

**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
IN THE
MODERN WORLD**

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The Christian life in the modern world by Francis Greenwood Peabody

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FRANCIS GREENWOOD PEABODY

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IN THE
MODERN WORLD**

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IN THE
MODERN WORLD

THE SIXTH SERIES OF JOHN CALVIN MCNAIR LECTURES
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN 1913
EXPANDED AND REVISED



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THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
IN THE
MODERN WORLD

BY

FRANCIS GREENWOOD PEABODY

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New York

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1914

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TO G. W. P.¹

IN VIGILS PROSTRATE AND WITH FASTINGS FAINT,
HER VISIONS OF THE CHRIST SUSTAINED THE SAINT,
AND NO RUDE NOISE OF WORLDLY WANT OR CARE
DISTURBED THE STILLNESS OF THE CONVENT'S PRAYER.
"WHERE, LORD," ONE ASKED, "MAY THEY WHO LOVE
THEE MOST
BEHOLD THY COUNTENANCE ERR THEY DEPART?"
"SEEK ME," THE SAVIOUR ANSWERED, "IN THE HOST
OR ON THE ALTAR OF SAINT GERTRUDE'S HEART."

NO MYSTIC VOICES FROM THE HEAVENS ABOVE
NOW SATISFY THE SOULS WHICH CHRIST CONFESS;
THEIR HEAVENLY VISION IS IN WORKS OF LOVE,
A NEW AGE SUMMONS TO NEW SAINTLINESS.
BEFORE TH' UNCLOISTERED SHRINE OF HUMAN NEEDS
AND ALL UNCONSCIOUS OF THE WORTH OR PRICE,
THEY LAY THEIR FRAGRANT GIFTS OF GRACIOUS DEEDS
UPON THE ALTAR OF SELF-SACRIFICE.

¹ Saint Gertrude of Eisleben (1256-1302) passed her entire life from five years of age in a convent, where she was permitted to see many visions of the Saviour. When another suppliant asked where Christ might be found, the Saviour answered: "Either on the altar or in the heart of Gertrude." (Man möge ihn entweder im Tabernakel oder im Herzen Gertrud's suchen.) The "Revelations" of Saint Gertrude (*Insinuationum divinae pietatis exercitia*) were published in many editions during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

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