

**INSTRUCTION AND
ENCOURAGEMENT
FOR LENT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649359165

Instruction and encouragement for Lent by J. H. Hobart

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

J. H. HOBART

**INSTRUCTION AND
ENCOURAGEMENT
FOR LENT**

INSTRUCTION
AND
ENCOURAGEMENT
FOR
Lent.

BY THE REV.
J. H. HOBART, D. D.

NEW YORK:
DANIEL DANA, JR., 381 BROADWAY.
1859.

P R E F A C E.

THE writer of the following pages hopes that enough will be found in them to justify their title.

He has not attempted a complete view of the character and duties of Lent, nor pretended to furnish those who would keep it, with a systematic and detailed method of so doing. It was his purpose originally to make this volume somewhat larger, and to include in a second part a practical and devotional companion to the season. It seemed better, however, to ascertain first whether a less comprehensive plan would prove acceptable to any considerable proportion of those who desire counsel of this sort. To them, therefore, this little work is submitted, and to their service it is dedicated, with diffidence as to its capacity to attain the desired end, yet in an earnest purpose to present a view of the subject which may be worked out, indeed, far more satisfactorily by each reader for himself, but which, once adopted,

will engage him, heart and soul, in the true observance of the season.

Lent is the most characteristic feature of the Church's system, as, indeed, it must be, if that system be a true correlative of the scheme, if scheme it can be called, of the world's disorder. The Church is the embodiment of our Lord's Prayer, that His disciples may be kept from the evil that is in the world. The most appropriate emblem of the evil which our Lord thus deprecated, as is shown by the frequent mention of *fire* in Holy Scripture, and its adoption into the current language of mankind, when speaking of this and kindred subjects, is expressed in that one word. From the slight flush upon the cheek that betokens the rising inflammation, to the raging fever that consumes our mortal frame, a parallel is exhibited to the progress of the devouring heat with which the course of our moral constitution is set on fire, and which burns on, through time and eternity, till every substance left within its power is utterly destroyed. It is to the present action of this fire that the passages in Holy Scripture refer, from which has been taken the phrase of "a brand plucked from the burning."^{*} The dreadful reality of the future pun-

^{*} Zech. iii. 2. St. Jude, 23. Amos, iv. 11, refers to deliverance from outward perils.

ishment is, indeed, the ultimate cause of fear, but our Saviour's concern was for the present condition of man, exposed to the earlier attacks of the deadly disorder. This evil can be remedied: *that* is hopeless. Among His instruments for this purpose, the exercises of penitence are obviously, as they are necessarily, most characteristic of the practical system of salvation. Faith, Hope, and Love assume in these exercises their distinctive forms, as pertaining to this state of trial.

Now, in the special season of penitence, the first office of Faith is to convince us of the real facts of our earthly estate, and of the right mode of treating them; of Hope, to encourage us amid the difficulties that rise in the course of discipline; of Love, to warm and gladden our hearts by the thought of Who it is that calls us to take up the Cross of self-subjugation. From this point of view I have endeavored to look over the season of Lent, and to suggest some thoughts that may tend to convince and persuade any persons of doubtful or reluctant minds who may see these pages, that Lent is the just and necessary correlative of this world's disordered condition; that in it the system of salvation concentrates its vigor; and that to enter upon it thoroughly, is not only to be wise and secure for the future,

but to be immediately and really happy. Let such readers only understand beforehand that this volume does not pretend to treat adequately so great a theme, but only to present a few suggestions towards its treatment.

Two sermons are also herewith printed, which were prepared in the ordinary course of parochial duty, without the remotest thought of publication. They seemed, however, to make the end of the volume correspond closely to its opening sections, and to bring out the point to which the whole subject tends. They are submitted, therefore, to the reader in the unaltered form in which they were delivered.

CONTENTS.

(SEE INDEX AT CLOSE OF THE VOLUME.)

	PAGE
1. <i>This life a fragment</i>	9
2. <i>Our moral being integral, not fragmentary</i>	23
3. <i>Sinful actions various; the principle of evil one</i>	47
4. <i>Lent interrupts worldly happiness</i>	72
5. <i>Lent aims at revival</i>	85
6. <i>Public duties of Lent</i>	102
7. <i>Private duties of Lent</i>	119
8. <i>Lent not burdensome</i>	135
9. <i>The religious life hidden from the world</i>	155
10. <i>The religious life to be cheerfully chosen in Christ's fellow- ship</i>	170
SERMON I.	
<i>Integrity, the believer's hope and end</i>	189
SERMON II.	
<i>The perfect work of patience</i>	206

