HEART HEALING

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Heart Healing by W. Boyd Carpenter

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W. BOYD CARPENTER

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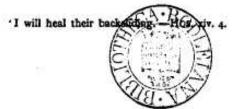


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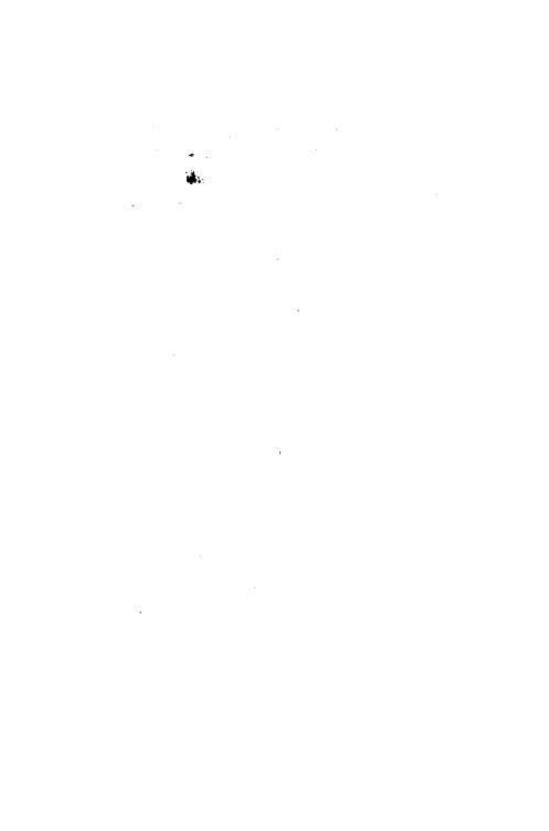
REV. W. BOYD CARPENTER, M.A.

VICAR OF ST. JAMES', HOLLOWAY, AND SELECT PRÉACHER BEFORE THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.



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CONTENTS.

CHAP.					4	PAGE
ı.	INTRODUCTORY—THE D	ISEA	SE	•	•	1
11.	NATURE OF THE DISEAS	E	•	ē.		12
111.	MALIGNITY OF THE DIS	EASE		٠		29
IV.	CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE	DISE	ASE		•	41
v.	SIN AS A DISEASE .					52
vı.	THE HEALER	¥ :	:			68
VII.	FITNESS OF THE WORD				•	86
viii.	MORE RECENT PHASES	9			٠	102
IX.	HINDRANCES TO HEALIN	G			- 10	111



HEART-HEALING.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY - THE DISEASE.

THERE is no subject which has given rise to more heart-paining questionings and misty answers as that of the existence of evil. Evil is among us, and as men, patriots, and philanthropists, we must deplore it. But laments do not bring explanations. The dark problem has baffled human thought, and bewildered conjecture.

What has the Bible, as conveying to us the knowledge of God's will and our destiny, to say in explanation of this dark and undecipherable subject? Evil

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is too gigantic, too universal, and too deeply rooted in the world to be passed by unnoticed in a revelation from heaven. We have long wondered how a good God could permit its existence. There are the miseries of our fellow-creatures aggravated in intensity alike in the innocent and the guilty; there are terrible calamities which startle the quiescence of the most indifferent into terror and alarm; there are killing heart-sores which drain away our courage and go far to exhaust our hopes; there are evils which afflict our race, our country, our friends, ourselves. We have long yearned for their solution: now God Himself has spoken. What grieves the compassion, and stirs the emotions of our hearts, must touch the tenderness of His. will supply the key, He will not suffer us so long to weary ourselves with speculation, and fret our spirit with unanswered cravings. To His word we turn.

But in turning to the Book, we are struck by the fact that we have entered a different and a fresher atmosphere. Here we find little that touches on the problem of the origin of evil. We are not taken by the hand, and led to the far distance, and shown the little dark drops as they ooze forth from their primal source. We are entertained with no elaborate treatise on the subject; there is no nervous attempt to vindicate the Almighty from being the author of evil; no metaphysical chapters are introduced; no philosophical methods are indulged. The atmosphere into which we enter is not that of the schools; the jargon of the hair-splitters is left behind us; we breathe new air; we hear new sounds. Fact takes the place of fancy; historical details appear instead of dreamy speculations. We have left the speculative, and we have passed into the region of the practical; we are no longer bewildered amid the tortuous