

LAMPS AND PATHS

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Lamps and Paths by Theodore T. Munger

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THEODORE T. MUNGER

**LAMPS
AND PATHS**

LAMPS AND PATHS.

BY

London
THEODORE T. MUNGER,

AUTHOR OF "ON THE THRESHOLD."

"God bless thee, and put meekness in thy breast,
Love, charity, obedience, and true duty."

RICHARD III., B. 2.

TENTH EDITION.

BOSTON:
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN, AND COMPANY.

NEW YORK: 11 EAST SEVENTEENTH STREET.

The Riverside Press, Cambridge.

1892.



Copyright, 1888 and 1884,
BY THEODORE T. MUNGER.

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Dedicated
TO
MARY WILLIS MUNGER
AND
THORNTON TAFT MUNGER.

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PREFACE.

WE have a custom in North Adams of devoting a Sunday in June, each year, to a special service for the children of the Congregation. It is made a Festival of Flowers. All the beauty of leaf and blossom that can be won from garden and mountain-side—roses and larches, lilies of the field and laurel from the pastures, palms from the south and violets from the meadow, woven emblems of love and hope, and tender memorials of children gathered to the heavenly fold—are brought into the church and piled about the pulpit and chancel with a profusion that has no limit except room to contain it. It is a feast of tabernacles,—a carnival of floral beauty. But while considering the lilies, we also strive to tell the children the lesson they teach; and hence these brief and simple sermons preached as the occasion recurs. My present object is chiefly to secure a more enduring memory of them in the minds of those to whom they were addressed; but it is possible that they may serve a somewhat wider use.

While the story is the main medium for conveying moral truth to the mind of a child, there is still room for more systematic instruction; and it is not well to omit this in the Christian education of children. It is hardly expected that many children will of themselves find their way through these pages, but under the guidance of parents they may, perhaps, receive from them a direct impression of duty such as the story does not always yield. If so, the little book will not be in vain.

I have joined to these discourses for children a Pastoral Address made to a large number of young persons who entered into the Church in March, 1883; and as the book is likely to fall into the hands of parents, and is, indeed, designed for the household, I have added a discourse on the Home in its Relation to Character, — believing that these additions will secure for the volume a more thorough unity.

No effort has been made to take out local color and allusion, either of place or occasion. All Berkshire is a poem of natural beauty, and it is kinder to offer it to the world than to hide it.

T. T. M.

NOTE ON THE SECOND EDITION.

THE second edition of this book is published with an addition of four chapters, in the hope that in this form it may be regarded as a fit prelude to "ON THE THRESHOLD,"—a work designed for an older class of readers.

T. T. M.

NORTH ADAMS, November, 1884.