

**SERMONS PREACHED
ON VARIOUS
OCCASIONS**

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Sermons preached on various occasions by Samuel Wilberforce

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SAMUEL WILBERFORCE

**SERMONS PREACHED
ON VARIOUS
OCCASIONS**

SERMONS

PREACHED ON

VARIOUS OCCASIONS

BY THE

RIGHT REVEREND FATHER IN GOD

SAMUEL, LATE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER,

PRELATE OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER.

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PREFACE.

THE present volume of Sermons is sent forth under the many obvious disadvantages of every posthumous publication. They necessarily lack the finishing touch of the master's hand; some are more or less fragmentary. The following considerations have, however, determined their publication:—

The Sermons will be found to bear most plain and important witness to almost all the distinctive doctrines of the Church of England, and thereby to add another link to the chain of traditional teaching by which those doctrines have been handed down to our generation.

Many of the Sermons were preached upon occasions which will be remembered for their own sake, and as illustrating the principles and ecclesiastical movements of the great Bishop's lengthened episcopate. Such are those preached at the Consecration of Cuddesdon Palace Chapel (Sermon VIII.), at St. Mary's, Reading (Sermon XI.), at the Aylesbury Mission (Sermon XIX.); whilst one (Sermon XVI.) will have a special interest, as bringing out that deep love and reverence of the World of Nature which was so marked a characteristic of his mind.

The Sermons range over a period of seventeen years, 1845—1862. They comprise examples of his teaching as a Parish Priest, and as a Bishop; and may possibly afford material for a study of the growth and ripening of his power as a Preacher.

But apart from these considerations, it is believed that there is very much in this volume of theological thought, and religious exhortation, which English Churchmen would not willingly let die. And if, on the one hand, some paragraphs are deficient in that accurate sequence of reasoning and final polish which the author's own revision would have given; on the other hand, the voice of the Preacher has not been so long silent but that many will still be able to supplement what they read, with the memory of that charm of tone and manner which lent a double force to each argument and appeal.—For of Bishop Wilberforce may be repeated what was said of his great predecessor, Bishop Andrewes,—

“He was an unimitable preacher in his way, and such plagiarists who have stolen his sermons, could never steal his preaching, and could make nothing of that of which he made all things as he desired*.”

J. R. ELY.

ELY HOUSE,
March 23, 1877.

* Fuller's Worthies.

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- p. 14, line 25, *for* monarch *read* monarchy.
,, 106, ,, 23, *for* disgrace *read* despair.
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