

MODERNISM IN RELIGION

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J. MACBRIDE STERRETT

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IN RELIGION**

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WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR

FREEDOM AND AUTHORITY IN RELIGION
STUDIES IN HEGEL'S PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION
THE ETHICS OF HEGEL
THE FREEDOM OF AUTHORITY

Modernism in Religion

BY

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To THE
REV. H. H. D. STERRETT
RECTOR OF ALL SOULS' PARISH
WASHINGTON, D. C.
A LOYAL SON AND A YOUNGER BROTHER
IN THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION
AND
TO THE DEVOTED MEMBERS
OF OUR COMMON FLOCK

PREFACE

“Work of his hand
He nor commends, nor grieves—
Pleads for itself the fact;
As unrepenting nature leaves
Her every act.”

PERSONALLY these lines of Emerson would suffice for a preface. But I have to consider those for whom I have written this book.

I hesitated much before giving it the personal touch. I overcame this hesitation for two reasons: (1) it is largely a personal confession of a spiritual pilgrimage to a haven that is not storm tossed with doubt; (2) I believe that the practical purpose of the book will thereby be best served.

I am a convinced modernist in religion. I have been through all the doubts and difficulties that assail the modern mind as regards conventional types of institutional Christianity. I see how a man of modern culture may frankly and earnestly worship God in some form of an authoritative religion—in any form rather than in none, if he cares to forward the Kingdom of God on earth, which was the master passion of the Master.

But there are multitudes who do not. Very many of the university and college-bred men and women are floundering in a state of doubt raised by the results of the new learning and the twentieth century world-view. This has brought them to the stage of enlightenment as regards conventional forms. Too often it leaves them in the stage of clearing these out, and without that appreciative his-

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