

**RELIGION AND THE
HIGHER LIFE: TALKS
TO STUDENTS**

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Religion and the higher life: talks to students by William Rainey Harper

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WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER

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HIGHER LIFE: TALKS
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RELIGION AND THE
HIGHER LIFE

Talks to Students

BY

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER

PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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TO MY FATHER AND MOTHER
IN HONOR OF
THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THEIR MARRIAGE



PREFACE

THERE have been gathered together in this volume some of the talks, more or less informal, which it has been my privilege to address in these last years to companies of young men and women, particularly students. Three of these papers have been published before.

The topics are those that all young men and women are compelled to consider, whether they will or not. I have not supposed that in these talks any new thought was presented. I have felt, however, that something perhaps was accomplished, if a fair consideration of the old thought might be secured.

I am more confident today than ever before that the universities and colleges are not performing their full function in the matter of religious education. There is need of a reconsideration of this whole subject. Who will undertake the task? Meanwhile, the least one can do is to present to the students of each scholastic period of four or five years the practical questions of the religious life.

Do I think that anyone was really helped by these talks? Some have acknowledged that they received help; but this acknowledgment was made, perhaps, only as a matter of courtesy. In any case, I have in this way discharged in a measure a respon-

sibility which has weighed upon me more heavily than any other connected with the office which I have been called to administer.

This fact brings comfort to me, if to no one else. And yet I have noticed that, with each recurring year, it has required a greater effort on my part to undertake this kind of service. I have asked myself whether, as a matter of fact, it was growing more and more difficult to deal with subjects of this kind in a university atmosphere? Perhaps someone will answer this question. It is quite certain that there are many who will be interested in the answer.

Those who know my father and mother, and their lifelong interest not only in the religious life, but in higher education, will approve my desire to acknowledge this interest, as it has manifested itself in connection with my own life, by inscribing to them this small collection of "talks to students."

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1904.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
I	
RELIGION AND THE HIGHER LIFE	1
II	
THE RELIGIOUS SPIRIT	21
III	
FELLOWSHIP AND ITS OBLIGATION—SERVICE	36
IV	
TRIALS OF LIFE	57
V	
LOYALTY TO SELF	69
VI	
DEPENDENCE	78
VII	
CERTAINTY AND UNCERTAINTY AS FACTORS IN LIFE	88
VIII	
OUR INTELLECTUAL DIFFICULTIES	101
IX	
THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE AN EPITOME OF LIFE	113
X	
RELIGIOUS BELIEF AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS	132
XI	
BIBLE STUDY AND THE RELIGIOUS LIFE	141
XII	
AMERICA AS A MISSIONARY FIELD	173