

THE RELIGION OF EVELYN HASTINGS

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The Religion of Evelyn Hastings by Victoria Cross

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VICTORIA CROSS

**THE RELIGION OF
EVELYN HASTINGS**

THE RELIGION OF EVELYN HASTINGS

BY VICTORIA CROSS

FIVE NIGHTS

LIFE'S SHOP WINDOW

ANNA LOMBARD

SIX WOMEN

SIX CHAPTERS OF A MAN'S LIFE

THE WOMAN WHO DIDN'T

TO-MORROW?

PAULA

A GIRL OF THE KLONDIKE

THE RELIGION OF EVELYN HASTINGS

LIFE OF MY HEART

not in R.D.
W.W.

The Religion of Evelyn Hastings

By

VICTORIA CROSS ^{OC} (pseud.)

City, Virginia

"Pray and It Shall Be Answered Unto You"

1

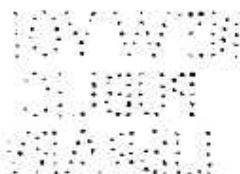
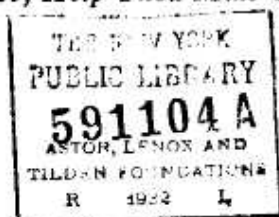


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[1905]
ESW

*Dedicated to Those
Whose Cry is
"Lord, I Believe; Help Thou Mine Unbelief."*



*The Religion of Evelyn Hastings
was originally published in London in
1905. It is now issued in America by
arrangement with the author.*

Note

IN the following pages I have given some of my own experiences in the realms of thought and prayer.

The prologue is the simple relation of an incident in my own life. By additions and embellishments I might have made it more dramatic and interesting. I preferred to preserve its absolute truth.

I am not one of those who wish to believe and cannot. I am rather one who would not believe, but am obliged to. And if my relation of the incident in the prologue can help those to whom I dedicate this book to the belief they desire, as it has forced me into the belief I did not desire, I shall feel I have not made it public in vain.

Having naturally a leaning towards materialism, and this, to me, inexplicable inci-

NOTE

dent being a stumbling-block in my path towards materialistic belief, I shall be pleased and relieved if any materialist can explain it on purely materialistic grounds. If any one can so explain it, that he should communicate with me is the earnest wish of

THE AUTHOR.

The Religion of Evelyn Hastings

PROLOGUE

A LITTLE child ran down the street to the sea. She was sturdy and well-built, and her bare legs were firm and tanned above her white socks. A merry, bright, brown face shone above her white frock, and beneath the light gold hair cut square upon her forehead. On her arm swung her bucket and spade as she trotted along towards the beach with eager steps. She felt so light-hearted that morning. For the first time in many months, Ada, her widowed mother's ward, had been able to sit up brightly at the breakfast-table, and eat with a good appetite, and smile and talk. All through the dreary winter and spring in London, the little girl Evelyn had been oppressed by the atmosphere of sick-