THE GLORY OF GOD IN MAN; FOUR SERMONS. OCTOBER, 1864

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The Glory of God in Man; Four Sermons. October, 1864 by E. H. Gifford

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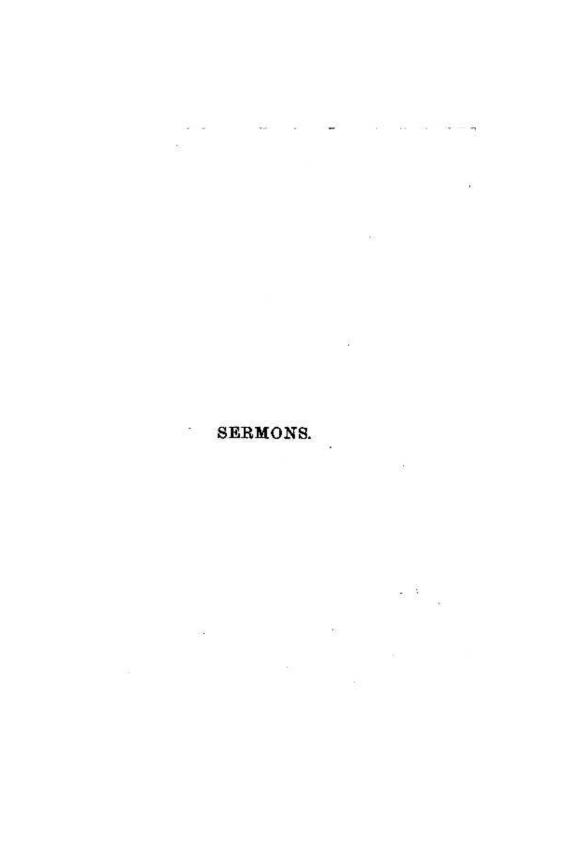
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E. H. GIFFORD

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THE GLORY OF GOD IN MAN;

FOUR SERMONS

Preached before the Unibersity of Cambridge,

IN OCTOBER, 1864.

BY

E. H. GIFFORD, D.D.

HONORARY CARGE OF WORCESTRE, LATE HEAD MASTER OF KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL, RIBMINGRAM, FORWERLY PRILOW OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

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SERMON III.

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SERMON I.

THE UNRIGHTEOUSNESS OF MAN.

Rom. 111, 22, 23.

For there is no difference: for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

MAN is a mystery to himself. He is beset on all sides with wonders that pass his understanding, but the greatest wonder in the world is man.

If the mixture of 'order and disorder, of happiness and suffering, of life and death in the world around us, has tempted men to doubt whether this be indeed the work of almighty love, much more may the contrasts of the moral world, of the life within us, perplex, and baffle, and dismay. Listen to man in one mood, and he seems to belong already

to a higher world: "How noble in reason; how infinite in faculties: in action, how like an angel; in apprehension, how like a God." But hear him again, and all is changed: "A being full of contradictions, made wretched by wants transcending the bounds of his nature, and desires that can never be satisfied; his nature itself a lie, uniting the greatest poverty with the greatest pride. Among such evils, the greatest good,—that he possesses the power of taking his own life²."

To what can we attribute this contradiction between man's aims and his attainments, his conscience and his life, his vague longings after some higher good, and his restless pursuit of things which can never satisfy?

Must we not believe that this schism of the soul points to a corruption of its true nature; and that in these utterances of man's experience and these tendencies of his half-conscious desires, we have a testimony to that which the Scriptures teach us of his Creation and his Fall?