

THE PRAYER- MEETING AND ITS IMPROVEMENT

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The prayer-meeting and its improvement by Lewis O. Thompson

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LEWIS O. THOMPSON

**THE PRAYER-
MEETING AND ITS
IMPROVEMENT**

THE
PRAYER-MEETING
AND
ITS IMPROVEMENT.

BY
REV. LEWIS O. THOMPSON,
PASTOR SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PEORIA, ILL.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
REV. A. E. KITTREDGE, D. D.

"Let all things be done unto edifying."

SECOND EDITION.

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77 MADISON STREET.

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TO THE CHURCH AND CONGREGATION
OF THE
Second Presbyterian Church,
PEORIA, ILL.,
THIS VOLUME
IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED BY
THEIR PASTOR.



PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

This book is designed as a go-between, between pastor and people, to call their combined attention to some hints and principles that would enlarge the efficiency of the prayer-meeting, and to assure those to whom public speaking is a burden, that their experience is common to the majority of mankind, and should give them no uneasiness, beyond spurring them on until they acquire the habit of extempore speech.

If the prayer-meeting is to rise into one of the great departments of successful Christian work, there must be as much thought, prayer and effort given to it, as to either of the Sabbath services or the Sabbath-school. What is needed in many cases is such a method for its conduct, and such a hearty co-operation of all in that method, as shall make the prayer-meeting, both in interest and attendance, an undoubted success.

May the Lord bless for good whatever of truth these chapters contain, and make them instrumental in stirring up the zeal of the churches to untiring labor and faithful prayer in the advancement of His cause.

Go little book—if God shall be pleased to commission thee—from church to church as an evangelist in the cause of the Prayer-Meeting and its Improvement.

PEORIA, ILL., MAY 11TH, 1878.

PREFACE TO THE NEW EDITION.

The proof-sheets for the first edition were scarcely out of my hands before Mr. Holmes made arrangements with me for re-issuing the present edition. That a new edition should be called for so soon is a matter of thankfulness; for nothing but a slow sale was anticipated for a book on this distinctive theme. Its issue was an experiment; and, hence, the book was not electrotyped, as it now will be.

As the compositor's work will have to be done over again from the beginning, the opportunity is afforded for revising the entire book, and of expanding some of its previous pages into new chapters. Three new chapters and a number of suggestions and foot-notes have been added, so that it is hoped the book in its present permanent form will be found all the more worthy of public favor.

I would here, also, acknowledge my indebtedness to the PRESS, whose kind remarks have called attention to the book and secured for it a speedier sale than could otherwise have been obtained. Nor should I fail to express my admiration at the conduct of Dr. G. F. Deems, Editor of "THE SUNDAY MAGAZINE" and Pastor of "THE CHURCH OF THE STRANGERS," New York City, who, with remarkable generosity, has given up the writing of a book on the same subject with a different title, "THE MODERN PRAYER-MEETING," so as not to interfere with the circulation of the present volume, and because this volume happened to see print a few weeks before his own could have been ready for the press. While this book is highly honored by the withdrawal of competition, it is to be regretted that the public shall be so greatly the losers by this unwonted magnanimity.

And now I would again commit THE PRAYER-MEETING AND ITS IMPROVEMENT to the care of Him who can use even the poorest instrument to the furtherance of His kingdom and the promotion of His glory.

LEWIS O. THOMPSON.

PROBIA, JUNE 15TH, 1878.

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