

THE BATTLE

STELLA HAMBLÉN TAPPMAYER

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BY

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TO
EVERY THINKING YOUNG PERSON
OF TODAY WHO IS TEMPTED TO
ACCEPT ANY OF THE MATERIAL-
IST "BELIEFS" TO THE EXCLUSION
OF BIBLICAL TRUTHS, I DEDICATE
THIS LITTLE BOOK.
THE AUTHOR.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

"Often, after having read a story that I especially liked, I have found myself wondering: "What inspired the author to write that book? Is it in some vital way connected with the author's own experiences?" And if I could from some source glean some facts which connected the author's own life up with the facts contained in the story . . . well, somehow that book held special added attraction. And in this, I believe, I'm not unlike any other reader. So for this reason, I would like to lift the veil and give to you, my readers, a few very personal experiences which caused me to undertake the writing of **THE BATTLE**.

For ten years I taught in the public schools of the Mid-west. This was the work I followed for a livelihood; but the work that held me, gripped me and lifted me up into the haven of happiness was the religious and social work that I did outside of school hours. Oh, by this I don't mean that I just "kept school," for I really tried to give my best there for six hours every day. The thought that I was helping to build character in my pupils was seasoning to a monotonous routine which without the seasoning would have become unbearable.

Then I married a young professional man and left the school-room. For three happy years we continued to live in the small city where I had last taught; while I gave more and more time to my church and social activities.

But, alas! Husband's health temporarily failed and we were forced to the farm for him to recuperate. Here we found ourselves in the country, ten miles from church or any active social center.

only way to relieve the tension that often gathered in my heart. I believe that only those who have been through similar experiences will realize just how I felt. One day I was talking to God about this, to me, very personal omission of duty, when a Voice said to me more audibly than any words could have been:

"You can write a book for Me!"

I replied, aghast, "Lord, I can't possibly write a book!" Now really and truly, I had never before dreamed of trying to write a book.

The same Voice said, "I'll help you. Trust Me."

I accepted the challenge immediately; because I believed that it had come in answer to my prayers. I said, "Lord, I'll try. I'll do my best, and every cent that comes to me from this work shall go right back into the work of Thy Kingdom."

And now as my little book goes to press, the dawn of brighter days appear above the horizon. With restored health will come more congenial surroundings and work; and already I dream of a mission or gospel center, in a neglected and needy section, that may be some day possible just because I dared write out my convictions upon the subject that is, more than any other one thing, undermining confidence in the Bible in the youthful minds of America today—Evolution.

I know that such characters as Mary Gray do exist in real life their name is Legion. And I would like to assure all the young people who read the pages of my book that the girls—and young men as well—who have their lives so enriched by the great and worth-while experiences of life do not miss the so-called pleasures, the frivolous experiences for which there can be no recompense except the fleeting moments of a "good time."

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