

**GOD'S WORD THROUGH  
PREACHING: THE LYMAN  
BEECHER LECTURES BEFORE THE  
THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT OF  
YALE COLLEGE**

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God's word through preaching: the Lyman Beecher lectures before the theological department of Yale College by John Hall

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**JOHN HALL**

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GOD'S WORD  
THROUGH PREACHING.

THE LYMAN BEECHER LECTURES BEFORE  
THE THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT  
OF YALE COLLEGE.

*(FOURTH SERIES.)*

BY  
JOHN HALL, D.D.

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FROM THE RECORDS OF THE CORPORATION OF YALE COLLEGE,  
APRIL 13, 1871.

"Voted to accept the offer of Mr. Henry W. Sage, of New York City, of the sum of ten thousand dollars for the founding of a lectureship in the Theological Department, on a branch of Pastoral Theology, to be designated 'The Lyman Beecher Lectureship on Preaching,' to be filled from time to time, upon the appointment of this Corporation, by a minister of the gospel, of any evangelical denomination, who has been markedly successful in the special work of the Christian ministry."

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YALE COLLEGE, THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT,

March 11, 1875.

REV. JOHN HALL, D.D.:

*Dear Sir* :—Allow us to thank you in our own behalf, and in behalf of the Theological Seminary under our care, for the course of lectures which you have just completed. The Lyman-Beecher Lectureship on Preaching will be of inestimable value to the churches, if, year after year, it shall continue to bear such fruit.

You have seen the close and delighted attention with which our students, and not a few others—most of them working ministers of the Gospel—have listened to these lectures. You have been giving—in your own style, simple, lucid, and forcible

—not a theory or science of Homiletics deduced from your study of great preachers, ancient and modern, but (in accordance with the intention of the generous founder) practical counsels, drawn from your own experience through a long and eminently successful ministry begun in your native country, and continued with undiminished fidelity in ours which has adopted you. We are sure that these young men, dispersed as they will soon be over the breadth of the continent, and some of them into other lands, will be better ministers, both in the pulpit and out of it, for what they have heard from you—better in the highest sense, for what we have valued most of all in these lectures is the deep and healthy religious impression which they have left upon the hearers.

We are happy to learn that the lectures are soon to be published, and we are confident that the ministry generally, of all denominations, and especially young ministers, will thank God for the grace that has been given to you for this good work.

We are, with much respect and affection, your brethren in the Gospel,

LEONARD BACON,  
GEORGE E. DAY,  
SAMUEL HARRIS,  
JAMES M. HOPPIN,  
GEORGE P. FISHER,  
TIMOTHY DWIGHT.



## PREFATORY NOTE.

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THESE lectures were written to be spoken, not read. It was not possible to suspend the necessary labors of a pastor in order to seek elegance of style, or abundance of authority or of illustration, even if such had been possible to the author, or desirable in the lectures. A colloquial expression, or a homely illustration has not been rejected, if it seemed to set out the idea to be conveyed. The main object has been to give and suggest thought, to magnify the divine word as the preacher's instrument, and to point out the methods in which it is to be employed in preaching.

In undertaking this important and responsible task, the lecturer did not, and does not now, think himself fitted for its execution. He was overruled by the judgment of others. But, in its progress, he was much encouraged by the Professors of the Divinity School; by generous appreciation from those whose names give lustre to Yale College (even so much

identification with which will always be a grateful memory); but more than all, by the serious and thoughtful attention given by the students.

To the young brethren, then, first of all of the Yale Divinity School, and next to the other candidates for the ministry in America, however described by Church connection—if they will please to read with candor what is designed in Christian love—these pages are affectionately and respectfully dedicated, with the prayer that the blessing of the Holy Ghost may give efficacy to so much truth as is here set forth, to the glory of our common Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

NEW YORK, *March*, 1875.

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