

**THE PREACHER'S BOOK, NOTES OF
SERMONS, WITH ILLUSTRATIVE
EXTRACTS, ANECDOTES, ETC.
ADAPTED FOR THE CHURCH'S
SEASONS, FIRST SERIES**

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The Preacher's Book, Notes of Sermons, with Illustrative Extracts, Anecdotes, Etc. Adapted for the Church's Seasons, First Series by Three Clergymen of the Church of England

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THREE CLERGYMEN OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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The Preacher's Book.

BEING

NOTES OF SERMONS, WITH ILLUSTRATIVE EXTRACTS, ANECDOTES, ETC.

ADAPTED FOR THE CHURCH'S SEASONS.

FIRST SERIES.

ADVENT TO WHITSUNTIDE.

BY

THREE CLERGYMEN OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

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Preface.

THERE are plenty of **Sermon Helps** for the overworked Clergyman, but none, so far as the Authors know, that are compiled on anything like the plan of the present Series, the distinct aim in which is to save the preacher as much as possible the weary work of mechanical copying out, by providing a set of Sermon Sketches in such a form, that

1. Original thoughts are suggested and stimulated by them.
2. The Book can be taken into the pulpit, and used by those who have not the gift of oratory and fluent speech.
3. Those who find it necessary to have fuller matter, may amplify and enrich these Notes with additions in MSS, on each blank page.
4. Each opening in the book contains a whole Sermon, and sufficient space for the preacher's own thoughts.
5. An Appendix, containing Illustrations, Anecdotes, Extracts from the best Authors, on the various subjects, is placed at the end of the book; where reference is made to these in the Sermons, the preacher can use them from memory, or, read from the Appendix in the course of his Sermon.

Of the Form in which these Notes are presented, a glance at the printed page explains the intention, **THE GREAT HEADS AND DIVISIONS ARE IN VERY THICK TYPE, AND UNDERLINED.** THE SUBORDINATE HEADS IN CAPITALS. Significant Points and smaller subdivisions in thick letters, and all quotations of Holy Scripture in Italics. All this to catch the eye of the preacher readily and easily.

One other thing remains to be noted : the Matter of these Sermon Notes. It is almost entirely original, yet diligent search has been made for the best thoughts of the best writers on every one of the subjects, and where possible such thoughts have been incorporated into the Notes, or the Illustrations at the end of the Volume.

This, the **First Series**, deals with subjects drawn from the teaching of the Prayer Book, in the Epistles, Gospels, or Lessons for the Sundays of the first half of the Christian Year, from Advent to Whitsuntide.

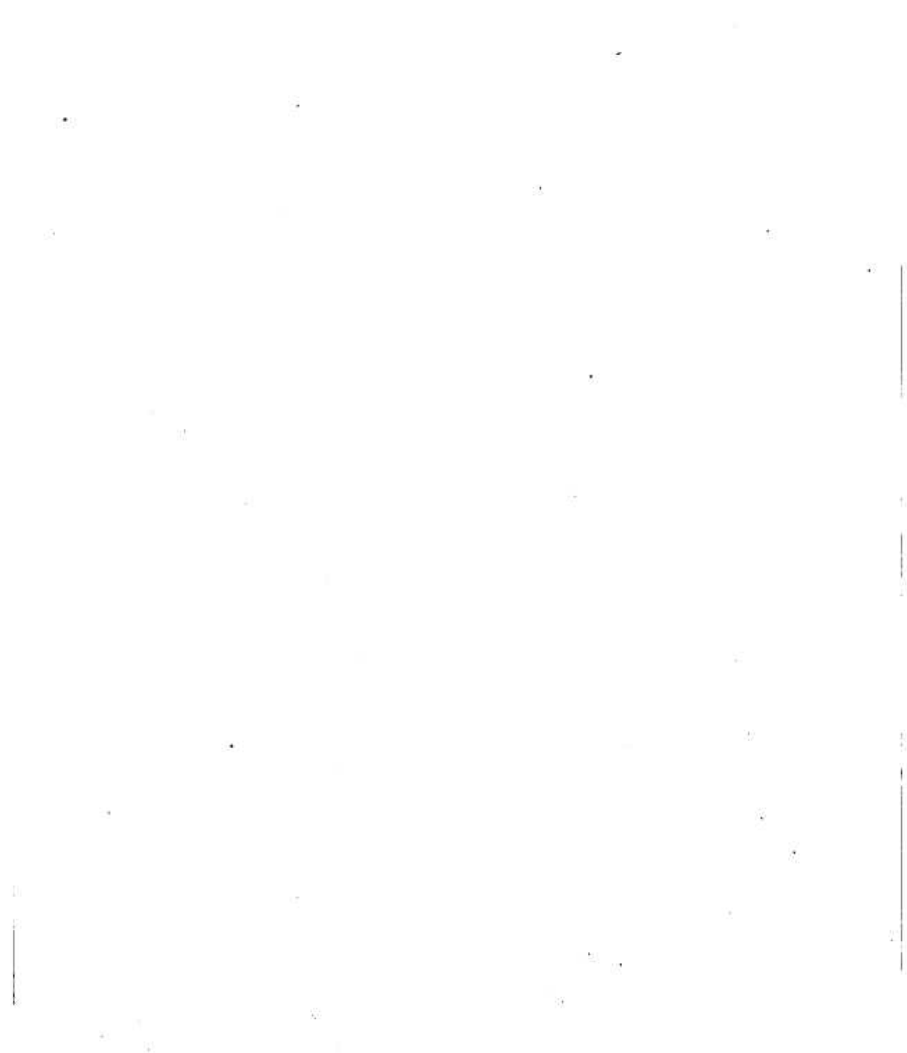
Thus, then, have the Authors endeavoured to give the hardworking, over-wrought Parish Priest, a useful help for his pulpit preaching, and may the Great Teacher Himself bless the humble effort, and enable the preacher, like a wise scribe instructed unto the Kingdom of God, "to bring out of his treasures, things new and old."

