

**OUR TROUBLESOME
RELIGIOUS
QUESTIONS**

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Our troublesome religious questions by Edward Leigh Pell

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EDWARD LEIGH PELL

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To
THE MEMORY OF
E. L. P. JR.

PREFACE

THIS book goes to the reader uncensored. It does not contain all that I wanted to say, but as far as it goes it says just what I felt like saying and says it in the way I felt like saying it. I have long believed that the least excusable of all existing hindrances to the spread of religion is the deadly handicap which a tyrannical tradition has placed upon the lips and pens of religious teachers. When my editorial friend across the street sits down to write his "leader" for the morning paper—whether it is about war, or politics, or eugenics, or the latest craze in woman's dress—he is expected to put down the thing that comes up from his heart and to put it down just as it comes. But when I sit down to write about religion, I am expected to smooth my hair, arrange my necktie, assume a saintly pose, and when I have succeeded in exuding from and enveloping myself in a pious atmosphere thick enough to cut with a knife, take my pen in hand and with the fear of the medieval board of religious censors (the gods of Orthodoxy and Propriety) before my eyes, proceed to set down such commonplace remnants of thought and vocabulary as I feel reasonably sure will pass their inspection. I have never been able to see why I should submit my pen to such a handicap. I have never seen any reason why a man who has