

**CHRISTIANITY'S CHALLENGE;
AND SOME PHASES OF
CHRISTIANITY SUBMITTED
FOR CANDID CONSIDERATION**

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Christianity's challenge; and some phases of Christianity submitted for candid consideration by
Herrick Johnson

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HERRICK JOHNSON

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CHRISTIANITY SUBMITTED
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Christianity's Challenge;

AND

SOME PHASES OF CHRISTIANITY,

SUBMITTED

FOR CANDID CONSIDERATION.

BY

THE REV. HERRICK JOHNSON, D.D.

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NOTE.

This volume comprises the Sunday afternoon lectures delivered during the past winter in Farwell Hall, Chicago, under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association, together with several new and hitherto unpublished papers upon vital themes. They are now given to the public in response to urgent demands, and with the full conviction that they are calculated to have a marked and beneficial effect upon the religious thought of the times.

THE PUBLISHERS.

Chicago, April 15, 1881.

PREFACE.

The popular doubt of the day is chiefly born of popular assaults on Christianity. The great bulk of the prevailing skepticism is unscientific. Dashing, audacious attacks on minor details of the Christian system have caught the ear of the public; and the very elaborateness of the defence has so magnified these details, as to lift them to undeserved conspicuity. Insectivorous critics may thrust a few seeming flaws in any work to such prominence, and answers to these critics may so keep these seeming flaws in the public eye, that all the glories of the great work will be missed in a consideration of trifles.

Christianity can afford to take the aggressive, to compel a hearing, to challenge popular doubt to look some of Christianity's more important phases honestly in the face. Here are its "Book" and its "Christ." Here are its definite doctrines, and its

views of man, matching marvelously the facts. Here are its successes, challenging, in anything like the same conditions, an approach to comparison. These things, and things like them, are to the last degree evidential. Their exhibition is their demonstration. They are Christianity's setting, environment, substance, achievement. They are the ever increasing marvels and the ever brightening glories of the gospel. Instead of a bout with the infidel merry-makers at points where they choose to attack, let prevalent scepticism be pressed with the business of accounting for these transcendent forces and facts.

It was with this design in part, that these lectures were first delivered. They were meant, however, to serve other and immediately practical purposes. That they may prove steps into the kingdom of truth for some, and helps to a surer footing in the King's highway for others, is the hope with which they are now given to a wider public.

THE AUTHOR.

I.

CHRISTIANITY'S CHALLENGE.