

**MUSIC-HALL
SERMONS;
PP. 1-273**

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Music-Hall Sermons; pp. 1-273 by William H. H. Murray

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WILLIAM H. H. MURRAY

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MUSIC-HALL SERMONS.

BY

WILLIAM H. H. MURRAY,

PASTOR OF PARK STREET CHURCH, BOSTON.



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PREFACE.

WITH the exception of a few verbal alterations, these discourses are now given to the public in the precise form in which they were delivered. Prepared as they were while the writer was under the pressure of continual duties, — in weariness often, and amid many distractions, — he is sensible of their literary imperfections. He laments most that the truths he aimed to inculcate suffer because of the weakness of the utterance.

W. H. H. M.

Boston, March, 1870.

CONTENTS.



	* PAGE
SERMON I.	
THE TENDERNESS OF GOD	1
SERMON II.	
THE UNION OF MORAL FORCES	23
SERMON III.	
THE RELATION OF BELIEF TO PRACTICE	47
SERMON IV.	
TO YOUNG MEN	71
SERMON V.	
BURDEN-BEARING	95
SERMON VI.	
NEARNESS OF GOD	118
SERMON VII.	
DIVINE FRIENDSHIP	140

SERMON VIII.

HOPE FOR THE FALLEN	162
-------------------------------	-----

SERMON IX.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD	182
------------------------------------	-----

SERMON X.

THE CHURCH, — ITS OBJECT AND CAPACITY	200
---	-----

SERMON XI.

THE POWER OF CITIES	222
-------------------------------	-----

SERMON XII.

THE MORAL CONDITION OF BOSTON, AND HOW TO IMPROVE IT	244
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SERMON I.

THE TENDERNESS OF GOD.

“A bruised reed shall He not break.” — MATTHEW xii. 20.

THE world is hard, — hard in its policies, feelings, and acts. Its judgments are harsh, and its penalties are cruel. Socrates it poisoned, and the Messiah it slew.

We may differ in our opinions as to the cause and origin of this state. You may have your views, I may have mine; but we shall not differ as to the result. Each mind, advancing along its own path of reason and observation, comes to and halts at the same spot. The world is hard: in respect to that we agree. Its very religions have inoculated it with an evil virus, — made it dogmatic, unmerciful, and fierce. In India, a woman's hope of heaven lies over the funeral-pyre of her husband, and from slavery here she passes through smoke and flame to servitude hereafter. Maternal affection — that holiest instinct of the human breast — is converted into an engine of destruction, and the arms which should protect fling the babe into the waters of the