THE HOLY SPIRIT: A LAYMAN'S CONCEPTION

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A Layman's Conception

By

William Ives Washburn

Of the New York Bar

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1918

The Knickerbocker Press, New York

To

ONE I KNOW BEST OF ALL, AND WHO HAS A PROFOUND INTEREST IN EVERYTHING THAT PERTAINS TO THE

HOLY SPIRIT

"If I had the time to find a place
And sit me down full face to face
With my better self, that cannot show
In my daily life that rushes so;
It might be then I should see my soul
Was stumbling still toward the shining goal;
I might be nerved by the thought sublime,—
If I had the time!"

Richard Burton.

FOREWORD

NOT long ago, I listened to a sermon on the Holy Spirit by one of our most distinguished ministers, in the course of which he said that he found many young men and women in the colleges greatly perplexed and troubled over the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, his personality and work, and that he had resolved their doubts and made all things clear by explaining that the Holy Spirit was simply the spirit of love sent forth by God into the hearts and lives of men.

This idea, however luminous and satisfying to those addressed, did not appeal to me as adequate, and led to a succession of somewhat desultory thoughts which, collectively, may be termed a "Conception."

It should go without saying that there is no intentional failure to honor equally the Father and the Son, but in this connection