

**PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN AND
LAZARUS: ILLUSTRATED IN NINE
LECTURES, DELIVERED IN THE
FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH IN
PORTLAND, MAINE, 1833**

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Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus: Illustrated in Nine Lectures, Delivered in the First Universalist Church in Portland, Maine, 1833 by Menzies Rayner

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MENZIES RAYNER

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OF THE
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ILLUSTRATED

IN NINE LECTURES,

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FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

IN PORTLAND, MAINE, 1833.

BY MENZIES BAYNER,
PASTOR OF SAID CHURCH.



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P R E F A C E.

THE following Lectures were delivered in the Universalist Church, in Portland, on Sunday evenings, in May, June, and July, 1855. In compliance with the wishes of many who heard them, they are now given to the public, without material alteration. It will be perceived that the style is that of discourses intended for the pulpit, and is therefore more free and diffusive than if designed only for the press. This it was thought best not to alter, since it is calculated to render the work more intelligible, if not more interesting, to the mass of readers.

The common—we might say orthodox—exposition of the parable has been particularly noticed, and the reasons given for dissenting from it, totally and unequivocally. The context, embracing several chapters, has been carefully examined and illustrated. This particularly increased the number of the Lectures much beyond what was originally contemplated. It gave occasion, however, to illustrate many other parables and important passages, which it is hoped will be found interesting and useful. Indeed, we had the satisfaction to observe, on their delivery, that the congregation, which was crowded through the whole course, discovered no impatience or want of attention.

It is not claimed that these Lectures contain many ideas in relation to this noted parable, which are entirely new, and which no others had ever thought of. The course taken, however, in the illustration is more extended, and more minute than usual ; for it was an especial object to render the whole subject plain and easy of comprehension to every capacity.

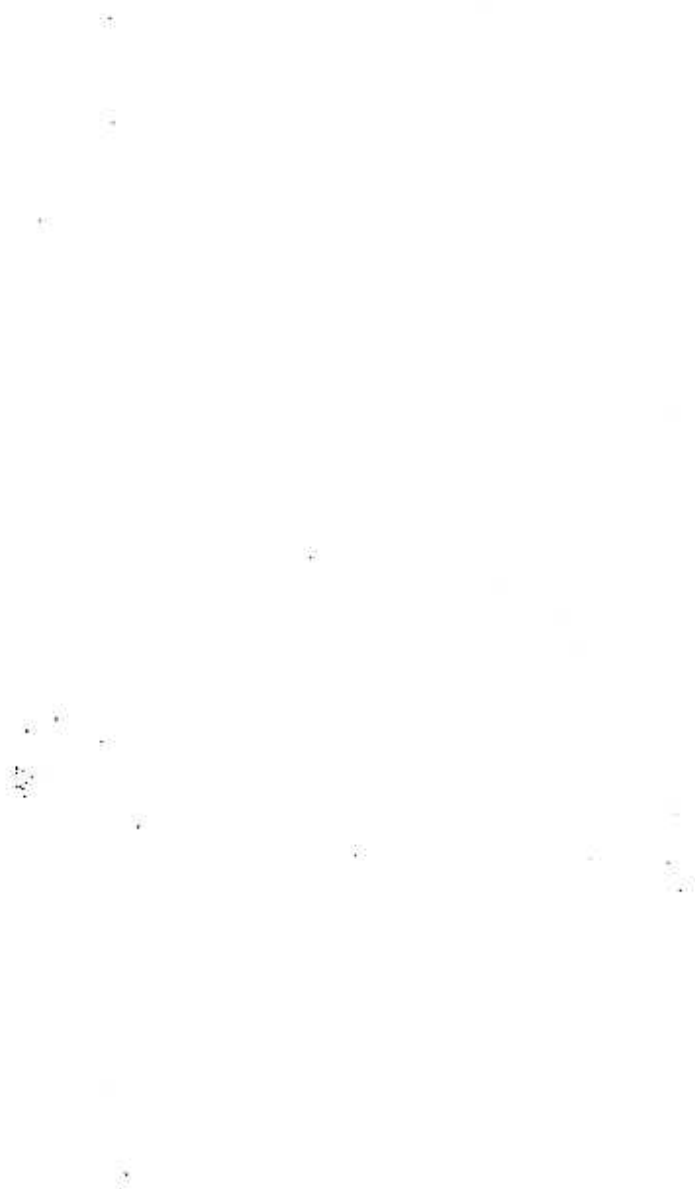
To
HOSEA BALLOU, of Boston,

AND

WALTER BALFOUR, of CHARLESTOWN, MASS :

This little volume of Lectures is respectfully inscribed,
by their Brother in the Ministry of Reconciliation,
and in the faith of God's universal love.

THE AUTHOR.



LECTURE I.

LUKE xvi. 31.

"If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

THIS is the close of the parable or history, as it has been variously called, of the Rich Man and Lazarus. It has been considered, and very justly, an important portion of the teachings of our blessed Saviour; and it appears to have been so considered by many writers and religious teachers, particularly on account of the clear and undeniable testimony it is thought to contain, in support of the doctrine of endless sufferings in a future state. The advocates of that doctrine constantly appeal to the representation here given by our Saviour, as furnishing, in their opinion, irrefragable proof of the correctness of this article of their faith. This renders an honest and careful examination of the passage, peculiarly important and interesting. Such an examination we purpose to bestow upon it in this discourse, and some succeeding ones.

This parable, so often referred to, by preachers and writers, is generally illustrated in a very summary manner; in which has been taken for granted, that the commonly received meaning and application of it is unquestionably correct; and those who have given it a more studied and careful examination, have usually