

A Word to Begin With

THIS book has been written for young people, and for older folks who love the Church but do not know much about it. It is an attempt to construct an historic framework which shall be at once simple and attractive. The scholarly reader will, I trust, see signs of painstaking effort for accuracy. But my prime endeavor has been to make the course of events in Christendom easily understandable, and so entertaining that an abiding taste for Church history may be begotten in many.

I have always admired the grace of the Frenchman who said of his book, "Mine is the string on which these pearls are strung." But while threading my borrowed pearls I have found that even my string is partly spliced out with others' choice ravelings. To Dr. Matheson's masterly essay on *The Originality of Christ* I am largely indebted for the presentation of our Lord's ideal of life. In recording Paul's career I