
...THE...

COMPLETE WORKS

OF

Robert G. Ingersoll



NEW YORK

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A NEW AND COMPLETE EDITION OF

Robert G. Ingersoll's WORKS.

Dresden Edition of 12 Octavo Volumes.

**The Only Authorized and Complete
Edition of Ingersoll's Works**

*Published with the authority and supervision of the family from
his manuscripts, notes, and literary memoranda.*

THIS Edition of the writings of Robert G. Ingersoll justifies its description as complete. Besides including all of the author's famous lectures, addresses and orations already issued in book or pamphlet form, the volumes contain some thousands of pages of matter not hitherto published. Among his inedited writings, now first appearing, may be men-



1890

R. F. Ingersoll

tioned the author's first lecture, entitled "Progress," delivered in 1860; the lectures on "Robert Burns," "The Great Infidels," "My Reviewers Reviewed;" an answer to the Rev. Lyman Abbott's article, "Flaws in Ingersollism," published in the *North American Review*; an answer to Archdeacon Farrar's article, "A Few Words on Colonel Ingersoll," published in the same magazine; an answer to the Dean of St. Paul's article on "Cruelty;" many new pages on divorce, after-dinner speeches, magazine articles on the Chinese Question; essays on Art and Morality, "Three Philanthropists," "Is Avarice Triumphant?" "Some Interrogation Points" (on the Labor Question); prefaces, tributes, fragments, etc., etc.

The whole of one volume is devoted to interviews, which cover a multitude of subjects, and indeed leave hardly any topic of interest untouched. The earlier interviews dealt largely with Colonel Ingersoll's clerical critics and with theological subjects; but the scope of inquiry was gradually expanded to include political, economic and social questions, until at length his opinion came to be solicited on whatever might be uppermost for the time in the public mind, whether it were an election, a race problem, finance, woman's suffrage, marriage and divorce, socialism, labor, prohibition,

protection or free trade. The press discovered that he had valuable ideas on art, music, the drama, literature, oratory, and allied subjects; and what he had to say about them occupies many hundreds of pages.

From his ability in other fields it may be judged how illuminating were Colonel Ingersoll's expositions of the law, how complete his mastery of the details of a case, how convincing his arguments, and how effective his addresses to court and jury. The Legal Volume contains his noted speeches in the Star Route Trials, in the Davis Will Case, in the Munn Trial (from which his universally quoted Temperance Speech is taken), and his last public address, delivered in the Russell Will Case before Vice-Chancellor Grey at Camden, New Jersey.

The patriotic and political addresses of Colonel Ingersoll are here for the first time gathered between covers. They contain utterances from which the fires of patriotism will be ever fed or renewed and discuss issues that will appear in every campaign while the Nation remains a Republic. Some of them—the Decoration Day Orations, the Soldiers' Reunion Address, the Vision of War—are classics. The Campaign Speeches are models of arguments, appeal—and ridicule. Colonel Ingersoll's political deliverances as a

whole disclose the softening influence of time and thought on a great mind from the "nine o'clock in the morning" to the afternoon of life.

The matter given precedence in this edition as might be foreseen, comprises the author's great lectures on the Bible and the Christian Religion and his discussions with theologians, amateur and professional. Among his opponents were the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Cardinal Manning, Judge Jeremiah S. Black, and the Rev. Henry M. Field, whose defence of their faith is given in full. It is doubted that Colonel Ingersoll's replies will be found in the published writings of those authors.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

There are sixteen pictures and two fac-simile reproductions of Colonel Ingersoll's manuscript. As a frontispiece for Volume I a photogravure of the author has been prepared from a photograph taken in 1890. This faces a picture on the engraved title page, of the Birthplace of Robert G. Ingersoll at Dresden, N. Y.

In Volume II is an etched engraving of Attorney-General Ingersoll of Illinois, showing the author as he appeared in 1868 when holding the office indicated.

Volume III contains a portrait taken in 1885.

