

**SIX SERMONS PREACHED BEFORE
THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD; IN
ST.MARY'S CHURCH, IN THE
YEARS, 1837, 1838, 1839**

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Six sermons preached before the University of Oxford; in St.Mary's Church, in the years, 1837,1838,1839 by Samuel Wilberforce

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SAMUEL WILBERFORCE

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SIX SERMONS

PREACHED BEFORE THE UNIVERSITY
OF OXFORD, IN ST. MARY'S
CHURCH,

IN THE YEARS 1837, 1838, 1839,

BY

SAMUEL (*NOW*) LORD BISHOP OF OXFORD

CHANCELLOR OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER
AND LORD HIGH ALMONER TO THE QUEEN.

“ Let us follow after . . . things wherewith one may
edify another.” Rom. xiv. 19.



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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE first two Sermons only of this set have any direct connexion with each other ; and it is important that they should be read together : for some expressions of the first, taken by itself, might seem to favour that view which the second is specifically intended to counteract. The Author is deeply convinced that the combination of these two views is an especial feature of Christ's Gospel : that, whilst there is provided in it for every penitent a full assurance of his free forgiveness ; and whilst it is his duty as well as his privilege to realise this truth, and bring it clearly out, as the spring of his future obedience, instead of doubting the assured mercy of his heavenly Father,—there is in it also a most clear declaration, that indulged sin does deprave the moral nature ; put a man back in his course ; and so leave him after repen-

tance, not, indeed, a whit the less accepted of God in Christ, but, with evil done to his own soul, and ground actually lost, which repentance does not at once remove or regain, though it gives him anew the opportunity of removing the one, and regaining the other.

On giving these Sermons to the press, at the request of many by whom they were listened to with great attention, and by whom, he trusts, they may be read with profit, the Author desires to express his obligation for different trains of thought, especially in the fifth Sermon, to the conversation of a friend, from an unpublished manuscript of whose he has quoted a few words in the 154th page. Many also of the thoughts contained in the last Sermon, may, he doubts not, be traced to the "Letters on the Kingdom of Christ," by the Rev. F. Maurice, which he had recently been reading when that Sermon was written.

BRIGHSTONE RECTORY,

June, 1839.

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SERMON I.

THE MORAL CONSEQUENCES OF
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