

**THE NEW EARTH:
AND
OTHER SERMONS**

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The new earth: and other sermons by Herbert Booth Smith

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HERBERT BOOTH SMITH

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Foreword

DURING the summer of the eventful year 1918, the National Service Commission of the Presbyterian Church planned a tour of the United States for some fifty of its ministers. These men were to go in companies of two each to assigned districts, and for six weeks or more carry the message of religious preparedness for the New Day that was to follow the war, to all whom they could reach. By way of preparation for this labour of love, a series of interviews was graciously accorded this group of ministers by the Department heads in Washington, including the President himself. Fresh from these conferences the men returned to prepare their messages of reconstruction and reconsecration.

In the providence of God, however, the tour was never made. First: Because of the influenza epidemic which closed all public meetings. Second: Because of the unexpected signing of the armistice, almost on the very day when the itinerant ambassadors of righteousness were to begin their work. The only recourse that was left to the men was to deliver their messages to their respective congregations. The writer, however, has dared to hope that some of these addresses might profitably reach a larger hearing, and hence this book. Read it if you will. Profit by it if

you can, and if you cannot, remember that the Scripture says that "of making many books there is no end," and give the author at least the credit of doing his part to help fulfill this prophecy.

HERBERT BOOTH SMITH.

Immanuel Church Study, Los Angeles.

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I

THE NEW EARTH

"I saw a new earth."—REVELATION 21:1.

THIS text sounds strange. *We* did not know it was in the Bible. Is it really there? Yes, there it is, in the place where it has always been, but the reason it sounds unfamiliar to you is that it has escaped emphasis because it stood in the background of another great statement which has hitherto been emphasized at the expense of its humble brother: "I saw a new heaven and a new earth." Oh yes, we place it now. That sounds familiar. But to tell the truth, every time we read that phrase we were so busy thinking about the new heaven and arguing where it was, that we did not have much interest left for the lower story of earth. Well now, I am going to pass by entirely the new heaven this morning without any apology, and tell you frankly that just at this juncture of events I am more interested in the new earth than in the new heaven.

Why! What do we need a new earth for? We do not usually demand a new hat, or coat, or auto, or house, until the old ones have become worn out. Is that true of Earth? Is it worn out? Yes, I believe it is. The old régime, the old system, is worn out and run down at the heel, and instead of trying to patch