

**FROM PHILISTIA,  
ESSAYS ON CHURCH  
AND WORLD**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649160693

From Philistia, essays on church and world by J. Brierley

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**J. BRIERLEY**

**FROM PHILISTIA,  
ESSAYS ON CHURCH  
AND WORLD**



**FROM PHILISTIA.**

# FROM PHILISTIA

ESSAYS ON

CHURCH AND WORLD.

BY

J. BRIERLEY, B.A.

*La Vérité étant un sommet, tout chemin qui monte, y conduit.*

London :

JAMES CLARKE & CO., 13 & 14, FLEET STREET.

1893.

## PREFACE.

THE essayist, of whatsoever degree or pretension, may claim his privileges. One of these, if regard be had to the best known precedents, is a happy independence of either historical or logical sequence in the arrangement of his topics. Nobody criticises Montaigne, the father of the tribe, for making a disquisition on Odours to precede his treatise on Raimond of Sebonde, or asks why Lord Bacon should choose that the essay on "Unity in Religion" be followed by one on the subject of Revenge. The rule, in fact, in this Bohemian region of literature, seems to be that the dwellers therein are free, at a given moment, to think to any one of the thirty-two points of the compass, provided only that their thinking be to purpose.

The present writer has availed himself to the full of the liberty thus accorded to the forth-

putters of *obiter dicta* of all ranks. What follows in this volume is a collection of scattered studies, the result of varying moods, circumstances, and mental preoccupations, whose only link of connection may be said to be their individuality of standpoint and general drift of purpose.

From a literary point of view, they will possibly, with a not uninfluential class of critics, be regarded as suffering from two serious disqualifications. The first is the possession, on the part of the writer, of a positive religious faith, which he does not, indeed, dogmatically obtrude, but is nevertheless at no pains to conceal. In criticism, especially where it touches theology, nothing better fits the fashion of the hour than that attitude of religious detachment of which, in our day, Renan and Edmond Schérer have given such brilliant examples. The assumption of it enables the writer to treat the differing faiths somewhat as imperial Rome dealt with the religions brought under her sway, with the toleration, namely, and patronage which a superior and governing class feels it can afford to extend to inferior and subject races. It is a literary manner full of possibilities for effective



posing. Its capabilities must, however, be sought elsewhere than in these pages.

That is not the worst. What is here written will be found, not only definitely related to religious faith, but to a form of it which polite society has, with impressive unanimity, pronounced upon. These essays are dated from the heart of Philistia. In other words, their author belongs to that region of *esprits bornés*, and of intellectual density, connoted by the terms Protestant Nonconformist. To enter here will be doubtless, to many cultured persons, an adventure as serious and unwonted as to traverse the realm of

Antres vast and deserts idle,  
Of anthropophagi and men whose heads  
Do grow beneath their shoulders.

If any such make the venture we can only wish them a safe and happy issue out of it. Should they emerge alive it may, perhaps, be with the tidings that the tales of intellectual savagery in vogue concerning its inhabitants owe, like some of Othello's stories, a good deal to the imagination of their authors.

It remains to be said that the acknowledgments of the author are due to Mr. John

Murray, to the Editor of the "Sun" Magazine, to the Rev. J. G. Rogers, and to Messrs. James Clarke and Co., for permission to make use, in this volume, of articles that have previously appeared in publications with which they are, or have been, connected.

*London, May, 1893.*

## CONTENTS.

---

	PAGE
Rabelais ... ..	1
The New Hellenism ... ..	20
St. Augustine in Literature ... ..	30
The Dangerous Years ... ..	37
Modern Realism ... ..	45
A French Priest ... ..	52
On Method in Brain Work... ..	61
On Retiring from Business ... ..	68
Young England and Culture ... ..	75
How Preachers are Made ... ..	83
Life's Unknown Quantities ... ..	91
The Church's Song ... ..	97
Insurance Against Dulness ... ..	104
The Motive for Missions ... ..	111
Woman in Excelsis ... ..	117
Types of Religious Life ... ..	124
Charles Haddon Spurgeon ... ..	131
Good Friday and Easter Day ... ..	139
Voltaire ... ..	146
Bunyan as a Classic ... ..	154
The Religious Rogue ... ..	160
Lucian ... ..	167
Montaigne ... ..	190
Boethius ... ..	196
Our National Literature ... ..	205