

**CHARITY. FIFTEEN
PLAIN ADDRESSES**

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Charity. Fifteen Plain Addresses by J. B. Wilkinson & T. T. Carter

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J. B. WILKINSON & T. T. CARTER

**CHARITY. FIFTEEN
PLAIN ADDRESSES**

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FIFTEEN PLAIN ADDRESSES.

BY THE LATE

J. B. WILKINSON, M.A.,

VICAR OF THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, LAVENDES HILL.
AUTHOR OF "MISSION SERMONS," "DAILY READINGS," ETC., ETC.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

T. T. CARTER, M.A.,

HONORARY CANON OF CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD,
AND WARDEN OF THE HOUSE OF MERCY, CLEWER.

LONDON:

SKEFFINGTON & SON, 163, PICCADILLY, W.

—
1885.

AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED
TO THE CONGREGATION
OF THE
CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, LAVENDER HILL.

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Preface.

There can hardly need a justification for the publication of this volume of Sermons. The crowds that gathered at the Church of the Ascension to mourn the sudden loss of one so beloved, to whom, under God, was due the foundation and building up of that important centre of Church life, whose teaching and laborious ministry had been so deeply valued, and the friends from a distance who were able to be present, representing the wider circle by whom his labours at other important centres had been long known and highly esteemed, was an unmistakeable testimony to the desire that must have been widely felt, that his special gifts of teaching might not be wholly lost—that the intense earnestness which characterized his ministry might yet speak. He had long been known as an author, and his publications valued far and wide. For he had a happy power of uttering deep truths with a peculiar simplicity. One who constantly heard him, says, "The charm of his preaching was its simplicity." It was no doubt that which made him, as the same witness observes, "such a favourite with children, for whom he had a great love;" and, as he adds, "he always enjoyed catechising children, which was a great point with him."

At the same time, his reading was extensive and varied, and the fruits of study are manifest in his writings, though without any display of learning, but felt as an undercurrent, giving breadth and strength to his full, earnest, and clear utterances. He himself truly expressed the character of his teaching, when he said in his preface to his work on our Lord's

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Parables, that "the one point I have endeavoured to set before myself, has been the edification of those to whom I have the responsibility of ministering. To avoid, as far as is possible, all controversy, in order to make the teaching devout, practical, and simple, has been my honest aim."

From a long personal knowledge of the Author, and having followed his course at different centres where he has been called to work, I can truly say, that among the many engaged in the pastoral ministry known to me, there is no one of whom I can more truly say, that his heart was in his work and with his people, and it was this which gave him such influence with all classes in accomplishing the great work which he brought so near to completion at Lavender Hill.

There are passages in these Sermons which will touch many hearts, as shewing how he seemed to live in the thought of death, while ceaselessly at work in the many objects of his unwearied care among which he lived; and though called to his account with a remarkable suddenness, without any apparent sign of the approaching end of his ministry, it was felt as a token of love "strong as death," that when ministering in his church on the Thursday on which he passed to his rest, he was moved to ask for special prayer "that the blessing of Jesus Christ might rest on the Church and Work."

This volume will therefore, I trust, be heartily welcomed. The Series has been selected as one which the Author had intended for publication, though left in MS. unrevised and uncorrected. It is a course of addresses delivered on Sundays in Lent, in S. Paul's, Knightsbridge, in 1872, when many spoke of being much impressed by his words; and afterwards, on the same days, they were preached at the Church of the Ascension. He would probably have re-written many passages had he lived to carry out his intention of publishing the volume. The Editor, to whose reverent and loving hand it has naturally fallen to

prepare the book for the press, has felt it a sacred duty to leave the Sermons as they were found, only allowing himself to correct purely clerical errors.

It is a sincere gratification to myself to be able to add my brief testimony to the worth of one with whom I have felt myself in constant sympathy, and the blessing attending whose labours has always been to me a cause of rejoicing.

This work will, I trust, add to the admiration in which the Author has been held by all who knew him, and who have benefitted by his many labours.

T. T. CARTER.

S. John's Lodge, Clower,

Oct. 16, 1885.

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