

**SMALL BOOKS ON GREAT
SUBJECTS. -
XVIII. THE KINGDOM
OF THE LORD JESUS**

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Small Books on Great Subjects. - XVIII. The Kingdom of the Lord Jesus by Alexander Mackennal

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ALEXANDER MACKENNAL

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Small Books on Great Subjects.—XVIII.

THE KINGDOM OF THE LORD JESUS.

By ALEXANDER MACKENNAI, D.D.

**THE KINGDOM OF THE
LORD JESUS.**

By

Alexander Mackennal, D.D.

London :

JAMES CLARKE & CO.,

13 & 14, Fleet Street. 1900.

Prefatory Words.



The first four of the following discourses were preached on the four Advent Sundays of 1899; the last on New Year's Sunday, 1900. The season of Advent and the New Year always awakens, in the Christian heart, thoughts about the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus—its aim and method, and the conditions which further or hinder its coming. The special themes here treated, and the mode of their treatment, were suggested by the War in South Africa, which no Englishman could forget, whether in Church or out of Church. New Year's Sunday—January

7th, 1900—was being observed by many congregations as a day of heart-searching as to the lessons of the war, and prayer for abiding peace among the nations.

During the last fifty years the cause of peace has, like other causes dear to the Christian soul, known periods of progress and delay. But it stands alone in the sudden and violent changes of national sentiment which it has experienced. Sometimes the nation has thought that peace was on its way; then there has come a general doubt of its possibility; many have seemed not to think it, always and under all circumstances, desirable.

It is the object of the following sermons to suggest the reason of these marked revulsions in public sentiment. Peace has been treated as an end in itself; "the greatest of national interests"; the wisest, the only, mode in which each nation can work out its destiny consistently with

the working out of their destinies by all other nations. In reality, peace is one of "the fruits of the Spirit"; it cannot be secured except by the loyal adoption of the whole doctrine of Christian living; it is part of "the method of Jesus." There can be no abiding peace while men are habitually seeking objects, cherishing tempers, following methods which naturally and "inevitably" lead to war.

This small book is a very feeble, very partial, presentation of a subject which, in its relation to Christian doctrine and ethics, political philosophy and social habit, demands powers of speculative and constructive thought to which the preacher makes no pretence. But all sound Christian thinking has its origin in the personal spiritual life; and probably there were never so many souls aiming after "the imitation of Christ" as there

X PRAFATORY WORDS.

ars to day. I desire nothing more than to be a fellow-worker with them.

“May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep with the blood of the everlasting covenant, even our Lord Jesus, make us perfect in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Bowdon, Cheshire,

22nd March, 1900.

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