

**LECTURES TO YOUNG  
MEN ON THEIR  
DANGERS, SAFEGUARDS,  
AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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Lectures to Young Men on Their Dangers, Safeguards, and Responsibilities by Daniel Smith

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**DANIEL SMITH**

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Lectures to Young Men  
ON  
THEIR DANGERS, SAFEGUARDS,  
AND  
RESPONSIBILITIES.

BY REV. DANIEL SMITH.

I RESPECT A YOUNG MAN.—WELLEY.

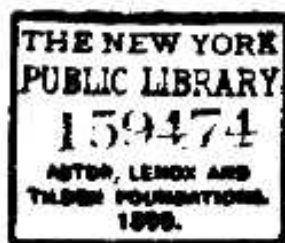
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## P R E F A C E .

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"I HONOUR a young man," said John Wesley, "because he may be doing good when I am in my grave." The author heartily adopts this sentiment, and he offers the following pages to young men as a token of that respect. The design has been entertained for several years, and the work partly executed; but a multiplicity of engagements has delayed its execution. It now appears, not as a rival of similar works, but as an auxiliary; its aim is not novelty, but utility—the author has sought to make its language pointed, and its spirit and voice paternal.

Having long since observed that the *Bible*—that infallible model for all moral teachers—gives us "not merely the rule of duty, but also the *exemplification*;" that it abounds with fact and incident,—the histories of Abraham and Lot—the adventures of Jacob and Joseph—the parables of the prodigal son and the lost sheep;—that, in short, "it presents us *actions* rather

than words;" and having also noticed audiences listless under able speakers, when there was neither fact nor incident, parable nor allegory—and still further, having seen the eyelids droop over books well written, but destitute of illustration; the author has come to the conclusion that "the primness of diction" which shuts out all incident and example, is as far from accordance with the dictates of philosophy, as it is from conformity to the precedents of the Bible. An address may challenge criticism as a finished piece, and yet may "run like oil over polished marble," and leave as little trace of its passage. Such an address is likely to do very little good, especially to the young. Diametrically opposite is the plan pursued in the following pages: they abound in incident and example—not attempting illustration where there is nothing to illustrate; but first giving the principle, and then endeavouring to rivet it by the illustration.

The author is not ignorant of the fact, that several works of this kind are already before the public, or that they have recently multiplied somewhat rapidly. This he regards as an omen for good. It shows that many minds are alive with solicitude for the welfare of our young men—that their position and responsibilities are not forgotten. The more works of



this kind, if they are of the right stamp, the better. Moreover, as every man has his circle of acquaintances and friends, so the author has his. Employed in the work of the ministry during the last twenty-one years, and having held the relation of pastor to several congregations both in city and village, there are many families with which his relations have been very intimate. Many have grown up in the domestic circle and in the Sabbath-school, for whom he feels a special interest. He has also witnessed some scenes of sorrow, and heard some tales which have stirred his heart to its very depths,—the saloon and the theatre; the company of the vicious, and the wiles of the strange woman; the infidel, and the abettor of loose sentiments, have lured the young man from his church and his Bible, and have corrupted his principles and hardened his heart; or, enticed by the fascinations of the ball-room, he has begun to spend his leisure hours in those companies, and amid those scenes, “where thought is banished, where religion is forgotten, where God and eternity and death are kept out of sight, where conviction is stifled, where conscience is seared, where the heart is hardened, where the good resolutions made in a serious hour are broken, where the young and religiously-trained youth

is gradually initiated into irreligion, and where the ruin of millions of immortal souls has been sealed." Often has he seemed to hear a voice crying,—“Speak, speak to that young man;” and too often, alas! has he found that admonition came *too late*. He therefore takes this opportunity of attempting to offer a word in season, to any who may be willing to listen, but especially to the young men of those families and congregations where he has been welcomed as a pastor.

Another reason for putting this volume to press, is; that a favourable channel for its more extended circulation presents itself. The press from which it issues is the oldest in the United States established for the great purpose of disseminating purely-religious books. It has a list of publications larger than any similar establishment; but among them all, it has none on the plan of this small volume. That the niche was vacant, the topics important, and such as require “line upon line,” it is presumed will not be doubted. How effectively they are here treated, is left for others to judge. The author desires the verdict to turn on one single question—*Will the book do good?*

D. S.

KINGSBORO, January, 1852.

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