

**THE GOSPEL OF EXPERIENCE: OR,
THE WITNESS OF HUMAN LIFE TO
THE TRUTH OF REVELATION,
BEING THE BOYLE LECTURES FOR
1895**

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The Gospel of experience: or, the witness of human life to the truth of revelation, being the Boyle lectures for 1895 by W. C. E. Newbolt

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W. C. E. NEWBOLT

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THE GOSPEL OF EXPERIENCE

OR

*THE WITNESS OF HUMAN LIFE TO
THE TRUTH OF REVELATION*

BEING

THE BOYLE LECTURES FOR 1895

BY THE REV.

W. C. E. NEWBOLT, M.A.

CANON AND CHANCELLOR OF ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
SELECT PREACHER BEFORE THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, 1894-5
AND EXAMINING CHAPLAIN TO THE LORD BISHOP OF ELY

"Existimabam ut cognoscerem hoc: labor est ante me donec intrem in
sanctuarium Dei et intelligam "

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1896

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TO
THE REVERED MEMORY
OF
WILLIAM JOHN BUTLER,
LATE DEAN OF LINCOLN,
TO WHOSE DEVOTED LIFE HIS OLD CURATES LOOKED
AS A
PRACTICAL EXAMPLE OF CHRISTIAN FAITH,
THESE LECTURES ARE DEDICATED
WITH ALL AFFECTION
AND RESPECT.

PREFACE

THESE lectures were delivered in obedience to an expressed wish of the Lord Bishop of London, which I did not feel at liberty to refuse. They labour under these two defects: first, that they were undertaken at a very short notice, when it was not possible to give them the amount of study which lectures of this character seem to demand; and secondly, that they are an essay in a branch of homiletics to which the author has not been naturally nor officially drawn hitherto.

The underlying idea which they try to develop is this: that just as the spade of

the excavator is a valuable ally to the student who investigates historical records, so the spade of experimental inquiry, in the region of the spiritual life, ought to yield valuable confirmation of those facts which Holy Scripture leads us to suppose exist in our own lives, and in the constitution of things around us. And that just as the excavator concentrates his chief attention on places and scenes where ancient life reached its fullest development, so our inquiry will, in all probability, be most fruitful if, instead of spending time in investigating the actions of the average man, we in each case interrogate the highest forms of spiritual development within our reach.

I wish to express my grateful thanks to the Rev. J. Storrs, for allowing me to deliver these lectures in the Church of