

**'H.K.'. HIS REALITIES  
AND VISIONS**

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'H.K.'. His realities and visions by Nehemiah Curnock

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**NEHEMIAH CURNOCK**

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BY

NEHEMIAH CURNOCK

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London

CHARLES H. KELLY

2 CASTLE STREET, CITY ROAD, AND 26 PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.

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## P R E F A C E

FOR permission to republish the following sketches I am indebted to the Proprietors of the *Methodist Recorder*, also to the *Wesleyan Methodist Magazine*, in which the last of the series originally appeared.

The *nom-de-plume* 'H. K.' was invented for the author by his friend and first literary chief, the late Dr. Benjamin Gregory.

It may add interest to these studies if I explain that all the

. Old men, and babes, and loving friends,  
And youths and maidens gay

who cross this mimic stage are real persons, though renamed. Their sayings and doings, their sorrows and joys, are realities.

Commonplace the actors and their plays may be ; but each reality, however trivial, has its answering vision in the unseen world of thought and hope and love.

NEHEMIAH CURNOCK.

RAYLEIGH, ESSEX,  
*January, 1907.*



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‘H. K.’  
HIS REALITIES AND VISIONS

‘FIRST’

**L**AST Sunday morning our minister preached in his own pulpit, with hymns and lessons and prayers all suitable to the occasion. Not the least striking feature in a service worthy of a new beginning was the sermon. Its text I will here print, because it may fitly serve as a New Year's greeting for the Methodist people in every city, and in every village also, wheresoever their lot is cast—

‘TO ALL THAT BE IN ROME, BELOVED OF  
GOD, CALLED TO BE SAINTS : GRACE TO  
YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD OUR FATHER,  
AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.’

Of the sermon I have nothing more to

say, except this, that a work-worn journalist who chanced to be sitting by my side punctuated the preacher's Amen, with the whispered remark, 'You have a preacher who gives you something to think about.'

For two reasons I refer to this Covenant Sunday service. It gave the motto-text on which, as it seems to me, every Methodist can preach his own sermon; and, incidentally, it gave the word which stands at the head of this chapter.

Many years ago my dear old friend Moody drilled me in a habit that grows stronger with the passing years. He used to say, 'You should never go to church without a Bible; and let it, if possible, be your own Bible, the Bible you read at home, the Bible dear to you by sacred memories.' Moody had a theory that if a preacher found his people habitually bringing their Bibles to church and using them, the habit would react wholesomely, inducing him more frequently to refer his hearers to the words of Holy Scripture in their proper places, and thus cultivating in himself the