

**TWENTY PLAIN
LECTURES ON THE
'PILGRIM'S PROGRESS'**

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Twenty Plain Lectures on the 'Pilgrim's Progress' by Robert Nourse

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ROBERT NOURSE

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P R E F A C E .

THE following Lectures are substantially those which I delivered on Sabbath evenings in the city of Springfield, Illinois, during the winter months of 1877-'78.

I have added fresh literary material to the first Lecture, in the hope that it may meet the need of Clerical Brethren, who may wish to deliver a similar course, but who (possessing small libraries themselves, and living too far from city libraries) are unable to consult authorities or collate opinions on the subject. It is thought that sufficient has been brought together in this way to enable any brother to form an independent estimate of JOHN BUNYAN, his book, and its influence.

The reader will doubtless discover a difference in the style of the later Lectures. This is owing to the fact that they were stenographically reported by Mr. VOLNEY HICKOX. The earlier ones are re-composed from my MS. notes, and from reports which appeared in the *Illinois State Journal*.

In delivering these Lectures I used as text-book an edition of "Pilgrim's Progress" published by CASSELL, PETER & GALPIN. For the purpose I knew of no better one. The Allegory is admirably arranged in chapters, the typography exceedingly clear, the notes by Rev. ROBERT MAGUIRE very suggestive, while the illustrations are so true to the conceptions of BUNYAN as to afford in themselves a valuable commentary on "The Immortal Dream."

It was my habit to read a chapter, as there arranged, in

lieu of the Scripture Lesson, and I have the satisfaction of knowing that, in the opinion of one little girl at least, the "story book" was "splendid."

The "Synopsis of Chapters" preceding the following Lectures do not give the contents of the Lectures, but are abbreviations of the chapters read, and intended to give the reader the pith of the story.

I have not intentionally plagiarised the words or thoughts of other men. Where I have used their thoughts or words, I have made acknowledgment in the usual manner. No doubt if certain authors honour these Lectures with a reading, they will find much that they have written. I hope that they will feel complimented by the resurrection of their works in this way.

Such as it is, I commit this little production to the cause of God and man, with the humble prayer that it may be acceptable to Him whose I am, and whom I serve—a blessing to those who are living in the City of Destruction, and a comfort to those who, like myself, hope to reach the Celestial City.

"The Book is written. Much is left unsaid ;
Much said amiss ;
Some pages, blurred with tears, can scarce be read ;
What's left ? Why, this :
To learn the lessons which are graven there."

—ANON.

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“ Doubt and discuss, examine and believe :
But, if thy judgment falter, turn with trust
Unto the staff our ancient guides relied on,
And paths that in the wilderness bear
The pilgrim's track. If thine own wisdom fail thee,
Put confidence in wisdom tried by Time.”

SIR AUBREY DE VERE.