

# **A SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

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A spiritual autobiography by Charles Gordon Ames

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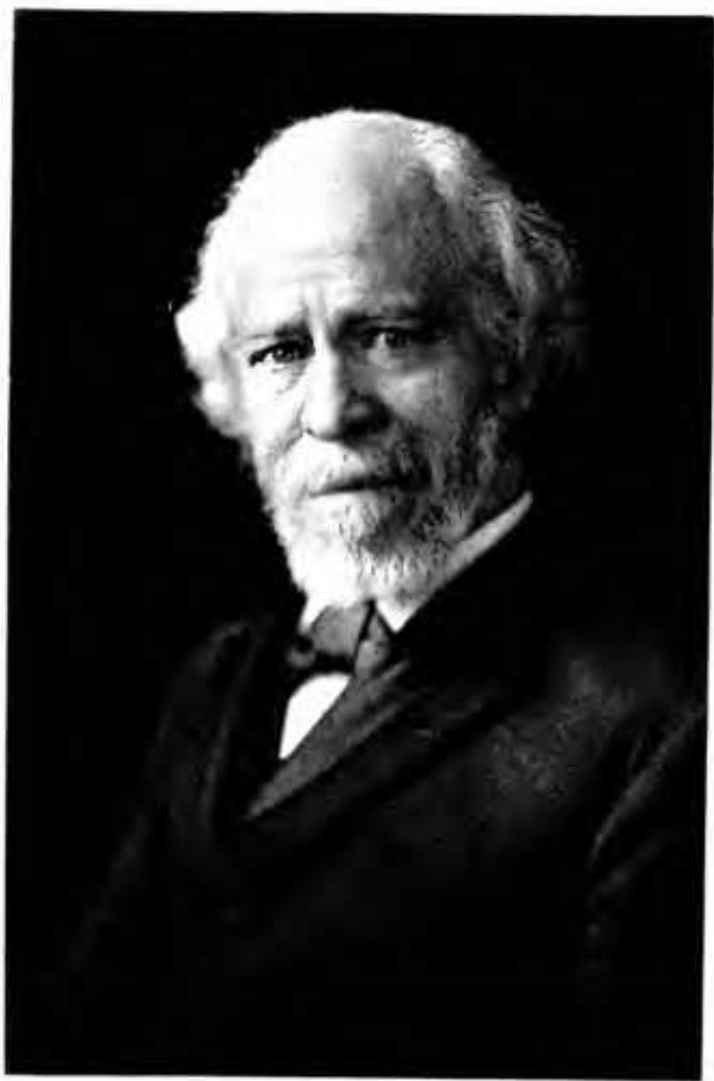
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**CHARLES GORDON AMES**

**A SPIRITUAL  
AUTOBIOGRAPHY**





*Chas. Gordon Ames*

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# Charles Gordon Ames

A Spiritual Autobiography

With an Epilogue by  
Alice Ames Winter



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## Preface

CHARLES GORDON AMES, whose story of his religious life forms the substance of this small volume, was born in Dorchester, Massachusetts, on October 3, 1828. He spent his boyhood on the farm of his adopted father, Thomas Ames, near Canterbury, New Hampshire, and at fourteen began to earn his living in a printing-office in the near-by Dover. In 1849 he was ordained as a Free Baptist minister, and spent a year or two in wandering preaching, until in 1851 he was sent to Minnesota as a missionary. Here a change came over his views that at first drove him out of the ministry into secular occupations, as register of deeds of Hennepin County, and as editor of the *Minnesota Republican*. But at last, finding himself at home among the Unitarians, he reëntered the ministry, and the rest of his life was spent in his pastorates in Bloomington, Illinois; in Cincinnati; in Albany; in Santa Cruz and San José, California; in Germantown, Pennsylvania; in



## Preface

Philadelphia; and in Boston. For a brief period (1877-80) he was editor of the leading Unitarian paper, the *Christian Register*.

Mr. Ames was twice married, first in 1850 to Sarah Jane Daniels, and after her death to Julia Frances Baker in 1863. He died in Boston on April 15, 1912, at the age of eighty-three and a half.

The chapters which follow were, in the main, presented in the form of reminiscences to the Church of the Disciples; but they did not take their final form until Mr. Ames's eightieth year, when the transformation that had been wrought in his inner life appeared to him in a consecutive, even a dramatic, form, which, he believed, might be of practical worth to others who might be passing through a similar experience.

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