# HERE AND HEREAFTER: SOME SERMONS ON THE ENDLESS LIFE

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Here and Hereafter: Some Sermons on the Endless Life by George Tugwell

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### **GEORGE TUGWELL**

# HERE AND HEREAFTER: SOME SERMONS ON THE ENDLESS LIFE



## HERE AND HEREAFTER:

SOME SERMONS ON

THE ENDLESS LIFE;

BY

GEORGE TUGWELL, M.A., OXON.,

RECTOR OF BATHWICK.

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Numbers 1 and 2 are reprints, having been published in Pamphlet form in 1875.

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### PREFACE.

HESE SERMONS, preached at S. Mary's, Bathwick, at various times, are connected by a central thought, on which, like beads on a string, they depend.

That thought is the continuity of the endless life.

Human life is a unity, not a duality, or a trilogy. We do not live two lives—those of earth and heaven, or three lives—those of earth, paradise, and heaven, but one life.

No man ever dies; he only loses for a time the encasement or shrine of his body.

From the moment of birth there is no escaping from life: we must "go on for ever."

Death is a gate between earth and the spirit world :

the resurrection is a gate between the spirit world and the world of heaven.

That which a man is as he touches each gate, that same is he when he has passed through each gate. His place is changed, his conditions of life are changed, but his ideal, his aspirations, and his identity are unchanged.

Whatever change is needful must take place on the road to each gate.

Wherefore it is good to lead, so far as may be, the Heavenly Life new.

### I.—HEAVEN.

### REVELATIONS IV. 1:

" A door was opened in heaven."



DOOR is a barrier which often separates two very unlike scenes.

On one side, for instance, are green fields, and bright sunshine, and running streams, and happy laughter. On the other, the manacled forms of listless prisoners, the dark cell, the moan of despair, the vision of death. Or, outside, are wild, sobbing, wintry winds, driving showers of hail and sleet, homeless wanderers, friendless outcasts; inside, bright light, abundant food, a warm hearth, and a cheerful circle of friends. Between such opposite scenes as these there is only a door.

The real question in all such cases is,

"Can I open that door? Can I pass through it?" If not, all the waters of the sea, all the mountains of the world, could not form a stronger barrier.

There are many sorts of doors in different places, set up with various objects. And perhaps there are more stories, legendary and historical, more human hopes and despairs, connected with doors than with any other definite object of human make. But I must not linger round a tempting subject, a very suggestive thought. One door concerns us this evening.

There is a door between heaven and earth. Only a door! What would not we give to be able to open it and look inside, if but for a single instant? Well, that is impossible. But the door, we know, has been opened, and S. John, for one, was permitted to look, and to tell us what he saw within it. I can only repeat his description in his own words.