

**THE VIRGIN MOTHER, RETREAT  
ADDRESSES ON THE LIFE OF THE BLESSED  
VIRGIN MARY AS TOLD  
IN THE GOSPELS, WITH AN APPENDED  
ESSAY ON THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF OUR  
LORD JESUS CHRIST**

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The Virgin mother, retreat addresses on the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary as told in the Gospels, with an appended essay on the virgin birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ by A. C. A. Hall

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**A. C. A. HALL**

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# THE VIRGIN MOTHER

RETREAT ADDRESSES

ON

THE LIFE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

AS TOLD IN THE GOSPELS

*With an appended Essay on the Virgin Birth  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

BY THE

RT. REV. A. C. A. HALL, D.D.

*Bishop of Vermont*

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## PREFACE.

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I HAVE been repeatedly urged to publish these Meditations, which in substance have been several times given in Retreats for Women on both sides of the Atlantic. I had thought to write out the Addresses afresh from notes taken on different occasions, but this has proved impossible. The notes which were taken with considerable fulness, but by no means *verbatim*, at a Retreat for the Guild of the Epiphany (a society of Churchwomen engaged in educational work), in the Chapel of the Sisters of Bethany, London, in January, 1892, are here printed, after careful revision as regards

their matter, but with manifold imperfection of literary form.

However, the Addresses are intended now, as when delivered, to serve as suggestions for meditation and prayer, rather than as finished discourses. In this way I trust they may prove helpful.

The Essay on the Virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is printed as an appendix, was written for a clerical society in the spring of 1891, and was published at that time in *The Church Eclectic*. It gives the grounds for accepting the literal statement of the Creed which is taken for granted in the Meditations.

A. C. A. H.

BURLINGTON, VERMONT,  
*August, 1894.*

## INTRODUCTORY MEDITATION.

### THE PREDESTINATION OF THE VIRGIN MOTHER.

WE will take for the general subject of our Retreat, as the starting-point of our Meditations, *the life of the Blessed Virgin Mother*, as presented to us in the pages of the Gospels.

So we will think in our several meditations of different scenes and mysteries in her life, as recorded in the Gospels; of her Predestination; her Training for the manifestation of God's high purpose; of the Annunciation by the Angel; of her Visitation; of the Birth of the Holy Child and the accomplishment of the Mystery of the Incarnation; of her Purification and the Presentation of her Child in the Temple; of the Flight into Egypt, and the return to Nazareth; of the scene in the Temple when her Child was twelve years old. Then we will