

# **THE PHILOSOPHY OF PREACHING**

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The philosophy of preaching by A. J. F. Behrends

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**A. J. F. BEHREND'S**

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PHILOSOPHY OF PREACHING

BY

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BROOKLYN, N. Y.

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### PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS little volume contains the lectures given in the month of February of the present year, before the Divinity School of Yale University, on the Lyman Beecher foundation. It is not a treatise on homiletics. The questions connected with the preparation and the delivery of sermons have been intentionally passed by. The aim has been to deal with the more fundamental inquiry of the end of all preaching, and to emphasize the universal elements of all effective religious address. There has been no citation of authorities, for the simple reason that none were consulted and used. The views here presented had slowly taken form during a ministry of twenty-five years, and they have at least the merit of profound personal conviction, which the author has been encour-

aged, by friends in whose critical judgment he has great confidence, to believe may be of service to a wider circle than the one to which they were first given. The form of direct address has been preserved, as a change of literary dress would have involved a radical reconstruction of the material, with the danger of an enlargement in bulk, which might have proved unwelcome to the reader. For in an age when many books are written, brevity is a quality which every busy student appreciates.

A. J. F. B.

BROOKLYN, N.Y., March, 1890.



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## THE PHILOSOPHY OF PREACHING.

### I.

NO man can achieve solid and satisfactory success in any calling, who is not convinced that the services which he renders are of substantial benefit to the public, and that what he gives is a full equivalent for what he receives. He who suspects that he is merely tolerated, or that he occupies the place of a dependent, or who discovers that he is retained when he has ceased to supply a living demand, inevitably suffers in the consciousness of manly independence; and where manhood shrivels, work loses its dignity and power. I have always admired the spirit of the man, who is said to have applied for employment to a wealthy and charitable merchant. The poor fellow was told to remove a huge pile of stones from one end of a field to another. When this task was completed he was ordered to replace them in their original position. This