

**THE WATER OF LIFE,
AND
OTHER SERMONS**

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The water of life, and other sermons by Charles Kingsley

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CHARLES KINGSLEY

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AND
OTHER SERMONS**

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THE WATER OF LIFE

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BY

CHARLES KINGSLEY
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SERMON I.

THE WATER OF LIFE.

(Preached at Westminster Abbey.)

REVELATION xxii. 17.

And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

THIS text is its own witness. It needs no man to testify to its origin. Its own words show it to be inspired and divine.

But not from its mere poetic beauty, great as that is : greater than we, in this wet and cold climate, can see at the first glance. We must go to the far East and the far South to understand the images which were called up in the mind of an old Jew at the very name of wells and water-springs ; and why the Scriptures speak of them as special gifts of God, life-giving and divine. We must have seen the treeless waste, the blazing sun, the sickening glare, the choking dust, the parched rocks, the distant mountains quivering as in the vapour of a furnace ; we must have felt the lassitude of heat,