PREACHING THE SOCIAL GOSPEL

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Preaching the social gospel by Ozora S. Davis

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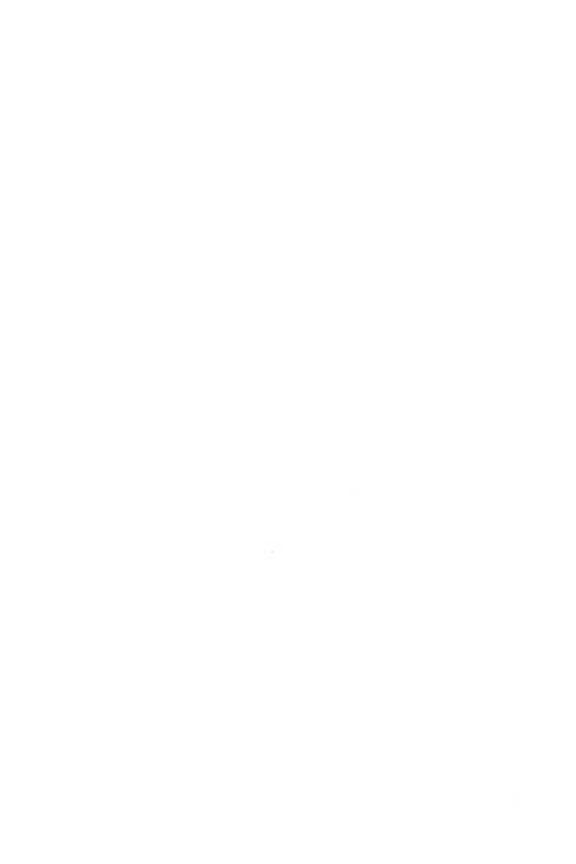
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Preface

HE social values of the Christian gospel have been unfolded within a many fields and phases. Dean Shailer Mathews has set forth The Social Teachings of Jesus. Prof. George A. Coe has given us A Social Theory of Religious Education. Prof. Harry F. Ward has interpreted The Gospel for a Working World. Edward C. Haves has unfolded the relation between Sociology and Ethics. Prof. Walter Rauschenbusch has defined A Theology for the Social Gospel. It would seem as if a practical treatise on Preaching the Social Gospel might be timely; for unless all these aspects of the gospel are tractable to preaching they cannot finally hold their permanent place among the vital truths of the Christian religion. From the beginning the valid doctrines of the faith that bears the Christian name have been such as could be given publicity with power in the pulpit. The social gospel must meet this test or it will not endure.

No apology is offered for the numerous quotations that are given in the following pages. The writer's purpose has been to state the findings of masters in the fields reviewed. The practical purpose is dominant in the chapters; it will be apparent that the material has been worked out in the lecture room. Preaching is here regarded as the minister's para-

mount, although not his only task; and suggestions are deliberately made to quicken thought and direct inventive research. The writer believes, from constant experience in the pulpit, that the Christian gospel is vastly enriched and ennobled by its social unfolding and application; and he ventures to hope that the imperial privilege of preaching in the twentieth century may in some way be enhanced as a result of the book which he sends forth with consciousness of its imperfections, but with serene faith in its purpose and spirit.

O. S. D.

Chicago Theological Seminary.