NEWNESS OF LIFE, A SERIES OF SERMONS AND ADDRESSES TO TRUE BELIEVERS

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Newness of Life, a Series of Sermons and Addresses to True Believers by W. Hay M. H. Aitken

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NEWNESS OF LIFE:

A SERIES OF

Sermons und Addresses to True Beliebers.

DELIVERED ON MISSIONS AND SIMILAR OCCASIONS BY

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MISSION PREACHER.



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REPORTER, FRINTEY, AND PUBLISHER,
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PREFACE.

THE happiest moments of a Mission, so far as the missionpreacher is concerned, are those in which he is permitted
to minister words of counsel and encouragement to the Lord's
flock. The mission service, pure and simple, cannot be otherwise regarded than as a severe battle against recognized forces
of evil. It has to be fought; by God's blessing it must be
won; but how refreshing it is to turn aside for a few moments
from this stern hand-to-hand conflict with the powers of darkness, and to take "sweet counsel together" with those whose
hearts are already surrendered to Christ.

Nor are such services to be regarded merely in the light of a spiritual indulgence for the mission-preacher; one object of every Mission—secondary indeed, but not unimportant—will be to afford spiritual assistance and direction and refreshment to the true servants of God. At such a time these will be pre-disposed to receive truth suited for their spiritual condition by the very circumstances by which they are surrounded, and it is of the greatest importance that they should obtain ere the Mission passes some fresh and definite blessing.

The Sermons contained in this volume have been for the most part delivered on such occasions, and I publish them in the hope that they may be useful to those who are already at peace with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

As I have found by experience that the usefulness of an evangelizing sermon may be greatly increased and extended by committing it to print, so I hope that many true Christians whom my voice has never reached may derive some assistance from the perusal of sermons addressed to the class to which they belong.

I also hope that these words of exposition and counsel may be helpful to the many who in various places where I have preached the gospel have been led to accept God's salvation, and who will perhaps receive spiritual teaching from no one more readily than from him whose voice God was pleased to use in the first instance to call them to the Cross.

One or two of the sermons, though not delivered at missions, are so much in harmony with the character of the volume, that I have not hesitated to insert them; the last sermon in the volume—preached on a memorable occasion—is one of these, and I would venture to crave for it the serious and thoughtful consideration of my fellow-churchmen.

I have felt no small difficulty in deciding upon a title for this volume which should indicate its object and suggest its true character. That which I have at length fixed upon will be found to correspond pretty accurately with the subject-matter of the first few sermons at any rate, nor will it be out of harmony with the general purport of the remainder. The volume will have answered its purpose if it contributes in any degree to the development and manifestation of that spiritual experience in the hearts of God's people which is indeed NEWNESS OF LIFE.

CONTENTS.

T)

I.—Newness of Life	Ş.			PAGE I
II THE THREE LAWS	172	198		15
IIITHE MORAL EFFECTS OF THE AT	CONEM	ENT	0.5	29
IV LED OF THE SPIRIT	ii.	97	9	40
V TRUTH IN THE INWARD PARTS	82	U.	85	50
VI.—JESUS IN THE MIDST .		5⊈		60
VIITHE LITTLE CITY AND THE POOL	R WIS	E MAN	18	72
VIII King of Kings, and Lord of I	ORDS	186	÷	81
IX THE CONSECRATED BODY .	•	S. 100.	24	98
X.—Self-Mastery	•		•	107
XI.—FELLOWSHIP IN THE SUFFERINGS	or (CHRIST	100	117
XII.—CHRISTIAN ACCURACY .	51	**		130
XIII.—THE CHRISTIAN'S WALK, AND ITS	з Овј	ECT.	23	140
XIV.—THE MINISTRY OF THE GIFT	20	5 5	*0	158
XV.—The Messenger Faithful to	HIS M	ission	8 3	172
XVI.—POLISHED SHAFTS	*	*	**	184
XVIITHE HOLY WAR		•		197
XVIII THE LORD IS THERE	38			212
XIXTHE BROKEN ALTAR		*		218
XXCHRISTIAN UNITY			(2)	238

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Mewness of Life.

AN EASTER SERMON.

"Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."—ROMANS vi. 4.

O these words I desire to direct your special attention, "newness of life."

We are called upon this morning, my dear brethren, to contemplate the crowning miracle, of Christianity the miracle of miracles. The Resurrection may justly so be described because it is not only in itself a miracle, but it is the master miracle of Divine love set against and triumphing over the masterpiece of Satan's malignity, which we call death. As death in one form or another, either spiritual, temporal, or eternal, must be regarded as the supreme development of evil, so resurrection in one form or another, either spiritual resurrection or final resurrection, must be regarded as the highest possible triumph Now I want you to observe, dear friends, that not only does God, in His infinite love, triumph over death, but that He actually employs the enemy to be the means of producing this greater benefit. Death itself becomes subservient to the purposes of a higher life, and we may truly say, employing the well-known riddle of Samson, "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness," so that at this moment death itself occupies a most important place in the moral economy of the universe, and is actually the introduction to the highest good of all.

It would have been a great thing if the Lord Jesus Christ had simply robbed death of his string, so that you and I might have looked the tyrant in the face without a tremor of fear; but the glory of God seems to me so specially revealed in this,—not only has death been robbed of his sting, but death has become the condition of attaining to resurrection life and