

**A YOUNG MAN'S  
DIFFICULTIES  
WITH HIS BIBLE**

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A young man's difficulties with his Bible by D. W. Faunce

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**D. W. FAUNCE**

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A YOUNG MAN'S  
DIFFICULTIES WITH HIS BIBLE.

BY  
REV. D. W. FAUNCE,  
AUTHOR OF FLETCHER PRIZE ESSAY, "THE CHRISTIAN IN THE WORLD."

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1876.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE author, on assuming the pastoral charge of a church in a thrifty and intelligent inland city of New England, found in the community a large number of young men not exactly sceptical but a good deal unsettled in their views of religion. They were graduates of Grammar and High schools; intelligent young men who, though employed as clerks or apprentices, found time to read the papers, the magazines, and occasionally a book. They had caught the drift of one section of popular thought. They asked for some book which should meet briefly and yet fairly the difficulties which they felt. There were plenty of scholarly volumes, suited to men who had received a liberal education and who were masters of their own time. But a small, popular and at the same time accurate volume, suited to this demand, the author could not find. It occurred to him to invite these young men to state to him frankly their perplexities, and then to give a course of lectures on the general subject of these "Difficulties." The lectures were given to crowded houses on Sunday evenings, one in each month, for two successive seasons. It has been thought

that good might be done by publishing selections from these lectures. A few of them have been taken, and the style somewhat changed from the spoken to the written form. The aim has been to give the results of careful study without the processes, to be as accurate in the statement of facts as if the work were to be used as a text-book, and yet to keep in mind the class of young men for whom it is designed. Every chapter, without an exception, has grown out of an actual conversation held with some young friend or else out of some letter or message received from him. When delivered as lectures the author received repeated thanks from individuals to whom they were helpful. Given originally to his former charge at Concord, N. H., a portion of the lectures have been repeated to the congregation which he now serves in Lynn, Mass. It is his prayer that God may make this little volume a blessing to those who read it.

D. W. F.

LYNN, MASS.



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A YOUNG MAN'S  
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CHAPTER I.

THE YOUNG MAN'S BOOK.

It is told of a certain publisher that he was in despair because a rival firm had issued so many excellent and successful books of advice to the young. He confided his perplexity to a friend. That friend advised him to select the finest paper and the clearest type, and then to reprint that book of the Bible known as "The Proverbs of Solomon" under the new and startling title of "Counsels for Young Men by a King." Whether the advice was followed, and whether if followed the venture was successful as a business speculation, is not known. But this is certain; that if some would be disappointed at their first opening of such a volume, on further reading they would be compelled to admit that the old book was new, and that the new book was the freshest and richest of all the many volumes addressed to young men.

Solomon had the advantage of knowing thoroughly