

**GOOD FRIDAY**

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Good Friday by H. S. Holland

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**H. S. HOLLAND**

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## PREFACE.

THESE addresses have been printed in obedience to the suggestion of one whose lightest word I should be glad to take for law; and in the hope that they may possibly help some who desire to open the full currents of emotion in meditation upon the Passion of the Lord, and who yet feel well the peril of reducing Calvary, by such use of it, to the level of a pathetic melodrama, which they set themselves sentimentally to rehearse.

We can escape from this peril only



by the bracing use of an intelligent theology, which can give to the quickened feelings a robust and manly control by lifting them out of the region of sentimental imitation up into the pure light of a spiritual eternity, in which they do not struggle to reproduce the scenic pathos of a past event, but apprehend the vital and enduring power of an ever-living action. Such a theology does not confine itself to imagining, detail by detail, the death-agony once endured on Calvary ; but rather makes use of such imagination only in order to lay fuller hold of that Glory of the Father, within the Heart of which the Risen Christ, still pierced with the ancient Wounds, abides as on a Throne of Grace, and leads captivity captive.

Fortified and transfigured by such

spiritual apprehension, the human feelings can safely be allowed their full play and movement; for they can always be securely used, when they are employed as ministrants to a yet higher work than their own. Under the cover, therefore, of this principle, these addresses attempt, in a very slight and humble way, to interweave the thought of the perpetual Sacrifice with the memory of the historic Cross, in order that a note of spiritual triumph may be heard always sounding throughout the pity of the Passion; for it is by the sense of such a triumph that our unsteady feelings can be controlled and exalted, so as to become the organs of a high and full theology, which by their aid is enabled to intensify its hold on the things of Faith.

The addresses on the Seven Words from the Cross were given at the Three Hours' Service in St. Paul's Cathedral. They only attempt the task of guiding the meditations and prayers of those present along the familiar channels, that would be most natural at such a time. They do not aim at doing more than just this very humble service for those who may now happen to read them. If there are any to whom such a service is of any use, that will justify the printing of words so slight and transitory.