This volume also contains a fac-simile manuscript of the famous poem "The Birthplace of Burns," written in the Burns cottage at Ayr, August 19, 1878.

The photogravure frontispiece of the fourth Volume is from 1897, a profile, taken when the hand of time was feeling for the tardy furrows in cheek and brow.

In Volume V we again have the orator represented in his prime, (1877), standing at ease with left hand pocketed, and there is another in profile taken in 1884.

The favorite 1876 picture, ornaments the sixth division—the book of Discussions.

Volume VII presents the last portrait made of Ingersoll, the full figure-portrait of 1899.

"With daughter's babes upon his knees, the white hair mingling with the gold," the author is shown in the photogravure preceding the title page of Volume VIII, the only group in the series. The picture fulfils the words. This volume also presents the interior of "Chatham Street Theatre," in New York City where the author was baptised in 1836, a view that is full of interest considering the infant's subsequent career.

Ingersoll with mustache and imperial, and wearing the epaulets of his colonelcy, is brought before us in unaccustomed guise by the photogravure frontispiece

of Volume IX. The picture was taken in 1862, when he was commanding officer of the Eleventh Illinois Cavalry.

Volume X contains the well known standing portrait of 1890, a photogravure.

For the illustrations of Volume XI the publishers have secured a view, of picturesque "Walston," at Dobbs Ferry-on-Hudson. Here in summer lived the great humanitarian.

The concluding volume contains a portrait taken in 1897, and a half-tone of the urn that holds the ashes of the great champion of liberty. A letter written July 20, 1899, is reproduced in fac-simile. It was the writer's last, and dealt with Cuban and Philippine affairs.

Every photogravure portrait is printed by hand on Japanese vellum paper.

Colonel Ingersoll's admirers will derive pleasure and information from the many notes, consisting for the most part of newspaper reports, attached to the public addresses, descriptive of the occasions when they were delivered and of the enthusiasm with which they were received. Some of those occasions--as the convention where was made the stirring speech nominating James G. Blaine for the Presidency, and the

meeting where Henry Ward Beecher introduced Ingersoll as the most brilliant speaker of the English language on the globe — have become historic, and their story is here fittingly preserved. The notes are frequent and copious, and, bringing the reader as they do into the immediate presence of the events they record, are of the highest importance and value.

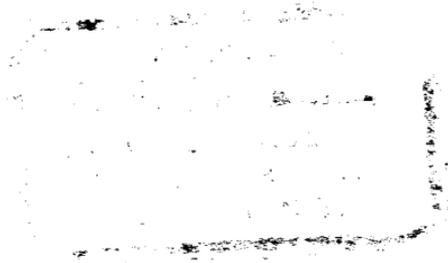
Notice is attracted to the full contents and elaborate index of this edition. These useful adjuncts have been prepared not only at the expense of that labor and time necessary to all such compilations, but with an intelligent appreciation of the needs of those who would consult the writings of this author. The index is not the "hack-work" of a professional indexer satisfied to jot down proper names, and to note their recurrence with volume and page. Here matter explanatory of each reference is given where its importance warrants, and the reader may find that for which he seeks without opening any other volume than the one containing it. The Index embraces the titles of lectures, speeches, interviews and discussions, with their contents, the principal words of such titles being likewise ended in alphabetical order, with references to heads under which the subject is treated at length. Approaching the fulness of a concordance, the

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compilation is complete without being cryptic, and is in fact what it has been said every index should be to the searcher—"a guide, philosopher and friend."

The twelve volumes contain nearly seven thousand pages, printed in large type, on finest of laid deckle-edge paper, wide margins, gilt top, and bound library style, in olive silk cloth, (Colonel Ingersoll's favorite color), paper-label or gilt backs. A number of sets will be bound in levant.

SOLD ONLY IN SETS.



COMMENTS ON THE AUTHOR

“Col. Ingersoll writes with a rare and enviable brilliancy.”

