

THE LIGHT-BEARER OF LIBERTY

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The Light-Bearer of Liberty by J. W. Scholl

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J. W. SCHOLL

**THE LIGHT-BEARER
OF LIBERTY**



Very Sincerely Yours
J. W. Schell

THE
LIGHT-BEARER
OF
LIBERTY.

BY
J. W. SCHOLL.



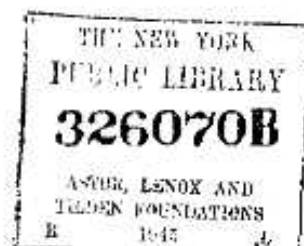
What the brain has thought, and the hands have
wrought,
And the soul has dreamed could be,
Is the only worth in the whole wide earth,
And the measure of life, for me!

—*The Author.*



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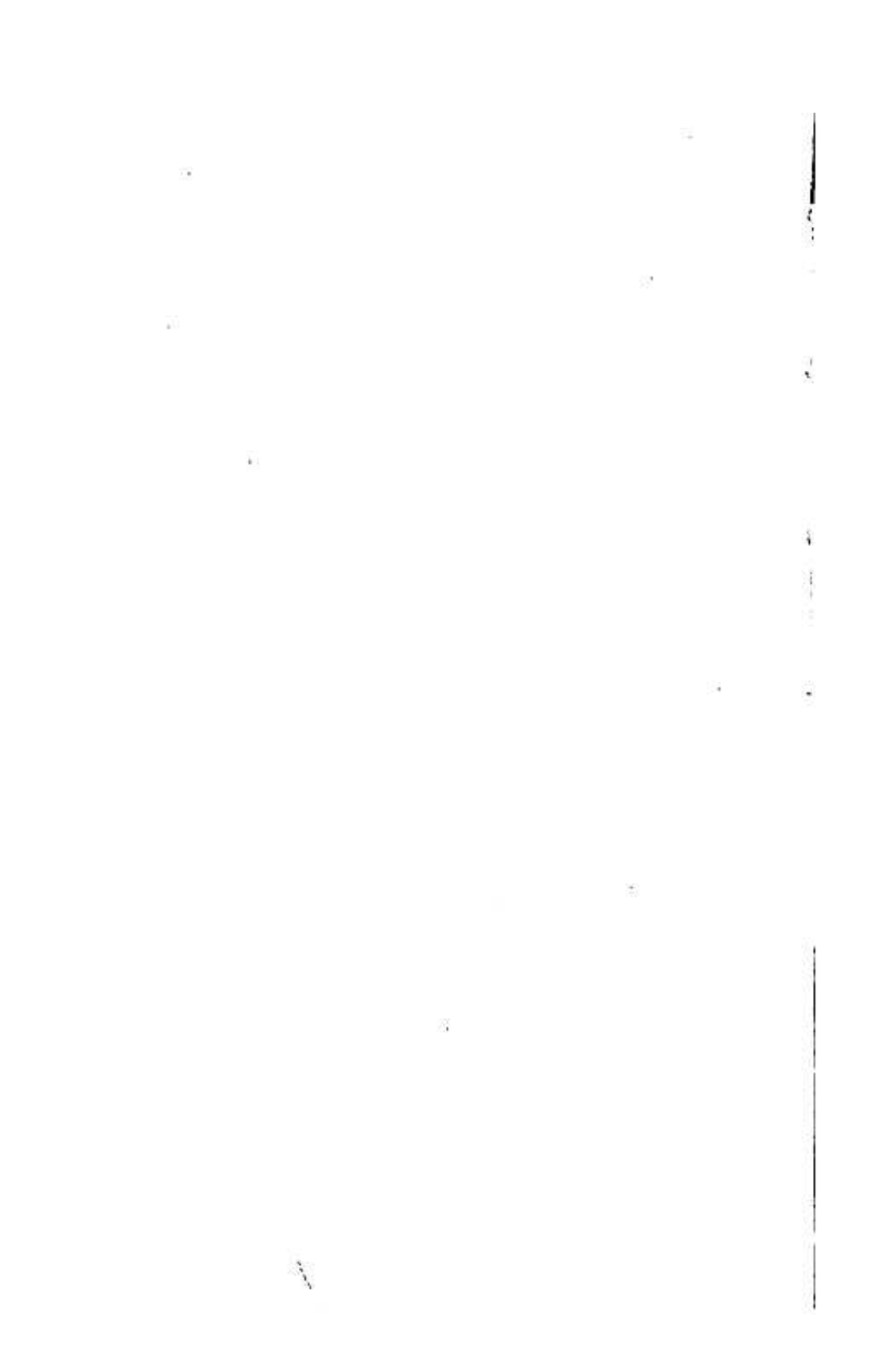
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.. Preface ..



The human heart and the human brain
Are guides and sanctions enough for me,
For your blessed bibles and creeds are vain,
To the man that pants for liberty.



THE *raison d'être* of this little volume is found in the dictum of the Rev. Homer Wilber; "Men do not make poetry, it is made out of *them*." It is the incarnation of the rare moments in the poet's life, when the mind is at white heat and his heart beats like a trip-hammer. There is something inevitable about it.

The several poems, contained herein, will, the author trusts, speak for themselves. Some will make enemies; some, friends. Friends among those who find that the rags and patches of a theological system, though

PREFACE.

once considered royal purple woven in with threads of gold, leave them naked in the face of the universe, and who are striving to weave themselves a new garment whole and without a seam. Enemies among those conservatives, who constantly witness their own defeat but anathematize the victors ; who cling to the old sinking, barnacle-covered ship when all their fellow-passengers have taken to the life-boats ; who would die with the "faith of the fathers" rather than acknowledge that a new world of thought has arisen, with a new faith that leaves the greater mysteries as mysteries still, but gives full leash to reason.

It is not too much to hold, that any man who has kept abreast of Truth ; who has in his mental possession the chief facts of biblical criticism, of archæology, of history and especially the history of thought-systems, of astronomy, geology and psychology ; who has not stultified his mind by long indulgence of prejudices, must assent to the following propositions :

- (1) That the Bible is not a single book, but a Literature, containing many myths and legends and crude early views of the world, that it is not entirely consistent throughout, nor chronologically arranged, and that it is to be studied by the