

**REASONS WHY I AM A
UNITARIAN: IN A SERIES
OF LETTERS TO A FRIEND**

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Reasons Why I Am a Unitarian: In a Series of Letters to a Friend by John R. Beard

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JOHN R. BEARD

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UNITARIAN: IN A SERIES
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REASONS WHY I AM A UNITARIAN.

o *F. H. Manning.*

REASONS

WHY I AM A UNITARIAN,

IN

A SERIES OF LETTERS TO A FRIEND.

Writely
JOHN R. BEARD, D.D.

This Truth, more beautiful than all beside—
That He whose name is love, and from whose heart,
As from a living and immortal root,
The whole fair universe hath budded forth,
Hath granted us the high and holy right
To call him FATHER. So all things speak
God's Fatherhood and the Brotherhood of man.

c.
LONDON:
SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & CO.
1860.

TO
IVIE MACKIE, ESQ.,

THIRD TIME
MAYOR OF MANCHESTER.

MY DEAR SIR,

The manliness with which you avow, the earnestness with which you support, and the fidelity with which you exemplify the simple, sublime, and most salutary religion of Jesus, the Light and Saviour of the world, must be my apology for inscribing your name on this inconsiderable page. Bear with me if, in addition, I thus publicly acknowledge the generous aid with which you have encouraged my humble endeavours to make the press a channel for extending the benign influence of Unitarianism—equally dear to us both.

I remain, my dear sir, with high respect and kind regards,

Your pastor and friend,

JOHN R. BEARD.

2, CAMP-TERRACE, NEAR MANCHESTER,
December 14, 1859.

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P R E F A C E .

THE present time is especially favourable for a wise and earnest effort to offer a purer form of Christianity to the large, various, and important class which we call *The People*. Never before, within my experience—an experience extending over more than the third of a century—has there been any approach to the same freedom from the taint of infidelity, the same sense of moral and spiritual want, the same earnest desire of religious light, the same earnestness of inquiry “Who will show us any good?” or the same degree of preparation in mental culture and general enlightenment. By no means, indeed, are these desirable qualities, either in themselves or in the extent of their general prevalence, all that the friends of the simple Gospel could wish. They are, however, every day growing and extending, while already they suffice to open the ear of multitudes, who hitherto have remained deaf, to a religious revival in which reason and Scripture are to be honoured, rather than passion. In consequence, opportunities of exercising their proper religious influence are offered to Unitarian ministers throughout the land, and especially in our large city populations. If these opportunities are wisely profited by, a