

**UNIVERSALIST BELIEF: OR,
THE DOCTRINAL VIEWS
OF UNIVERSALISTS**

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Universalist Belief: Or, the Doctrinal Views of Universalists by Asher Moore

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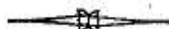
DOCTRINAL VIEWS

OF

UNIVERSALISTS.

BY ASHER MOORE.

SECOND EDITION.

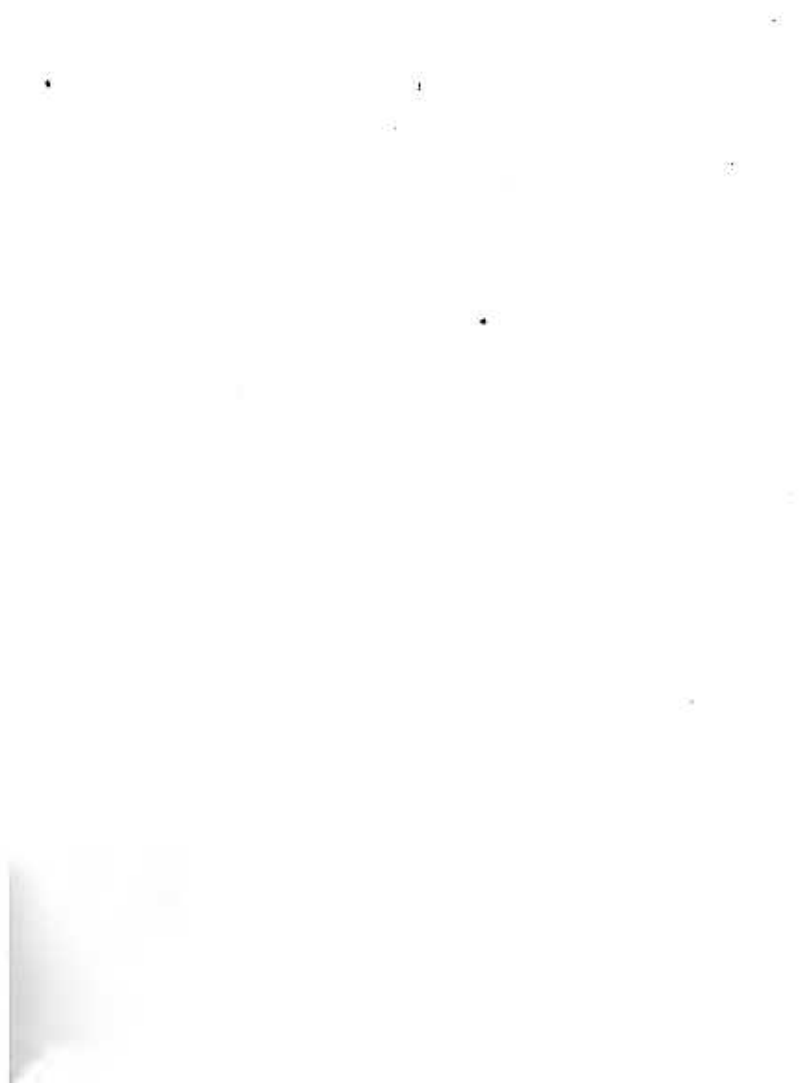


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PREFACE.

THE first edition of this unpretending little volume met a more ready sale, obtained a wider circulation, and was received with more general favor than either the author or the publishers felt encouraged to expect. It is believed that a second edition is called for; while it is modestly hoped that the book will thus be more widely extended, and, through the blessed doctrine to which it is devoted, be the means of bearing instruction and comfort to some minds that need to be taught the way of life and peace. We have labored not to *diminish*, but to *increase* the faith of the Christian—not to disprove certain forms of doctrine which we believe to be erroneous, but to inculcate the truth of God. Whatever errors we may hold, and whatever faults we may commit, we feel a deep and strong persuasion that UNIVERSALISM embraces all the great leading principles of the Gospel of Christ, and is the only doctrine known in the world that can fully satisfy the desires of the human soul, and meet all the wants of our spiritual nature. It is this persuasion that nerves us to our work, and enables us to bear with patience even the revilings of such as "oppose themselves," and war against a doctrine the most friendly to their own interests. God

has signally blessed our feeble efforts; and we now see in every Protestant denomination around us the sure indications that truth is advancing, and that the time is not far distant when the *spirit* and the *principles* of Universalism will be felt and acknowledged where the *name* may still be reproached.

The first intention of the author of this book was merely to furnish a few articles for a periodical publication, giving the principles, reasons and proofs of the Universalist's faith. But in an early stage of this labor, and at the suggestion of a friend, it was determined so to extend the plan as to bring together a sufficiency of matter to compose a small volume. The limits assigned to the book have rendered it necessary that brevity should be observed in the consideration of several important points of doctrine, and that others which seemed to demand attention should be entirely omitted. It was designed that the doctrine of the Trinity should be introduced and examined at considerable length; but it was soon perceived that the entire plan could not be executed within the limits prescribed; and it was thought that this particular topic could be omitted with as much propriety as any other. We propose to examine this doctrine in a small work hereafter to be published, and which will probably be entitled *The Theology of Universalism*.

It is not unlikely that the reader will detect

some want of connexion, as well as perceive the very unequal length of several of the following chapters. The work was originally hurried through the press, a part being in the hands of the printer before the remainder was written. But though we have corrected some errors that occurred in the first edition, it is not thought best so far to revise the work as to alter the arrangement of the chapters. We have, however, *added* to this edition a chapter, entitled "The Great Consummation," in which, we trust, will be found some facts and arguments which to the general reader may prove interesting and instructive, and seemed necessary to complete the plan and objects of the work. The book will not pretend to abide unharmed the searching glance of the critic. It is designed to make known to such as need the information, *what* Universalists believe, and *why* they believe.— And in the hope that it may tend, in some small degree, to the accomplishment of this desirable object, and with fervent prayers that the blessing of God may attend it wherever it shall go, it is humbly submitted by a servant and lover of man.

INTRODUCTION.

THE object of this work is to give a brief statement of the principal articles of Universalist belief, and of the reasons by which they are supported. I am well aware that this labor has been repeatedly performed, and far more ably than the reader has any good reason to suppose that it will now be executed. But I write chiefly for the benefit of those who are yet unacquainted with the doctrine of Universalism, and its unanswerable proofs. There are many such scattered throughout the land; and we have reason to hope that the present undertaking may be the means of enlightening some minds which might otherwise still remain in ignorance of what we really believe. This unpretending little volume may reach some places where but few, perhaps none of our numerous publications have ever been known. And it is possible that it may contain matter entirely new to some who shall read it, and become the instrument in the hands of God of leading them into the enjoyment of that blessed GOSPEL, which is "good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all people."

It may also be observed that new converts are constantly coming into our churches; and we may suppose that they are desirous to obtain a clear understanding of the grounds of our faith,