

**WHAT SHALL WE THINK OF
CHRISTIANITY?: THE LEVERING
LECTURES BEFORE THE JOHNS
HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, 1899**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649732951

What Shall We Think of Christianity?: The Levering Lectures Before the Johns Hopkins University, 1899 by William Newton Clarke

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WILLIAM NEWTON CLARKE

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WHAT SHALL WE THINK
OF CHRISTIANITY?

*THE LEVERING LECTURES BEFORE THE
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY*

1899

By WILLIAM NEWTON CLARKE, D.D.

Author of

"AN OUTLINE OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY."

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS
NEW YORK 1899

C1158.23.5

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THIRD EDITION.

University Press:
JOHN WILSON AND SON, CAMBRIDGE, U.S.A.

These Lectures,

NOW PUBLISHED AS THEY WERE DELIVERED,
ARE DEDICATED, IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE,
TO
MR. EUGENE LEVERING,
The Founder of the Course,
AND
TO THE DELIGHTFUL AUDIENCES THAT LISTENED
TO THEM.

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The sower went forth to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden under foot, and the birds of the heaven devoured it. And other fell on the rock; and as soon as it grew, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And other fell amidst the thorns; and the thorns grew with it, and choked it. And other fell into the good ground, and grew, and brought forth fruit a hundredfold. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed upon the earth; and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should spring up and grow, he knoweth not how. The earth beareth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear.

WHAT SHALL WE THINK OF CHRISTIANITY?

I

THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLE

I AM heartily glad to speak, in this presence, of the things that occupy my thoughts and make my life, and to speak with the utmost freedom. I shall be glad if what I may say fulfils in some degree the apologetic purpose of this lectureship, by making some Christian realities in which I believe more clear and more helpful to some who listen. I believe in the greatness and worth of Jesus Christ, and I have some sense of the preciousness of his gifts to mankind: and I propose that in these three lectures we look together at three great contributions that he has made to the moral wealth and welfare of hu-