

**THE STRUGGLE FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN  
THE FIFTEENTH AND SIXTEENTH CENTURIES;  
BEING A SERIES OF SIX LECTURES  
DELIVERED ON SUNDAY EVENINGS IN THE  
SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,  
BROOKLYN, IN THE WINTER OF 1903**

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The struggle for religious liberty in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; being a series of six lectures delivered on Sunday evenings in the South Congregational Church, Brooklyn, in the winter of 1903 by John Churchwood Wilson

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**JOHN CHURCHWOOD WILSON**

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*Cordially yours*

*J. C. Wilson*

# THE STRUGGLE FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

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SIXTEENTH CENTURIES

BEING A SERIES OF SIX LECTURES DELIVERED ON SUNDAY EVENINGS  
IN THE SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, BROOKLYN  
IN THE WINTER OF 1903

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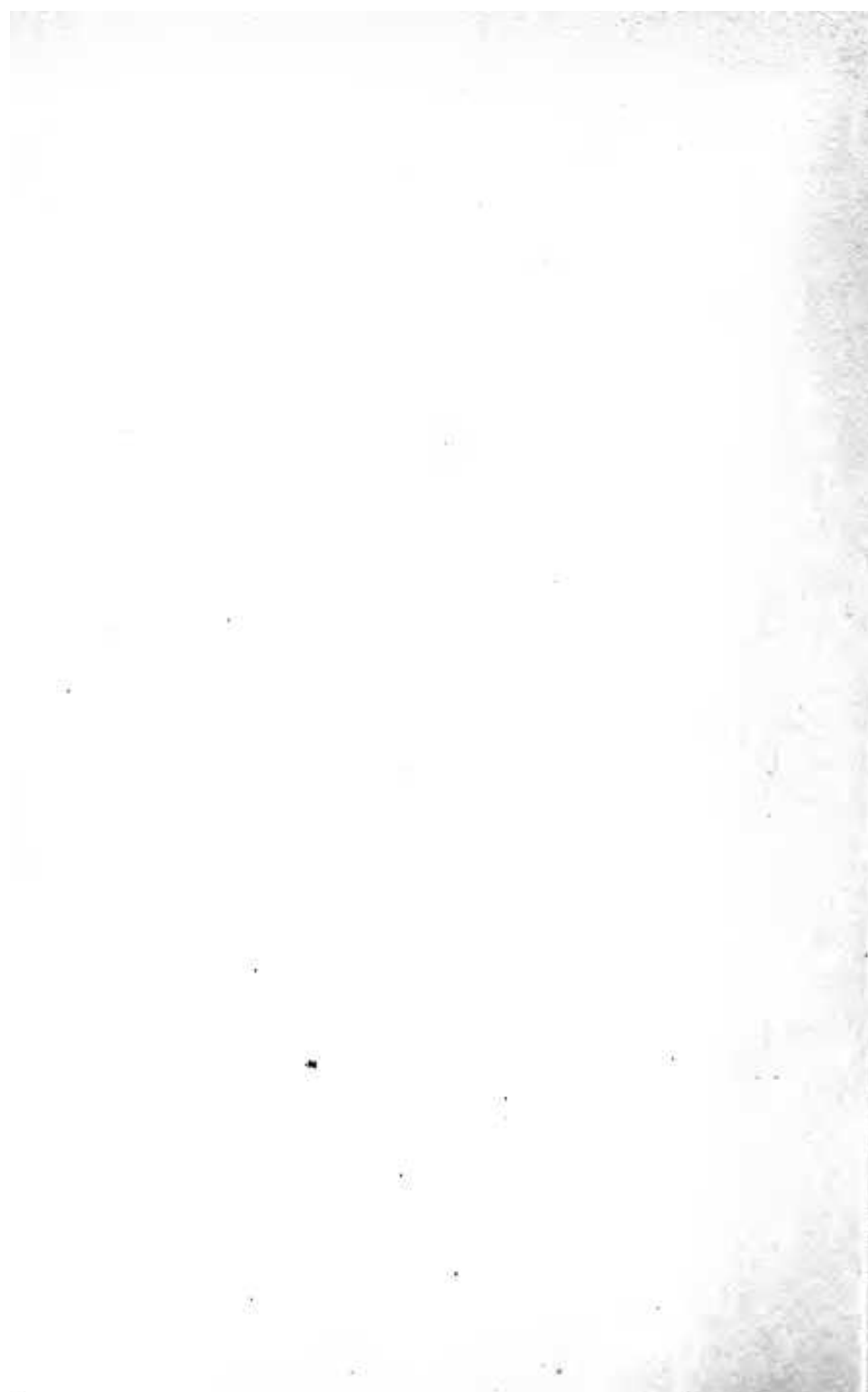
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But he  
To whom a thousand memories call,  
Not being less but more than all  
The gentleness he seem'd to be,

Best seem'd the thing he was, and join'd  
Each office of the social hour  
To noble manners, as the flower  
And native growth of noble mind.

*Tennyson*





## PREFATORY NOTE.

It has been a work at once of honor and of love—for these two tones blend in every remembrance of my Associate—to bring together in this volume such notes as were accessible, recalling a series of Six Lectures entitled, "The Struggle for Religious Liberty," which were delivered by the Reverend John Churchwood Wilson, during the winter before his death, in the South Congregational Church, Brooklyn, of which he was then the Junior Pastor.

Perhaps a single word of explanation as to the form of these addresses should in justice preface them. They are not carefully finished essays, and were in no degree intended or prepared for publication by their author. They are rather groups of memoranda, standing for familiar discourses delivered to an assembly of friends and parishioners. Mr. Wilson was accustomed to accumulate, but not to collate, a large mass of material in his preliminary study of a theme. Then, after speaking, he would write out rapidly the main body of his address, just as it left its warm record in his mind, but with no pause for added literary finish, and sometimes allowing gaps to remain in the writing, which could only be filled afterward by

citations from the earlier and more scattered notes.

It is after some such informal fashion that the following discourses have been arranged for this publication. They have not indeed been "edited" in any sense. No change has been permitted from the manuscript. The paragraphs stand as their gifted author spoke them; but they have received no revising touch from his hand.

Certain repetitions of phrase, certain colloquialisms of style, suited well enough for familiar talk with one's own people, would, without doubt, have disappeared from any page which a careful student and literary craftsman like Mr. Wilson would have intended for permanency. But I have thought it truest to him to let the addresses, with this foreword of explanation, remain as he left them. Even in this half extemporaneous form they reproduce to us, who knew and loved him, something of the true picture of his mind—genuine student, convincing preacher, devoted pastor, chivalrous friend.

I venture to add the following brief record of his life:

John Churchwood Wilson was born in Philadelphia, May 9, 1862. His father was Thomas Wilson, a native of Scotland, and his mother was Ruth Anna Coy, whose Quaker ancestry had long been resident in Philadelphia.

John's studies were pursued at the Philadelphia academies of "Eastburn" and "Rugby." Enter-