

**TEMPTED
TO UNBELIEF**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649718818

Tempted to Unbelief by E. F. Burr

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

E. F. BURR

**TEMPTED
TO UNBELIEF**

TEMPTED TO UNBELIEF.

BY
REV. E. F. BURR, D. D.,

AUTHOR OF "ECCE COELUM," "PATER MUNDI," "AD FIDEM."

"The Christian has greatly the advantage of the unbeliever—having everything to gain and nothing to lose."
Byron.



AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY,
150 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK.

DEDICATION.

To my Brother—my companion in college, in foreign travel, in the Christian ministry, and in a desire to succor those who are tempted to unbelief.

COPYRIGHT, 1884,
BY AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.

Giff
Victor F. Brown
1-20-30.

Preface.

The following lines, from the pen of an eminent scholar, express very forcibly all that I care to say in the way of preface to the present volume.

"The shapes that frowned before the eyes
Of the early world have fled,
And all the life of earth and skies,
Of streams and seas, is dead.

"But ah! is naught save fable slain
In this new realm of thought?
Or has the shaft Primeval Truth
And Truth's great Author sought?

"Yes, wisdom now is built on sense;
We measure and we weigh,
We break and join, make rare and dense,
And reason God away.

"The wise have probed this wondrous world,
And searched the stars, and find
All curious facts and laws revealed,
But no Almighty Mind.

"From thinking dust we mould the spheres,
And shape earth's wondrous frame:
If God had slept a million years,
All things would be the same.

6-15-31 dury

PREFACE.

"Oh, give me back a world of life;
Something to love and trust,
Something to quench my inward strife,
And lift me from the dust.

"I cannot live with nature dead,
'Mid laws and causes blind,
Powerless on earth or overhead
To trace all-guiding Mind.

"Better the instinct of the brute
That feels its God afar,
Than reason to his praises mute,
Talking with every star.

"Better the thousand deities
That swarmed in Greece of yore,
Than thought that scorns all mysteries,
And dares all depths to explore.

"Better is childhood's thoughtless trust
Than manhood's daring scorn;
The fear that creeps along the dust
Than doubt in hearts forlorn.

"And knowledge, if it cost so dear,
If such be reason's day,
I'll lose the pearl without a tear,
And grope my star-lit way.

"And be the toils of wisdom cursed
If such the meed we earn;
If freezing pride and doubt are nursed,
And faith forbid to burn."

CONTENTS.



I.	
For Whom	PAGE 7
II.	
A Confession of Faith	13
III.	
Real Unbelief?	26
IV.	
Look Before Leaping	36
V.	
Give Me—Geometry	57
VI.	
Hermes Trismegistus	73
VII.	
Which to Choose	87

VIII.	
Looking to the Possible-----	106
IX.	
Consulting Experience-----	120
X.	
Sample Science-----	153
XI.	
Guilty or Not Guilty?-----	184
XII.	
Farley the Porter-----	195
XIII.	
What Do They Mean?-----	210

TEMPTED TO UNBELIEF.

I.

FOR WHOM.

THE following pages address themselves not so much to pronounced unbelievers as to those who as yet are only tempted to unbelief.

This latter class, in our time, is very large, is comparatively promising, and can be reasoned with from broader and easier premises than can those who have fully gone over to the enemy—their enemy as well as ours.

Some one has said that Doubt is the Devil of the 19th Century. The truth of this statement is not quite as clear as its strength; but however doubtful it may be whether our time is entitled to the bad preëminence among the ages that is assigned it, it is by no means doubtful whether unbelief exists among us in large proportions, and is exceedingly active, ingenious, and varied in its efforts to still enlarge itself. Its name is