

**THE SCIENTIFIC  
STUDY OF  
THEOLOGY**

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The scientific study of theology by W. L. Paige Cox

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**W. L. PAIGE COX**

**THE SCIENTIFIC  
STUDY OF  
THEOLOGY**



# The Scientific Study of Theology.

*W. L. PAIGE COX, M.A.,*

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—  
1893.



TO

MY MOTHER,

TO WHOSE INTELLECTUAL SYMPATHY

I HAVE ALL MY LIFE BEEN INESTIMABLY INDEBTED,

THIS BOOK IS,

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE AND DEEP AFFECTION,

INSCRIBED.





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Πάντα δοκιμάζετε ·  
τὸ καλὸν κατέχετε.

“Ce que je demande c'est que nous nous souvenions que, si nous cherchions la vérité religieuse, c'est pour mieux adorer et pour mieux obéir. Je comprends qu'avant de l'avoir reconnue, nous l'examinions en juges, mais le jour où nous la possédons, il faut nous incliner devant elle.”—*Bersier*.

# The Scientific Study of Theology.

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## CHAPTER I.

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### *WHY THEOLOGY SHOULD BE STUDIED EXACTLY AS THE OTHER SCIENCES ARE STUDIED.*

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**T**HERE is nothing of such profound importance to man as to know what his religious beliefs should be. There is no subject about which it so much behoves him to acquire, as far as he can, clear and correct ideas. Yet there is no department of knowledge which is beset with so many difficulties, in regard to which there have been so many differences of opinion, and in the study of which even by the most thoughtful, the most learned, and the most honest of men, there is so great a liability to error. Probably at no period of history were differences of opinion respecting the subject matter of religious belief so strongly marked as at present, and never in the Christian Church was there such great uncertainty among so many persons with respect to one or other of the old Articles of the Christian Faith.

This is traceable to several causes, among the chief