

**THE
LORD'S PRAYER**

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The Lord's prayer by Charles Stanford

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CHARLES STANFORD

**THE
LORD'S PRAYER**

The Household Library of Exposition.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.



THE
LORD'S PRAYER

BY
CHARLES STANFORD, D.D.,

NEW YORK: MACMILLAN & CO.

1883.

P R E F A C E.

THE following homilies were in substance first preached in the ordinary course of the author's ministry, and have since been written out from rough notes, or from memory. In November 1881, while engaged in thus getting them ready for the press, it became needful for him to consult an oculist, and his sentence was, "*Glaucoma: fast fading sight.*" In consequence of this, much of the manuscript has been written by him with shut eyes, and much set down at his dictation by the hand that has helped him in all other things.

"All is said, and we come too late." * Nearly two centuries are gone since this remark was penned; and if it had some truth in it then, how much more now, especially as to the great subject of this small book!

The same argument for silence would, how-

* Jean de la Bruyère.

ever, have equal strength against the discussion of any other vital subject of Christian truth or duty, and although the Lord's Prayer has already been so fully discussed by men of the highest worth, even now, any Christian who, as in this instance, utters his own living thoughts about it, in his own natural way, and with a simple wish to honour God, may hope thus to be of some service to his fellow Christians. May this grace be given.

CHARLES STANFORD.

CAMBERWELL, *April 1883.*

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I.

JESUS, THE TEACHER OF PRAYER.

“Lord, teach us to pray.”—LUKE xi. 1. (*Authorized and Revised Version.*)

THIS discourse is simply introductory. Only in the smallest degree does it profess to offer notes on any passage in the Lord's Prayer, or on any of its historical circumstances; yet it is hoped that, by the blessing of the Highest, it may help to tune some spirits for the thoughts that follow, and waken some hearts into sympathy with the lessons that Christ is about to teach, by showing from the Scriptures in general, these two things:—

I. Why Jesus is to be regarded as the Teacher of prayer.

II. How He teaches.

I. We have to show *why Jesus is to be regarded as the Teacher of Prayer?*

It should be taken for granted that knowing how to pray is the first of all essentials. Men may know, or think they know, how to discuss questions of Divine metaphysics, and may talk as if they thought themselves “privy councillors