—*Wm. E. Gladstone.*

“It is my strong conviction that but for orthodox animosity, Col. Ingersoll would have been President of the United States. Certainly, no man of his ability ever occupied that office. I am in hopes that the great Agnostic’s biography will be completely written. It will be as striking a chapter in American history as the life of Abraham Lincoln.”—*Dr. Moncure D. Conway*, in

South Place Magazine, London, England.

“A perfect wonder of eloquence and power, he made a speech before the Supreme Court in Washington last winter which was an absolute whirlwind and carried away in its resistless current even that august bench.”—*Judge Jeremiah S. Black*, in

Philadelphia Times.

“His was a great and beautiful spirit, he was a man—all man, from his crown to his foot-soles. My reverence for him was deep and genuine. I prized his affection for me, and returned it with usury.”—*Mark Twain.*

“I take the liberty of saying that I respect him as the man who for a full score and more of years has worked for the right in the great, broad field of humanity, and for the sake of human rights. . . . The man who—and I say it not flatteringly—is the most brilliant speaker of the English tongue of all men on this globe. But as under the brilliancy of the blaze of light we find the living coals of fire, under the lambent flow of his wit and magnificent antithesis we find the glorious flame of genius and honest thought.”

—*Henry Ward Beecher.*

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“Ingersoll was one of the foremost orators of his day. Both as a forensic debator and as a public speaker and lecturer his well deserved fame has long since spread over his country and beyond. In his private life he was a most lovable man, and the charm of his personality exerted a magnetic influence over all with whom he came in contact. Besides being a born orator, he was exceptionally witty, and could move his audience to laughter as well as tears.”

—*Library of the World's Great Classics.*

“Col. Ingersoll is a wonderful man, and his speech for half an hour was a revelation. ‘Royal Bob,’ as Garfield called him, was never in better feather and how deep he goes and how he soars.”

—*Walt Whitman.*

“I envy the land that brings forth such glorious fruit as an Ingersoll.”—*Björnstjerne Björnson.*

“Col. Ingersoll, the man whom above all others I should have wished and hoped to meet if ever I had visited America during his lifetime.”—*Algernon Ch. Swinburne.*

“Col. Ingersoll, whose services for the promotion of the truth, I value most sincerely.”—*Ernst Haeckel.*

“I constantly feel that with all his other gifts he is a born poet, and so high and fine a one that many of our modern metre-mongers might with ease walk under his instep.”

—*Edgar Fawcett.*

“It is said of Isocrates among Athenian orators that he was ‘the first who perfected prose rhythm.’ It is so hard to read Attic Greek with even an approximation to the musical ‘time’ in which Isocrates

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wrote it that those who wish to realize the meaning of this significant compliment to his style will do well to study the rhythms of Robert Green Ingersoll—of whom among American orators it may be said as truly as of Isocrates among the Greek, that he first perfected the prose rhythms of the language in which he expressed himself. Indeed, his ear for musical ‘time’ is so nearly that of a poet, that many of his most eloquent passages have only to be divided and capitalized properly to become blank verse, governed by recurrent vowels as are the hexameters of Homer, the pentameters of the Greek tragedians, or the odes of Pindar. . . . He was a man of extensive reading, typically American in his entire freedom from any approach to social aloofness. He was popular as an orator, primarily, because he felt the unity of his own mind, both in its strength and in its weaknesses, with the average mind of the average American community. His greatest strength lies less in severity of thought, less in the piling up of idea on idea, fact on fact, than in a compelling power of musical expression, voicing his own emotions, and appealing to the related emotions of his hearers through their sense of the harmonies of language. In the ability to do this, he has not been equaled by any other American orator. . . . His ‘Plumed-Knight’ speech is probably the most celebrated speech ever made in an American convention.”—*The Library of The World’s Best Oration.*

“He was one of the most eloquent and powerful orators of the day. . . . Among modern orators he was pre-eminent for high poetical power and command of apt and beautiful imagery in expressing his ideas. He had few, if any, equals in his ability to touch the deepest chords of feeling.”

—*National Encyclopædia of American Biography.*

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