

**THE  
CITY OF GOD**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649549955

The City of God by Edwin H. Nevin

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**EDWIN H. NEVIN**

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CITY OF GOD**



# THE CITY OF GOD.

BY

REV. EDWIN H. NEVIN.

WITH AN INTRODUCTORY ESSAY BY

REV. ALFRED COOKMAN.

"Ecclesiam veram intelligere non audeo, nisi in sanctis et justis.  
Multi sunt in sacramentorum communione cum Ecclesia et tamen  
jam non sunt in Ecclesia."—ST. AUGUSTINE.

LANCASTER, PA.:  
JACOB E. BARR.  
1868.

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Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1868, by

JACOB E. BARR,

In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, in and  
for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

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FEARSON & GEIST, PRINTERS.

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O how unlike the complex works of man,  
Heaven's easy, artless, unencumbered plan!  
No meretricious graces to beguile,  
No clustering ornaments to clog the pile:  
From ostentation as from weakness free  
It stands like the cerulean arch we see,  
Majestic in its own simplicity.  
Inscribed above the portal, from afar  
Conspicuous as the brightness of a star,  
Legible only by the light they give,  
Stand the soul-quickenning words, *Believe and Live!*





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## INTRODUCTION.

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If the first half of the nineteenth century was characterized by wide separation and bitter controversy among the different evangelical denominations, the last half is equally signalized by the spirit of union and Christian love. Inquiring now for points of agreement rather than of difference, the churches are rejoicing in the discovery that the points on which they agree are *numerous*, while those on which they differ are comparatively few: the points on which they agree are *fundamental and vital*, while those on which they differ are secondary and unessential; the points on which they agree are in the *Bible*, while those on which they differ are rather in Confessions, Catechisms, Prayer-Books and Disciplines; the points on which they agree are *blessed facts, experimental verities*, while those on which they disagree are frequently mere theories or human fancies.

Coming closer together, Christian believers are realizing to their great joy that beneath these multiplying points of agreement, there is a *common life* that flows from the same Divine source, and pervades "the whole family in heaven and in earth." This life takes on different forms, but beneath these visible and varied manifestations, Christians find that they are one in Christ, born of the same spirit,