

**THE RELIGIOUS LIFE OF ANCIENT ROME:  
A STUDY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
RELIGIOUS CONSCIOUSNESS, FROM THE  
FOUNDATION OF THE CITY UNTIL THE  
DEATH OF GREGORY THE GREAT**

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The religious life of ancient Rome: a study in the development of religious consciousness, from the foundation of the city until the death of Gregory the Great by Jesse Benedict Carter

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**JESSE BENEDICT CARTER**

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THE GREAT

BY

JESSE BENEDICT CARTER

AUTHOR OF "THE RELIGION OF NUMA"



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TO THE MEMORY OF  
HERBERT FLETCHER DECOU



## PREFACE

THE eight chapters of this book were originally eight lectures delivered before the Lowell Institute in Boston during January, 1911. Though they have been slightly recast, their character as lectures has been preserved, even at the risk of retaining statements which are more dogmatic than one would make in a book of essays written to be read. But the theory of religious evolution here developed is put forth in the hope that it may arouse thought and discussion; and to this end a positive statement seems desirable.

In the first three chapters I have made some use of my earlier book *The Religion of Numa*; and I wish to thank the Messrs. Macmillan for their kind permission to treat the same subject again in this connection. In the story of Christianity I have received much help from Monseigneur Duchesne's *Origines*, a book where profound and critical scholarship is marvelously blended with reverence and devotion. In the later period one is always unconsciously influenced by Gibbon, while Gregorovius and Hodgkin afford many valuable suggestions. I regret that Warde Fowler's *Religious Experiences of the Roman People* did not appear in time for me to make use of it.

I wish to thank President Lowell and Professor Sedg-