

**THE CHURCH; IN A
SERIES OF
DISCOURSES**

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The Church; In a Series of Discourses by Sylvester Judd

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SYLVESTER JUDD

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A SERIES OF DISCOURSES. //

BY

REV. SYLVESTER JUDD,
PASTOR OF CHRIST CHURCH, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

"In promoting the influence of Christianity, the main duty of an enlightened Christian at the present day is to labor that it may be better understood; and the views and results to which a few intelligent scholars may have arrived must be made the common property of the community."—ANDREW NEWTON.

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EDITOR'S PREFACE.

THE publication of this volume of Sermons is the result of several considerations. The one which I have felt to be most important, and which is entirely proper to be stated here, arises from the fact that the author himself intended to give some or all of them to the press, in connection with others on kindred topics, which he was expecting his clerical brethren in Maine would contribute to the object he had in view. This purpose appears in a letter which he addressed, about a month before his decease, to his highly valued friend, Rev. Cazneau Palfrey, of Belfast. In it he writes as follows:—

“ It has seemed to me that we ought to publish to the world some of our Church principles, views, and plans. There is a spirit of inquiry awake, yet there is hardly a printed word that can be got hold of. Our own people, no less than others, need to see the thing in print. It is matter to be pondered. The

'Report' of our State Convention at Portland* does not explain itself to anybody. I am sorry no 'notes' accompanied it.

"I propose that there be published a book of this sort: 'The Church: in a Series of Discourses, by several Clergymen of the Unitarian Church of Maine.' I am willing to take all the risk of publication. What I want is, that any of us, whose minds have been exercised on the subject, should give the public a Discourse upon it, — you take up one point, I another, and so on. I want we should show a kind of organic, unitary front. For my own part, I have several Discourses which I might put into such a volume."

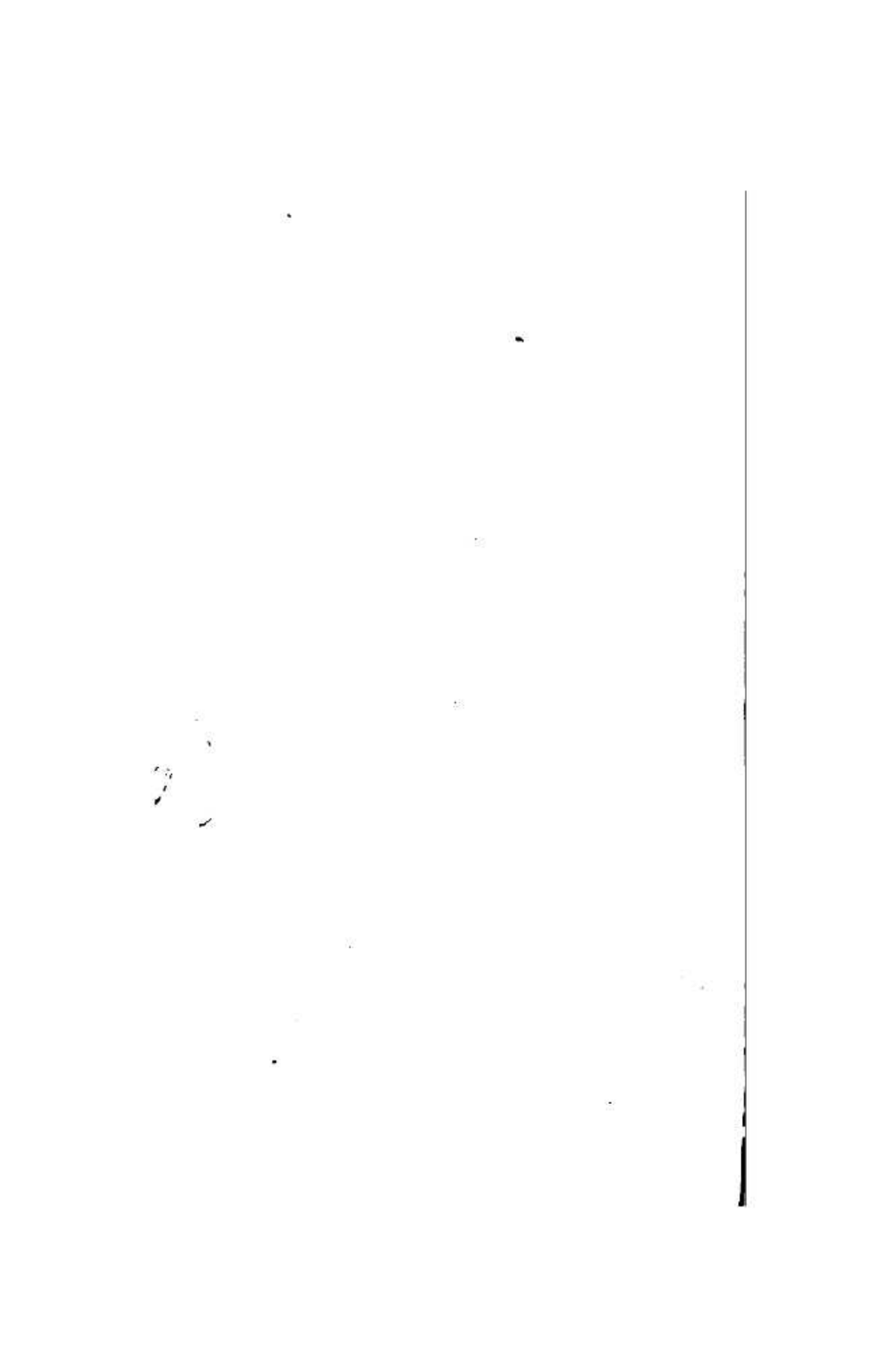
I have no special clew to the particular sermons which Mr. Judd regarded as best expressing the views he desired to commend to general notice, and I am not sure that my selection is such a one as he would have made for himself. Still, I feel no hesitation in offering the following Sermons to the public, as I can hardly be mistaken in supposing they come fully within the scope of the plan indicated in the letter from which I have quoted. They appear to me to stand symmetrically around the central point of interest, and I believe there will be found in them

* See Appendix, Note A.

a unity and logical connection with each other, and an exactness of statement and fulness of illustration, quite sufficient to enable the general reader to understand the author's true position on the topics which he has treated, and to take from every fair-minded person all excuse for any misapprehension or misrepresentation of his general drift and real aim. While they are eminently didactic in their character, they are yet wholly unambitious in style, and were, in fact, prepared and delivered in the usual course of ministerial labor. But the earnestness and profound sincerity of their tone are calculated to fix the attention, when once enlisted, on the great theme which he discusses, and hold it until the whole series shall be perused. Such, at least, is the hope in which the volume is now committed to the public.

JOSEPH H. WILLIAMS.

AUGUSTA, January 6, 1854.



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