PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION

'God and the Soul' was first published in 1896, and won the good opinion of many readers, including the warm approbation of the late Mr. R. H. Hutton, of the Spectator, and Dr. Martineau. A second edition was called for in 1898; a third and cheaper edition in 1904. In the course of a few years ten thousand copies have been circulated—a large number for a book dealing with the fundamental problems of theism.

A fourth edition is now required, but as Mr. Armstrong died 4 January, 1905, it is not possible to add any words from him. In his Preface to the third edition (April, 1904), he thus describes the purpose of the book:

'The standpoint is that of one who heartily and without afterthought rejoices in every advance of knowledge in every field, and desires to retain in his thought no opinions whatever that clash with or are contradicted by the newer knowledge; one who, nevertheless, believes that the religious element in man is primary and permanent, and that God has direct messages for the human soul, and that the human soul has direct access to the living God.'

For an interesting record of the life and work of the author of this book, see the Memoir by his son, George G. Armstrong, with selected sermons, and an introductory letter by Philip H. Wicksteed, published in January, 1906.

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