

*The materialism of today is
born of the brutal yesterday*



From *Isis Unveiled*, (BEFORE THE VEIL) I pp. ix-xlv¹

The materialism of today is born of the brutal yesterday

Deeply sensible of the Titanic struggle that is now in progress between materialism and the spiritual aspirations of mankind, our constant endeavour has been to gather into our several chapters [of *Isis Unveiled*], like weapons into armouries, every fact and argument that can be used to aid the latter in defeating the former. Sickly and deformed child as it now is, the materialism of Today is born of the brutal Yesterday. Unless its growth is arrested, it may become our master. It is the bastard progeny of the French Revolution and its reaction against ages of religious bigotry and repression. To prevent the crushing of these spiritual aspirations, the blighting of these hopes, and the deadening of that intuition which teaches us of a God and a hereafter, we must show our false theologies in their naked deformity, and distinguish between divine religion and human dogmas. Our voice is raised for spiritual freedom, and our plea made for enfranchisement from all tyranny, whether of SCIENCE or THEOLOGY.



¹ Frontispiece: Una esclava en venta (c. 1897) José Jiménez Aranda, Museo de Málaga. The sign hanging from the girl's neck bears an inscription in Greek: "Rose, 18 years [old], on sale [for] 800 mna [coins]." A *μνα* (plural *μναι*) or *mina*, in Latin, was an ancient Near Eastern unit of weight, as well as currency, equivalent to 100 Attic drachmai.