

## AN ATHEIST TO C.T. STUDD

“Did I firmly believe,” he said, “as millions say they do, that the knowledge and practice of religion in this life influences destiny in another, religion to me would be everything. I would cast aside earthly enjoyments as dross, earthly cares as follies, and earthly thoughts and feelings as vanity. Religion would be my first waking thought and my last image before sleeping. I would labour in its cause alone. I would esteem one soul gained for heaven worth a life of suffering. Earthly consequences would never stay my hand or seal my lips. Earth, with its joys and its griefs, would occupy no moment of my thoughts. I would strive to look upon eternity alone, and on the immortal souls around me so soon to be everlastingly miserable or everlastingly happy. I would go forth into the world and preach to it in season and out of season, and my text would always be: “What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?””