

**THE MYSTERY OF THE  
TEMPTATION: A  
COURSE OF LECTURES**

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The mystery of the temptation: a course of lectures by W. H. Hutchings

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**W. H. HUTCHINGS**

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TEMPTATION: A  
COURSE OF LECTURES**



THE MYSTERY  
OF *J. Harry, D.D.*  
THE TEMPTATION.

A Course of Lectures.

BY THE  
REV. W. H. HUTCHINGS, M.A.,  
RECTOR OF KIRBY MISERTON.

"'TIS ONE THING TO BE TEMPTED . . . ANOTHER THING TO FALL."

Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged.

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TO THE  
REVEREND RICHARD TEMPLE WEST, M.A., D.C.L.,  
VICAR OF S. MARY MAGDALENE, FADDINGTON,

**This Volume**

IS AGAIN AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED,  
AS A SLIGHT TOKEN OF THE AUTHOR'S SENSE OF THE VALUE OF  
HIS FRIENDSHIP,  
AND IN GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MUCH KINDNESS,





### PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

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THE thoughts which these Lectures embody, were originally expressed in a series of Lenten Addresses which were delivered in the Church of S. Mary Magdalene, Paddington. In this second edition, the Lectures have been revised, and some portions of the work expanded. Moreover, a considerable number of brief notes have been added which are intended to serve the twofold purpose of elucidating certain passages in the text, and of calling attention to some of the sources which have been consulted in the composition of these Lectures.

Whilst, however, the title of this volume, and the portion of Holy Scripture of which it contains an exposition, naturally connect the book with Lent, and suggest its use during that penitential season the length of which is governed by that of our LORD's Fast and Temptation—the Truth which it is sought to enforce in these pages is one of cardinal importance, and touches upon the very essence of Christianity. The imitation of CHRIST is *the*

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fundamental law of Christian conduct, and the question is one of vital importance—was CHRIST *really* tempted or not? If not, if the Temptation was only a semblance, what sympathy can there be between Him and us in our spiritual conflicts? His Holy Life may still be an object of reverence and admiration, but we should despair of in any measure reproducing it. Its conditions would be too different from our own to excite in us any hope of living it ourselves. His Example would be unsuited to tempted man, and we should have in our contest with the powers of Evil to look elsewhere for our Ideal. But if CHRIST was *really* tempted “in all points” as we are, but without sin; if He knew the struggle, the tension, the effort of resistance, as we do; then,—the Tempted CHRIST can be our Stay and Hope in times of conflict, as the Suffering CHRIST is our Strength and Solace, in the hour of pain and sorrow. The *Reality* of CHRIST's Temptation is no theological nicety which may very well have occupied the attention of the Schoolmen in mediæval times; but a truth, a belief in which must always be of the greatest practical importance. It establishes a tie between Him and us, the link of a common sympathy, which like a magnetic current connects us together. Every human soul has its spiritual struggles; and those who are in the midst of the battle—whether they are in the shop or the factory, in the city or in the fields, at the summit of Society or at its base, whatever their lot may be—all can look up for help to the One Perfect Pat-

tern, "the Captain of their Salvation," Who was first the "Struggler," then the "Victor," in the same warfare,—

"And if Satan, vexing sore,  
Flesh or spirit should assail,  
*Thou his Vanquisher before,*  
Grant we may not faint nor fail."

If the treatment of "the Temptation" which is provided in these pages, should not only tend to a truer realization of the Mystery, and of its "utility" in its bearing upon our LORD's Example throughout His Life ; but also aid some to a fuller apprehension of the fact, that they can meet the assaults of the Evil One in union with CHRIST, and that CHRIST reiterates His triumphs in His members,—the labour which has been bestowed upon these Lectures will not have been spent in vain.

W. H. H.

KIRBY MISPERTON RECTORY,  
*Septuagesima, 1889.*