of twenty-six, when he entered Princeton College with many conditions. He graduated in 1877, taking the Mental Science fellowship, and received his Ph.D. three years later. He then spent three years at the University of Minnesota as Professor of History and Logic, returning to Princeton as Professor in 1883. He took a prominent part in the councils of three administrations: those of Dr. McCosh, Dr. Patton and Mr. Wilson, and in addition to his work in the university, he gave courses of lectures in the Princeton Theological Seminary for many years. He remained in Princeton till 1913, when at the age of sixty-six, he resigned to accept the presidency of Grove City College, Pennsylvania. After two arduous, but very successful years there he died suddenly of heart failure in December, 1915. A year before his death he had had a thorough survey of his physical condition by Dr. Janeway, of Johns Hopkins, because of some unpleasant symptoms referable to the condition of his heart, and he was then told that sudden death might be expected any time unless he would retire from active work and live in a milder climate. He, however, considered it a point of honor to complete the work he had undertaken in connection with Grove City College. Three weeks before his death he stated to one of us that he thought he had brought his work to a successful conclu-