

**SERMONS ON THE POORER  
CLASSES OF LONDON:  
PREACHED BEFORE THE  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

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Sermons on the Poorer Classes of London: Preached Before the University of Oxford by Robert Gregory

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**ROBERT GREGORY**

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CLASSES OF LONDON:  
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SERMONS  
ON THE  
POORER CLASSES OF LONDON,  
PREACHED BEFORE THE  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD,

BY  
ROBERT GREGORY, M.A.  
OF CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, OXFORD; CANNON OF ST. PAUL'S, AND  
VICAR OF ST. MARY THE LESS, LAMBETH.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

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OF the following Sermons, the last five, delivered in the discharge of his office as Select Preacher, embody the Author's own experiences of the poorer classes of London during the eighteen years he has lived and worked amongst them; and the first, preached in his own turn several years since, is reprinted because [it treats of the same subject. He has endeavoured to limit his descriptions and theories to what he has learned by personal observation; and he is not aware that he has made a single statement concerning the condition of the poorer classes, which has not been suggested by what he has seen or heard in his own parish.

The notes are added simply as illustrations, not as authority for what is stated in the Sermons. It seemed desirable for the writer to corroborate his own views by those of others, and by facts drawn from trustworthy sources. He regrets that he has not been able to make this portion of the volume more complete.

ST. MARY'S VICARAGE, LAMBETH,  
*November 1, 1869.*





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## SERMON I.

### Religious Condition of the Poorer Classes\*.

ISAIAH lx. 2.

*“For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.”*

THE prophecies of Isaiah seem to indicate very plainly, that the manifestation of Christ's presence was to be permanent and perpetual under that better dispensation which His Advent in the flesh was to usher in. It was not to be confined to that half-seen, half-hidden display of His glory, which we this day commemorate, or to those general exhibitions of His power and holiness which were placed before the men of Judea, His contemporaries, or to those brighter and clearer manifestations which were vouchsafed to His personal followers; but rather the Prophet's words would seem to indicate that, like the advancing tide, the influences of His presence should flow on, till the whole world was covered; that, like the dawning of the day, they should spread, till the remotest corners were illumined. For we read, “Behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee:” and then the effect of this was to be, “the Gentiles shall

\* Preached on the Feast of the Epiphany, 1860.