

**SHORT SERMONS TO NEWS
BOYS: WITH A HISTORY OF
THE FORMATION OF THE
NEWS BOYS LODGING-HOUSE**

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Short Sermons to News Boys: With a History of the Formation of the News Boys Lodging-House
by Charles Loring Brace

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THE HOMELESS BOY.

SHORT SERMONS
TO
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WITH A

HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF THE NEWS
BOYS' LODGING-HOUSE.

BY
CHARLES LORING BRACE.

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PREFACE.

If any person should, by chance, be inclined to judge critically of these simple Sermons to News Boys, we beg them to remember the conditions under which they were spoken. Here were a company of a hundred street-boys,—some cunning and sharpened by all the friction of street-life, some merely young, ignorant and friendless, some having already tasted of the fruits of vice and crime, some with strong conscientious feelings, and a desire for goodness—all exposed to every species of temptation, driven to and fro by

innumerable currents of passion, desire and bad habits—liable the next day to commit some act which should ruin them utterly in this world, and nearly all having been started on their life-voyage with almost every circumstance against them. To-morrow, you know that a third of the audience will utterly disappear, so far as your knowledge is concerned. On the next Sunday, but few will hear you who listen to-day. You speak to these children of crime and misfortune and poverty for a few moments, as they sweep by you on the dark whirling currents of city-life. Your problem is, to say something which shall arouse the conscience; which shall open the soul to the Divine Spirit, ever acting on it; which shall give the outcast lad an abiding sense of a Being with him who will sympathize in his troubles, who loves him, and who will, above all, keep him from sin. He needs a belief or a sentiment or

an inspiration, sufficiently strong to enable him to govern his bad habits and evil passions and selfishness—to change his heart and to make him feel himself reconciled to God.

The street-boy can not listen to abstract truth: he must have concrete. Facts and realities are what he needs, and especially the teaching of parables, or dramatic and illustrative modes of instruction. To solve this problem, the method used in these Sermons or Talks has been, by every possible illustration and parable, to present CHRIST to those boys as a living PERSONALITY, present with them, feeling with them, their Friend, their Sanctifier, their SAVIOUR from sin and its effects.

Not doctrine, but certain living Scriptural facts and illustrations of truth have been presented to them. The simplicity of the mode must be pardoned for the sake of its object.

It may be that the words thus spoken will not be found useless in other fields of Christian labor for the young.

It should be stated, that the "Children's Aid Society" is in no way responsible for any thing said in this volume.

CHARLES LORING BRACH.

HASTINGS-ON-THE-HUDSON, March, 1868.