

**THE CHRISTIAN MINISTER, HIS
AIMS AND METHODS. LECTURES
ON PASTORAL THEOLOGY AT THE
FOUR SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES
SESSIONS 1897-98 AND 1898-99**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649548224

The Christian Minister, His Aims and Methods. Lectures on Pastoral Theology at the Four Scottish Universities Sessions 1897-98 and 1898-99 by James Robertson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JAMES ROBERTSON

**THE CHRISTIAN MINISTER, HIS
AIMS AND METHODS. LECTURES
ON PASTORAL THEOLOGY AT THE
FOUR SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES
SESSIONS 1897-98 AND 1898-99**

**THE CHRISTIAN MINISTER
HIS AIMS AND METHODS**

THE
CHRISTIAN MINISTER
HIS AIMS AND METHODS

LECTURES ON PASTORAL THEOLOGY
AT THE FOUR SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES
SESSIONS 1897-98 AND 1898-99 : BY

JAMES ROBERTSON, D.D.

AUTHOR OF 'OUR LORD'S TEACHING' AND
'LADY BLANCHE SALFOUR, A REMINISCENCE'



PUBLISHED BY
OLIPHANT ANDERSON AND FERRIER
SAINT MARY STREET, EDINBURGH, AND
21 PATERNOSTER SQUARE, LONDON

1899

PREFACE

THE General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, having in view that there are no Chairs of Pastoral Theology in the Scottish Universities, has in recent years provided that short courses of lectures should be given on the subject by two ministers named for the duty, who are appointed for a term of two years. The addresses that follow were given to divinity students in accordance with this arrangement during Sessions 1897-98 and 1898-99. Their publication is due mainly to the enterprise of the publishers. I could not, however, have ventured to agree to the proposal made me but for the encouraging reception given to the lectures by those who heard them. To the students, accordingly, this book is, in the first instance, gratefully and hopefully dedicated. I trust that it describes, however imperfectly, a true

ministry. May it contribute something to ministries which shall be both true and fruitful in the coming generation !

The Rev. Dr. Forrest of West Coates Church, Edinburgh, and my brother, the Rev. D. R. Robertson, of Clepington, Dundee, have kindly looked over the proofs, and made suggestions.

JAMES ROBERTSON.

WHITTINGHAM, *March* 1890.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
I	
THE AIM OF THE CHRISTIAN MINISTER AND THE MEANS HE WILL USE,	1
II	
THE PRIMARY QUALIFICATION FOR THE MINISTRY, AND THE PRIMARY CONDITION OF POWER IN IT,	35
III	
THE SERMON AND THE WORK UPON IT,	63
IV	
PUBLIC WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS, YOUNG COMMUNICANTS, AND MISSION WEEKS,	95
V	
VISITING,	127
VI	
ON ORGANISATION IN COUNTRY PARISHES, AND ON THE MINISTER'S LIFE IN ITS GENERAL RELATIONS, . . .	156

LECTURE I

THE AIM OF THE CHRISTIAN MINISTER AND THE MEANS HE WILL USE

IN beginning this short course of lectures, I hesitate to call them 'Lectures on Pastoral Theology.' That seems to me a too formal and academic title for what I have in my mind. I look on this course of addresses rather as an opportunity, given to a minister of age and experience in the profession to which you look forward, of laying out before you some of those fruits of his experience on which he sets most certain value—some of the conclusions to which he has been brought by God's dealings with himself and by the successes or the failures he has known in his own ministry—some lessons of his life which he can read better now in retrospect than he was able to do at the time: for, as you know, the meaning of our life and of our divinely sent experiences stands out more legible and clear after lapse of years. Instead, therefore, of a formal and exhaustive treatise on a branch of theological science, the addresses I aim at giving—

which, I believe, it is intended by the Church your lecturers should give—will be of an informal kind, and will consist of such words of counsel and hope as come most naturally and readily from my own mind and from the memory of over thirty years of life which I have spent as a parish minister.

Another limitation I have to make. If I am to speak from experience, I shall speak as a country minister. My *close* experience of our work has been entirely in that character, and I am glad to have assigned to me this share of the field of these lectureships, and to know that my eminent colleague, Mr. Wallace Williamson, is specially qualified to speak as a town minister. I am unwilling, of course, to think that my point of view is an altogether inferior one: but if it be so in any degree, you will recollect this fact which redeems it from anything like insignificance, that the country population, throughout Scotland generally, belongs in large proportion to our Church, and looks to us for spiritual ministration to a degree that lays upon us great responsibility. While I speak, however, from the point of view of the country minister, and most of you will probably spend a great part of your lives in such a sphere, I am encouraged also by knowing that the office and work of our calling have in their main features everywhere far more resemblance than difference.

The subject I would begin with in our con-