LIFE ETERNAL

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Life Eternal by Theodore F. Wright

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THEODORE F. WRIGHT

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"He that loveth his life shall lose it, and he that hate i his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal."—Jons xii. 25.

> BY THEODORE F. WRIGHT,

BOSTON : MASSACHUSETTS NEW-CHURCH UNION, 169 TREMONT STREET. 1885.



Mass. New-Church Union Press, 169 Tremont Street, Boston.

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PREFACE,

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IN complying with a wish, expressed both within and without the society of the New Church, which he serves, that certain discourses, prepared at various times for the purpose of giving the teachings of the Holy Word and of fair reasoning on the subject of the future life, might be placed within the reach of those who have known bereavement or who may for other reasons be led to take near views of death, the author would say that these sermons are neither so closely connected as to form an argument, nor so nicely discriminated as to avoid repetition, and that they are sent forth only in the hope that some hearts may find therein "comfortable words"; may be led to doubt that

"Death

Grinned horrible a ghastly smile, to hear His famine should be filled;"

PREFACE.

and to believe that

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"Death is another life. We bow our heads At going out, we think, and enter straight Another golden chamber of the king's, Larger than this we leave, and lovelier."

BRIDGEWATER, Mass., Feb., 1885.

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BEYOND THE GRAVE.

"As the angels of God in heaven."-MATT. xxii. 30.

HERE are three ways of looking at the life hereafter, and it is proposed to consider them a little in order to see on what basis rests the doctrine of the New Church. How to prepare for the future life is obviously a question of the greatest importance, but it is equally evident that according to the idea we have of that other life will be our preparation. Moreover, it must be plain that if all men could be made to see clearly the nature of this after life, a new and most powerful motive would be added to those which lead them to contend with evil and do what is right. If the idea of the future existence be vague, the preparation must be made in doubt. If the thought be that the future life is itself a matter of doubt, then no direct preparation whatever can be made for it.