

**THE NEW PURITANISM; DURING
THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION OF PLYMOUTH
CHURCH, BROOKLYN, N. Y.,
1847-1897, PP. 1-273**

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LYMAN ABBOTT & A. H. BRADFORD & C. A. BERRY

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THE NEW
PURITANISM

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PAPERS BY

LYMAN ABBOTT, AMORY H. BRADFORD
CHARLES A. BERRY, GEORGE A. GORDON
WASHINGTON GLADDEN, WM. J. TUCKER

DURING THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
OF PLYMOUTH CHURCH, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

1847-1897

WITH INTRODUCTION BY

ROSSITER W. RAYMOND

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PUBLISHERS' PREFACE.

THE expansion both of knowledge and of wisdom in all departments of life during the Nineteenth Century has nowhere been more manifest than in religious matters. The general mental attitude in nearly all communions has changed, towards God and towards man. The result is an immense increase of vital interest, with a corresponding decline in mere formalism.

This is particularly noticeable in two directions. One is that, where formerly the more conscientious professing Christians would "read a chapter" in the Bible with a comfortable sense of duty done, now thousands, Christians and others, are studying those ancient scriptures with discrimination, yet with genuine delight in their treasures —of allegory, of biography, of history, of

literature, of spiritual instruction and inspiration. Whether as cause or as consequence, is the other: that the pregnant practical teachings of the Master himself are looked to for "standards" of faith and doctrine, rather than the ingenious speculations of his followers, however saintly or learned.

Jesus had no time for rhetoric. His brief sayings are compact of germinant life. One of them—perhaps as characteristic of his whole career as any—is that "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." The principle involved in this maxim is that which has developed into the splendid humanitarianism of Christian life and work to-day: although its full meaning is yet to appear.

Like all the enlargement of the physical and psychical sciences during the past century, the religious growth has been greatest—or by reason of multiplied ramifications most discernible—within the latter half of that period. It was natural, then, that the fiftieth anniversary of the inauguration of so

potent an influence as Plymouth Church and the coming of its first pastor should offer an occasion for reviewing at large the vast spiritual migration of multitudes of Christian pilgrims to "fresh fields and pastures new." And the occasion would lack its best worth if this did not include a look forward to coming duties and privileges. During that celebration, therefore, both retrospect and prospect—the past century and the coming one—were set forth by men of acknowledged eminence, whose broad views will attract and interest thinking people. It was inevitable that the speakers should find special concern with Henry Ward Beecher and Plymouth Church; not, however, merely because these were at the focal point of the occasion, but because in any consideration of morals and religion in America during the past half-century "he reckons ill who leaves [them] out."

The Addresses pertaining to the celebration have been gathered into this volume. Concerning the particular relations of the

speakers to that church and its first pastor, as well as to the themes assigned them, the publishers are glad to present an introductory paper from Dr. R. W. Raymond,—for forty-two years a member of the church, an intimate friend of both the first and the present pastor, and a recognized leader in the brotherhood, not only intellectually and spiritually, but in the practical organization and administration of the work of the church.

The larger bearings of these Addresses—those indeed for which they were mainly planned and of which they chiefly and ably treat—will be evident from their titles, and still more from their admirable contents.

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