To Him be all the praise, and all the glory.

Trinity, 1885.

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THE WARNING NOTE.

S. MATT. III. 2.

"Repent ye, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

INTRODUCTION.

- FIRST STAGE OF CHRISTIAN YEAR.** Just entering it.
Our thoughts turned to the **Advent of Christ.**
- CHRIST EXPECTED, CHRIST DESIRED.** The night of fear and distrust, and delayed hope, far spent.
The day of Messiah's glory close at hand.
A picture of living, waiting nations, longing and looking for Deliverance.
- Whether as** (1) Jews looking for First Advent | the saying is true,
(2) Christians .. Second .. | *"Now it is high time to awake out of sleep."*
- It is the **WARNING NOTE**, not only of the Prophet in the Wilderness,
but of the times in which we live | *"Repent ye, for the Kingdom of Heaven is the heaving restless world | at hand."*

I. THE BAPTIST. Consider Him in His character, office, ministry, it was all **Preparatory, Temporary.**
S. Matt. iii. 1. *"In those days came John the Baptist preaching in the Wilderness of Judaea," etc.*

- (1.) The **MESSIAH** did not come without a herald.
The widespread expectation of the East was that some great one was about to appear.
All the Prophecies of **The Messenger** were so understood. (See Appendix, Nos. 6, 7.)
For 400 years no prophet. Malachi's words fulfilled in John the Baptist.
Supernatural Communication had ceased. No visible glory. No Urim and Thummim.
Popular excitement raised by the Angel's visit to Zacharias.
birth of the Child.
S. Luke i. 76. *"And thou, child, shalt be called," etc.*
- (11.) The **AUSTERITY** and Training of **JOHN THE BAPTIST** fostered this:
Thirty years in the desert—to burst on the world at last like a clarion blast.
He came "in spirit and power of Elias,"

Denouncing the sin of { Pharisees—hypocrisy
Publicans—unrighteous gains.
Soldiers—oppression, injustice.
People—Selfishness, self-pleasing.

HIS MINISTRY preparatory and temporary, pointing to { *"He must increase."*
the higher mission of Christ. { *"Whose shoe's latchet . . ."*
"Behold the Lamb . . . sins of world."

II. WHAT ADVENT LESSONS from this? Two Words—"Repent ye!"

This the warning note **Now** in the spiritual world.
" .. cry .. human wilderness.

- I. REPENTANCE** not an act only in the past, but a continuous preparation for the Lord. A change in character, heart, life.
"Repentance begins in the humiliation of the heart, and ends in the reformation of the life." MASON. (See Appendix, Nos. 1-5.)
- II. ADVENT** must begin in the Soul. The truly penitent will believe, and he who truly believes will repent.
Listen to the Baptist's message. His preaching was a means to **THE** great end.
- III. JOHN THE BAPTIST DIED FOR THE TRUTH.** For some it is easier to die for it than to live for it.
Our way is plain. He asks of us, not Death, but our **Life**, to be lived to and for Him.
"Constantly to speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake."
(Collected for S. John Baptist.)