FAITH AND EXPERIENCE: A SELECTION OF ESSAYS AND ADDRESSES

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Faith and Experience: A Selection of Essays and Addresses by Oswald John Simon

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OSWALD JOHN SIMON

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FAITH AND EXPERIENCE.

A SELECTION OF

ESSAYS AND ADDRESSES

BY

OSWALD JOHN SIMON,

(LATE OF BALLIOL COLLEGE, OXFORD).

AUTHOR OF "THE WORLD AND THE CLOISTER," ETC., ETC.

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DEDICATION.

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IN EVER FOND MEMORY OF

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THREE BROTHERS.

J. D. S., DIED 29TH MAY, 1873, AGED 26,

A. O. S., DIED 215T OCTOBER, 1882, AGED 28,

W. G. S., DIED 6TH JULY, 1894, AGED 43.

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"First of all there is the thought of rest and freedom from pain ; they have gone home, as the common saying is, and the cares of this world touch them no more. Secondly, we may imagine them as they were at their best and brightest, humbly fulfilling their daily round of duties-selfless, childlike, unaffected by the world ; when the eye was single and the whole body seemed to be full of light ; when the mind was clear and saw into the purposes of God. Thirdly, we may think of them as possessed by a great love of God and man, working out His will at a further stage in the heavenly pilgrimage. And yet we acknowledge that these are the things which eye hath not seen nor ear heard, and therefore it hath not entered into the heart of man in any sensible manner to conceive them. Fourthly, there may have been some moments in our own lives when we have risen above ourselves, or been conscious of our truer selves, in which the will of God has superseded our wills, and we have entered into communion with Him, and been partakers for a brief season of the Divine truth and love, in which like Christ we have been inspired to utter the prayer, ' I in them, and thou in me, that we may be all made perfect in one.' These precious moments, if we have ever known them, are the nearest approach which we can make to the idea of immortality."

JOWETT.

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