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GOSPEL TRUTHS FOR PAROCHIAL  
MISSIONS: NO 1. TAKE THESE  
THINGS HENCE. NO. 2. A FULL, A  
FREE, A PRESENT, SALVATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649349197

The home mission series: plain gospel truths for parochial missions: No 1. Take these things hence. No. 2. A full, a free, a present, salvation by Forbes E. Winslow

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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# The Home Mission Series.

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No. I.

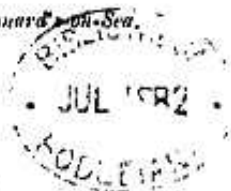
## TAKE THESE THINGS HENCE.

(A SERMON FOR THE OPENING DAY OF A MISSION.)

BY

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London:

W. SKEFFINGTON AND SON, 163, PICCADILLY.

1880.

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*TAKE THESE THINGS HENCE.*

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JOHN II. 16.

"Take these things hence."

**I**T was indeed a sad sight that met the eyes of our Lord as He went towards the Temple so full of holy memories and tender associations.

All the streets leading to the House of God were crowded with noisy pilgrims and busy vendors of merchandise, so that the empty clamour of the world effectually drove out all quiet thoughts of God from those who approached His house of prayer.

If the evil had stopped here, it would not have mattered so much, but the eager Jewish merchants had not respected the sacred building itself. In their pursuit of gain they had overflowed from the outer streets into the very enclosure of the Temple.

The court of the Gentiles was a scene of the utmost tumult and confusion, as all around were penned flocks of sheep and herds of cattle,

intermingled here and there with the stalls of the sellers of doves.

On every side, mixed with the lowing of cattle, rose the sounds of contention, wrangling and disputing, as the buyers and sellers strove to get the better of each other in their hard-fought bargains. To add to all this, under the arcades were ranged the tables of the money-changers, and here the babel of confusion was at its height, as the angry and excited crowd surged around these dishonest traffickers, who would cheat their own kith and kin, if they had so much as the ghost of a chance.

Full of righteous anger at the sight, the Lord stoops down, and from the rushes that strew the floor, He makes a scourge, and forthwith, overthrowing the tables of the moneychangers, giving them no time to gather up their unhallowed gains that roll about the pavement, He drives usurers, dealers, buyers and sellers, with their flocks, herds, and wicker cages of doves, right out of the Temple enclosure into the street, with these scathing words of bitter, indignant scorn, ringing in their ears, "Take these things hence; make not My Father's house an house of merchandise."



This scene is too often enacted even in our own day.

The Lord comes down to enter into that which should be an Holy Temple, dedicated to His service, set apart for His worship, I mean the temple of our hearts, and finds it occupied with other things. He comes yearning to take up His abode within the soul of man, He comes longing to fill that soul which He has purchased with His own blood, full of joy and happiness ; He finds, alas ! that He has been forestalled. other guests have had precedence of Him.

As there was no room for Him on the night of His nativity in the inn of Bethlehem, so now there is too often no room for Him in our hearts. We have room for our lusts and passions, we have room for our earthly affections, we have room for the world, the flesh, and the devil, but no room for our Lord and Master. Too truly of us may it be said, " He came unto His own, but His own received Him not."

As Jesus comes thus seeking admittance into His Temple, and sees that sanctuary defiled and desecrated, as He hears the idle clamour of the world, as He witnesses the abomination of desolation, unbridled lust and passion ruling, and

reigning in the place of pure love of God, as He marks the cold, languid, contemptuous indifference with which His offers of mercy and pardon are thrust aside, full of righteous anger, does He not cry out to the hardened offenders as of old?

“Take these things hence,” we can hear Him saying. “Have them out, away with them out of My sight, and My presence. You must choose between God and Mammon, between life and death, between purity and lust, between earnestness and indifference, between your Saviour and the world. My Holy Temple have ye defiled, My Father’s house have ye turned to base uses—take these things hence.”

As this, dear brethren, is the first day of our Mission, it will be well for us to clear the way somewhat by turning our attention to some of the things that must be taken hence. It is possible, nay, I may say it is *more* than possible, that some of us have suffered unworthy objects to occupy our hearts. Baptised into the Church of Christ, enlisted soldiers of the Cross, brought up and nurtured within the sheltering care of God’s manifold means of grace, we perhaps have turned recreants, we have forgotten to whom we *owe allegiance*, we have allowed the traffickers

to come into the Holy Temple ; our hearts are not given up as they should be to the service of God.

Now a Mission is a time of intense reality. We don't want mere excitement, we are not on the eager look-out for sensation ; we want to get a real blessing for our souls. God knows we many of us need a blessing. Before, however, Christ can come in, we must make preparation for His coming ; we cannot expect Him to share bed and board with some dark grievous sin ; we must not think that He will be content to occupy His throne with some other object of our love and affection ; He will not be satisfied with a tiny corner of our heart, neither will He for a moment, tolerate the intrusion of the world into the sanctuary of God.

This Mission calls us to be thorough, thorough in our abhorrence of sin, thorough in our repentance, thorough in our faith, thorough in our love, and we trust, as its final issue, thorough in our spiritual joy. Let us then go upon these lines, and try our best by God's help to-day, to discover what we are to do to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord.

“ Take hence,” the Saviour says “ *your indifference.*”