

**HELPS TO REPENTANCE, SIX
LECTURES, ADDRESSED TO PERSONS
OF DIFFERENT AGES; DELIVERED IN
THE PARISH CHURCH OF STAGSDEN,
BEDS, DURING THE SEASON OF LENT**

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Helps to Repentance, Six Lectures, Addressed to Persons of Different Ages; Delivered in the Parish Church of Stagsden, Beds, During the Season of Lent by A. Westoby

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A. WESTOBY

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HELPS TO REPENTANCE.

SIX LECTURES,

ADDRESSED

TO PERSONS OF DIFFERENT AGES;

DELIVERED IN

THE PARISH CHURCH OF STAGSDEN, BEDS.
DURING THE SEASON OF LENT.

BY A. WESTOBY, M.A.

CURATE,

AND CHAPLAIN TO THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF GLASGOW.



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LECTURES.

LECTURE I.

ON REPENTANCE, &c. ADDRESSED TO CHILDREN.

(First Sunday in Lent.)

PSALM lviii. 3.

"They go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies."

THIS is the account which the Psalmist gives of the children of wicked men in his day. He does not, indeed, wish it to be inferred that the children of righteous parents are by nature better than these, but he accounts for the early wickedness of some children above others—they receive no checks from parents or teachers,

and hence they go so soon astray from the ways of virtue and religion, even during the earliest days in which they become capable of exercising reason. If, happily, all children do not thus early turn aside into the ways of sin, they owe much of their preservation from open vice, during childhood, to the care which the ministers of religion have taken to provide instruction for their fathers and mothers; and the opportunities they afford them to learn to read the Bible, and to gain a knowledge of the law of God, and of the gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ. David declared that of himself, which is equally true of each one of us, "Behold I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." (Psalm li. 6.) And again, "I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost." This is the case with every one of us; yet we are mercifully invited by God to return to the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. Though such be our corrupt nature, and such the early tendency of

our hearts, Jesus and his Apostles invite us to repent and believe the gospel.

We are again entered upon the season of Lent, which is a time set apart by a large portion of the universal church of Christ, for fasting, repentance, and prayer. The season of Lent calls upon the members of our church to consider the doctrine of repentance. It is, therefore, my intention, by the help of God, to employ the Sundays in Lent, to set forth the necessity of repentance toward God, its advantages, and the means of promoting it in persons of different ages and conditions in life.

The present sermon will have reference to children. To you, my dear children, I now address myself. This discourse is intended for your special benefit. The prophet David declares of children, who are not carefully watched, diligently taught, and earnestly prayed for, that "they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies." This awful declaration