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Communal Societies Collection: New Acquisitions

W. W. Dunn. *Evolution and True Light.*

Fort Worth: Texas Print. & Lithographing Co., 1889.

W. W. Dunn was born in Washington County, Virginia on May 6, 1822, and spent his youth on the Virginia frontier. He wandered southward, fought in the Mexican War, and eventually settled in Texas where he was captain in the Frontier Regiment of 1861 and later a Texas Ranger.

Evolution and True Light is Dunn's only work, and this is the only edition. It is a bizarre collection of autobiographical reminiscences, strange theological observations including a record of dreams and visions, and odd chapters on frontier life. In the beginning of the chapter entitled "The End of Time" we read: "In my vision, I started from a level plain and passed through all the verdure of life. I walked in a straight and narrow path and saw and beheld all the loveliness of creation." The work's most remarkable feature is the large color chart depicting his interpretation of the creation of mankind, with various primitive symbols that are discussed in his "Catechism." The chart is featured on the front and back covers.

