PRAYER AND CONTEMPORARY CRITICISM: FIVE SERMONS

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R. HENRY ROBERTS

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Trieste

PRAYER

AND

CONTEMPORARY CRITICISM.

Five Sermons

BY

R. HENRY ROBERTS, B.A.,

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MDCCCLXXIII.

TO THE MEMBERS

OF THE

CHURCH AND CONGREGATION

MEETING IN

CORNWALL ROAD,

AT WHOSE REQUEST THEY ARE PUBLISHED,

THESE SERMONS

ARE GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED BY THEIR ATTACHED

PASTOR AND FRIEND.

PREFACE.

It is, perhaps, only fair to state, that although the publication of the sermons contained in this little book has been long delayed, they appear in print very nearly as they were preached. The friends who heard them will possibly perceive that the *Fourth* has been somewhat modified in its structure: all the rest are substantially unaltered. If they help in the slightest degree to the establishment of the faith of believers, and the confirmation of the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour in any heart outside the circle of those to whom it is his privilege ordinarily to minister, the Author will be more than satisfied.

12, Elgin Crescent, Notting Hill, W.,

March, 1873.

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PRAYER AND THE PROPOSED EXPERIMENTAL TEST VIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST'S TEACHING.

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."—*Mark* xi. 24.

Preached Sunday Evening, November 10th, 1872.

SERMON II.

ELIJAH AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL; OR, THE EXPERIMENT OF MOUNT CARMEL.

"And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that Thou art God in Israel, and that I am Thy servant, and that I have done all these things at Thy word.

"Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that Thou art the LORD God, and that Thou hast turned their heart back again.

"Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

"And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

"And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there."—1 *Kings* xviii. 36—40.

Preached November 17th, 1872.

SERMON III.

SERMON IV.

SERMON V.

I.

PRAYER AND THE PROPOSED EXPERIMENTAL TEST VIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST'S TEACHING.

MARK XI. 24.

IN the *Contemporary Review* for July, there appeared an anonymous article, entitled, "'The Prayer for the Sick.' Hints towards a serious attempt to estimate its value." This article is introduced by a letter from Professor Tyndall, which concludes thus:—"The proposal is so fair, and the mode of stating it so able and so conciliatory, that I could not, when asked to do so, refuse to give it the support implied by these few words of introduction."

An article upon a subject so universally interesting, and having an object which concerns so nearly believers in God and in Christ, could not fail to excite the attention of Christians. I should not, however, have felt moved to take it up had not two further articles appeared in the *Contemporary* for October, in which