

THE NEW WORLD

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The new world by Hugh Black

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HUGH BLACK

**THE
NEW WORLD**

The New World

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THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The New World

By
HUGH BLACK
Author of "Friendship," etc., etc.



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Preface



THE most casual observer can see that all is not well with religion to-day. The world never stood in greater need of religion, but somehow it is not as effective a force as it has been and as it might be. A great historian says that modern experience has furnished much evidence of the insufficiency of mere intellectual education if it is unaccompanied by the education of the character, and it is on this side that modern education is most defective. Some of the weakness is due to the fact that our religion has not been fully responsive to the thought of the age. It turns back to the past for forms in which to state its realities. It seeks expression in antique ritual and obsolete symbolism. In the face of the great changes of our time the Church as a whole is timid and conservative. If there is much indifference to religion, there is little use in indulging in the common super-

ficial explanations and the usual fatuous condemnations. The real reason is that the message is not holding the intellect and gripping the conscience of men.

The first thing needful is to know the actual world in which we live, the conditions that help or hinder the Christian message, the forces that must be allowed to shape that message before it can be applied to the clamant needs of our age. This book attempts to estimate these forces which are creating the unrest, in order that we may make the adjustment which will bring back to religion the days of its power. The first four chapters were written for *Everybody's Magazine*. This has conditioned the style of the book, and the author is grateful that he has been compelled to avoid technical language, which can be a snare to the writer as well as an obscurity to the reader. It is also a hopeful sign of the times that such a great popular magazine should open its pages to a serious discussion of religion.

H. B.

Contents

I.	THE CHANGING ORDER . . .	9
II.	THE FORCES OF UNREST . . .	37
III.	THE ACID OF CRITICISM . . .	65
IV.	THE METHOD OF SCIENCE . . .	89
V.	THE MOVEMENT OF DEMOCRACY . . .	117
VI.	THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE . . .	141
VII.	THE PRINCIPLES OF RECONSTRUCTION	163
VIII.	THE THINGS THAT REMAIN . . .	189
IX.	THE VICTORY OF FAITH . . .	215