

LAST WORDS IN THE PULPIT, I-V

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Last Words in the Pulpit, I-V by George C. Miln

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GEORGE C. MILN

**LAST WORDS IN
THE PULPIT, I-V**



UoRM

*Sincerely yours,
Geo. C. Miller.*

LAST WORDS IN THE PULPIT:

- I. THE CHURCH—ITS PAST.
- II. THE CHURCH—ITS PRESENT.
- III. THE CHURCH—ITS FUTURE.
- IV. THE MASTERY OF LOVE.
- V. LAST WORDS IN THE PULPIT.

BY

GEO. C. MILN.

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TO ALL
WHO BELIEVE IN REASON
AS THE
SUPREME AUTHORITY FOR HUMAN CONDUCT,
THESE PAGES
ARE SINCERELY DEDICATED.

177925

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THE utterance of the addresses herein contained—notably the one in which “The Church—Its Future” is sketched—resulted in their author’s exclusion from the pulpit of Unity Church, Chicago. They therefore assume an interest, as marking the limits beyond which a preacher in a Unitarian pulpit is not permitted to go, quite independent of any merit or demerit in their style or thought. The writer has no complaint to make over the termination of his relations with the church above mentioned, though he is obliged to characterize the methods employed to secure that result as harsh, abrupt, and crafty.

No comment upon the subject matter of the addresses herewith published is needful; they speak for themselves. But in commending them to the reader’s unbiased judgment, the writer ventures the prediction that within a few years such views will be allowed free expression in Unitarian pulpits, or the denomination of that name will have even less vitality and influence than it at present possesses.

GEO. C. MILN.

CHICAGO, *March, 1882.*

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THE CHURCH—ITS PAST.

I propose to glance at the past history of that social institution known as the church, for the purpose of ascertaining through what forms, and by what processes, it has reached its present condition; and also that we may with approximate precision forecast what its future will be. To accomplish this purpose with thoroughness—that is to enter into all the details of church history, to analyze closely and accurately the present status of the church, and then to picture with anything approaching to particularity the future which lies before it—would be a task calling for the space of many volumes, and requiring for its performance the learning of the historian, the passion of the scientist, and the imagination of a prophet. Let me, then, disallow at once any such ambitious and wearisome project. Instead of entering into all this infinite variety of detail, I would simply pass before you, with panoramic swiftness, the salient features which suggest themselves as one thinks of the past, the present, and the future of the church. My excuse for calling your thought to this theme, if any excuse is needed, is found in the fact that in the progress of thought upon so-called religious subjects, the divine institution of the church has been called in question, and its value as a constructive and formative instrumentality has been thrown into debate.