

**HOMELY HOMILIES; OR,
BARNABAS BLUNT'S PLAIN
TALK FOR PLAIN FOLK**

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Homely homilies; or, Barnabas Blunt's plain talk for plain folk by James Yeames

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JAMES YEAMES

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Homely Homilies;

OR,

*BARNABAS BLUNT'S PLAIN TALK
FOR PLAIN FOLK.*

BY THE

REV. JAMES YEAMES,

AUTHOR OF "VIGNETTES OF ENGLISH HISTORY," ETC.



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P R E F A C E .

THE pseudonym under which the following papers are written, and the form in which they are cast, will indicate the intention of the writer.

The hope is cherished that, by the adoption of a plain and familiar style, the lessons conveyed in these "Homely Homilies" may arrest the attention and reach the hearts of some who would not care to read a homily of the ordinary kind.

If this hope be realized, the author's end will be answered, and his labour abundantly rewarded.

August, 1874.





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HOMELY HOMILIES.

I.

ON SPEAKING ONE'S MIND.

I AM a plain man both in manners and speech,—“Blunt by name and blunt by nature,” some of my neighbours say; but, withal, I trust I am kind if sometimes curt, and charitable though candid. I don't believe in the bluntness that some people so much boast of,—“always speaking their mind,” as they say, whether they please or offend.

These folks would use a skewer instead of a needle to pierce a pimple, and dash a bucket of water over you to recover you from fainting, and then say it was all for your good. They have no thought for other

people's feelings, they tread on your toes, rub against you with all their prickles outwards, and then say it's no use for you to talk about your corns or to complain if you are pierced,—they "always did and they always shall speak their minds." Their minds being very shallow and soon on the boil, it is no wonder that they so often and so quickly foam and bubble over. I notice, too, that they who are readiest to speak their mind, have least mind to speak of. And as shallow vessels soonest run over, they themselves are the least able to receive plain speaking from other people.

There was neighbour Outwithit, the other day, nearly sent poor Miss Tabitha Timid into hysterics by saying, "Old maids are always cross and cantankerous, and care more for cats than for Christians." And when some one said he should not have so spoken before one of the class, he replied, "He always spoke his mind, and he believed in being out-spoken." He was reminded that Miss Tabitha was the very opposite of what he had described her order to be,—but these speak-your-mind folks can never be convinced that they have said the wrong thing, or *a right thing* at the wrong time. They have