

**FROM TRADITIONAL TO
RATIONAL FAITH; OR, THE
WAY I CAME FROM BAPTIST
TO LIBERAL CHRISTIANITY**

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From traditional to rational faith; or, The way I came from Baptist to liberal Christianity by R. Andrew Griffin

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R. ANDREW GRIFFIN

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RATIONAL FAITH; OR, THE
WAY I CAME FROM BAPTIST
TO LIBERAL CHRISTIANITY**

TOWN. AND COUNTRY SERIES.



FROM TRADITIONAL TO RATIONAL
FAITH.

"What is true is Christian." — *St. Augustine.*

"Wickedness is the only heresy," — *Epiphanius.*

"A step toward Scepticism would not be a step in the right direction; but one away from error is so, even if we are not certain of our next." — *Rowland Williams.*

"Thus saith the Lord . . . if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth." — *Jer. xv. 19.*

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FROM TRADITIONAL TO RATIONAL FAITH;

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*THE WAY I CAME FROM BAPTIST TO
LIBERAL CHRISTIANITY.*

By R. ANDREW GRIFFIN.



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PREFACE.

AFTER much hesitation, this memoir is published. It is most painful to the author to say aught which reflects on that denomination whose kindness and love he has known from childhood. Yet, on all hands, so much astonishment is expressed that one living so long in the remote interior of orthodoxy should have rested at last in the Unitarian fellowship, that it may be desirable and of interest to give an account of the course pursued.

It is a matter of regret that the form of the story is intensely personal ; but it was originally cast without any definite idea of publication, my chief anxiety being faithfully to record the exact impressions made from time to time.

I trust it may be useful to many who are struggling after the same manner. As it may

fall into the hands of my English friends, whose letters full of Christian tenderness and undisguised anxiety have reached me, assuming I have proven recreant to the very spirit of the truths I taught them, — let me say, for the last time, perhaps, — Let us be quiet. I go my way, sorrowfully, without you. In this world, no argument nor language available can perhaps convince you that God, Christ, atonement, faith, prayer, and the inward life are as real and holy to me now as when I labored among you. You cannot see this; nor could I have seen it, a few years ago. Still, I go the way you go, — treading the same spiritual path you tread. The same Eternal Goodness guides us all; but we are separated, and walk on side by side, not knowing we are near, — together in spirit, yet separated until death reunites us. Then hope bids me say: In a world of realities, — a world free from artless bigotry, of imaginary duties, of enthralment in the literal and external, — we shall meet again, and Christ will neither spurn you nor me.

R. ANDREW GRIFFIN.

MARLBORO', Mass, 1877.

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