

**THE OPEN DOOR;
OR,
LIGHT AND LIBERTY**

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The Open Door; Or, Light and Liberty by J. Hyatt Smith

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J. HYATT SMITH

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OR,
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Paul Jones
J. H. Smith



LEE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH.

THE OPEN DOOR.

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BY

J^{ES} HYATT SMITH.

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"Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it."
REV. III—8.

BROOKLYN, E. D.:

D. S. HOLMES, 89 FOURTH STREET,

AND SOLD BY

The American News Company, 123 Nassau St., New York City.

1874.

A. W.

Preface to the Second Edition.

IN 1870 the first edition of the "Open Door" was issued by Mr. T. E. Perkins, and was soon exhausted. There has long been a demand for a second edition of the work. The publication of the little book called forth from the friends of Gospel liberty the heartiest commendation, both in this land and Europe, and at the same time provoked a violent opposition from the advocates and defenders of Close-Communion. My dear friend and brother, the publisher, was rebuked in public and private, and many refused to purchase his musical works because of his serious offence against the denomination. Baptist book sellers refused to give it a place on their counters; and Baptist churches forbade its reading and circulation among their membership. The author was tried, and condemned by Baptist Councils and Associations, and the edict went forth from self-constituted bishops, that the man and the book must be put down. The Lee Avenue Baptist Church, of course, shared in this persecution. But the author lived—the book was everywhere read—and his church was pushed forward into a glorious and ever increasing prosperity.

A great journey has been accomplished upon the highway of religious liberty, in the past four years, and at this present writing the victories for Gospel freedom are everywhere proclaimed over the land. God has set before the American Church an "Open Door," and no man can shut it.

Bible truth is conquering bigotry, and the old walls of intolerance are fast crumbling at the sound of the silver trumpets of Christian love.

That God may soften the hearts of my enemies, and strengthen the hands, and hearts, of my friends, is and ever shall be the prayer of

Their friend and brother in Christ,

J. HYATT SMITH,
Pastor of Lee Ave. Baptist Church,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

CONTENTS.

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	PAGE.
INTRODUCTION	7
CHAPTER I. The Door Opening	15
“ II. Communion Day in Evansdale Baptist Church.....	21
“ III. The Talk after Church.....	25
“ IV. The Baptism and The Sermon.....	49
“ V. Interview between Ellen Roberts and her Mother.....	56
“ VI. Mr. Hart's Papers.....	65
“ VII. Deacon Roberts Visits the Pastor.....	77
“ VIII. Elder Hartley's Sermon.....	88
“ IX. Elder Hartley and Deacon Roberts visit the Pastor.....	99
“ X. The Interview in the Study.....	118
“ XI. The Wedding	135
“ XII. Mr. and Mrs. Hart at the Lord's Table in a Congregational Church.....	142
“ XIII. The Question of Conscience.....	157
“ XIV. The Death of Deacon Roberts.....	165
“ XV. The Gathering Cloud.....	180
“ XVI. The Trial, Conviction and Punishment of the Heretics.....	196
“ XVII. The Second Baptist Church in Evansdale. Open Communists the Old Baptists.....	209
<i>Platform upon which we can all stand.....</i>	<i>225</i>

INTRODUCTION.

THE "Grave-yard" and the "Meeting-house" of the days gone by, contrasted with the Cemetery and the Sanctuary of to-day, are no doubtful declaration of the age of Puritanical severity, and dogmatical strife, which has given place to an era of Christian union and brotherly love.

In the olden time no blossoms were planted where the dead were sleeping, and no grounds were laid out with mounds, ravines, and running streams. The place was only a "Grave-yard," surrounded with a rough stone wall, within which bushes and brambles grew in rank luxuriance. But to-day, the army of flowers with its bright and beautiful banners, has charged upon the thorny hosts of bramble, bush, and briar, and driving them from "God's-acre," has set a guard of Statuary at the gates of the Cemetery.

The Church Edifice, with its order and appointments, is still more expressive of **THE PAST** and **THE PRESENT**. Who does not remember the Meeting-house, where in childhood he used to sit in solemn awe, and reverently listen to a sermon, which he could not understand; and if an attempt was made to slip away into the land of dreams how the timely *jog*, or sober *shake* by the hand of one ever watchful for his spiritual growth would instantly bring him back again to the holy service. The