RELIGIOUS LECTURES ON PECULIAR PHENOMENA IN THE FOUR SEASONS: I. THE RESURRECTIONS OF SPRING; II. THE TRIUMPHAL ARCH OF SUMMER; III. THE EUTHANASIA OF AUTUMN; IV. THE CORONATION OF WINTER

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649744435

Religious Lectures on Peculiar Phenomena in the Four Seasons: I. The Resurrections of Spring; II. The Triumphal Arch of Summer; III. The Euthanasia of Autumn; IV. The Coronation of Winter by Edward Hitchcock

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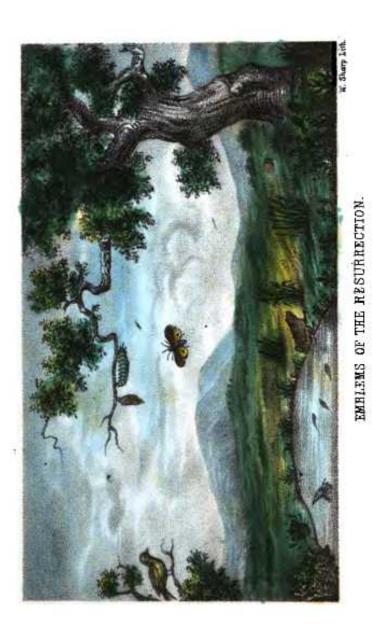
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EDWARD HITCHCOCK

RELIGIOUS LECTURES ON PECULIAR PHENOMENA IN THE FOUR SEASONS: I. THE RESURRECTIONS OF SPRING; II. THE TRIUMPHAL ARCH OF SUMMER; III. THE EUTHANASIA OF AUTUMN; IV. THE CORONATION OF WINTER

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0 RELIGIOUS LECTURES

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ON

PECULIAR PHENOMENA

IN THE

FOUR SEASONS:

I. THE RESURRECTIONS OF SPRING: II. THE TRIUMPHAL ARCH OF SUMMER: III. THE EUTHANASIA OF AUTUMN: IV. THE CORONATION OF WINTER:

DELIVERED TO THE STUDENTS IN AMHERST COLLEGE,

IN 1845, 1847, 1848 AND 1849.

BY EDWARD HITCHCOCK, D. D., LL. D., PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE, AND PROFESSOR OF NATURAL THEOLOGY AND GEOLOGY.

> AMHERST: J. S. & C. ADAMS. 1850.

From the Library of Prof. A. P. PEABODY (\$2)

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TO THE HON. SAMUEL WILLISTON;

THE MUNIFICENT FRIEND AND PATRON OF RELIGION AND LEARNING ;

THE FOUNDER OF WILLISTON SEMINARY;

AND THE LIBERAL BENEFACTOR OF AMHERST COLLEGE :

THIS LITTLE WORK,

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THE FIRST FRUITS OF A PROFESSORSHIP OF NATURAL THEOLOGY AND GEOLOGY, ENDOWED BY HIM, AND FILLED BY THE AUTHOR;

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED ;

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AS A TOKEN OF GRATITUDE AND PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP.

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PREFATORY.

provenier.

THE Lecture entitled " The Coronation of Winter," in this little volume, has been published in a pamphlet form at the request of the students of Amherst College, and the Mount Holyoke Female Seminary, before whom it was originally delivered. And it was the intcrost manifested in that discourse, which led the author to prepare others on some rare phenomena of spring, summer, and antumn, and which leads him to hope that the whole may not be unacceptable to his friends; though he cannot anticipate a wide circulation. To have published four sermons on ordinary subjects, in the expectation that they would be read, would have been weakness, if not folly. Perhaps the present effort is no better: But the author feels that Natural Religion has not yet yielded all the fruits that may be derived from it, to feed the heart of piety; especially when those fruits are ripened and gathered under the bright sun of revelation. It is well known that the phenomena of nature have often been made to utter language opposed to revelation, by the ventriloquizing processes of scepticism. It is hoped, therefore, that even a feeble attempt to let nature speak in unconstrained tones, will be received with favor.

The manner in which I have endeavored to defend the scripture doctrine of the resurrection of the body, by an appeal to certain principles of chemistry and physiology, which seem to have been

PREFATORY.

overlooked, both by the enemies and the friends of this doctrine, seems to me quito conclusive. Yet as I have met with it in no writer, I ought not to be over confident in its validity.

The drawings attached are intended to give a more accurate idea of some of the phenomena described than mere words can do. They are not caricatures, or exaggeration; but fall below the reality. They are a novel appendage to sermons; but I hope they may aid in deepening the religious effect of the sentiments.

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AMMERST COLLEGE, SEPT. 1, 1849.

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