

**VILLAGE DISCOURSES: BEING
TEN PARTING SERMONS,
PREACHED IN THE PARISH
CHURCH OF WATTON, HERTS**

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Village Discourses: Being Ten Parting Sermons, Preached in the Parish Church of Watton, Herts
by T. R. Birks

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THE PARISH CHURCH OF WATTON, HERTS.

BY THE

REV. T. R. BIRKS, A.M.

FELLOW AND PREACHER OF VELETT COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,
AND RECTOR OF KILSHALL, HANTS.

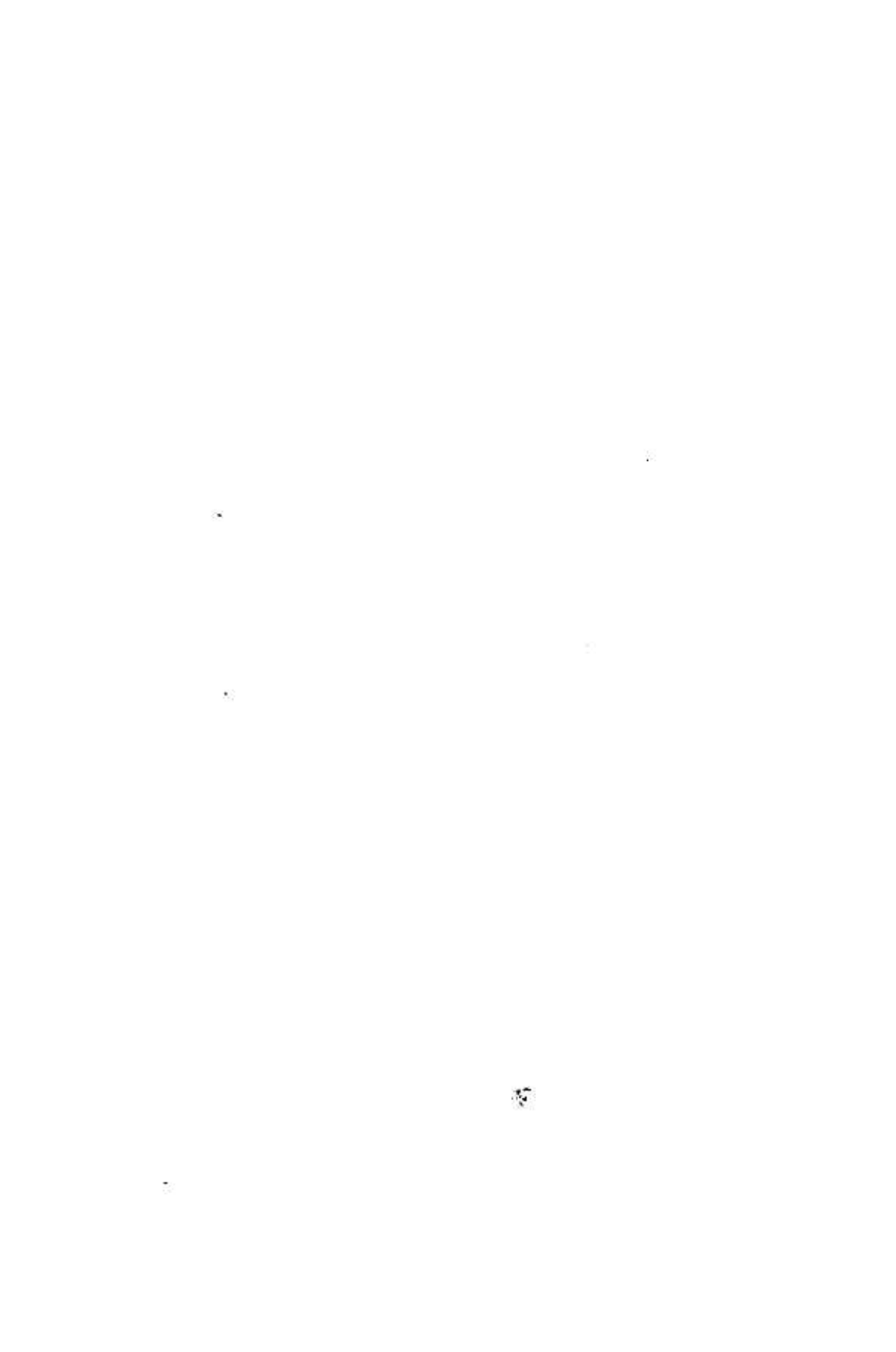
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LEOFARD SHELLEY, THAMES DITTON, SURREY.

TO THE PARISHIONERS OF WATTON ;
THIS LITTLE VOLUME,
THE SUBSTANCE OF DISCOURSES ADDRESSED TO THEM,
AS HIS PARTING MESSAGE ;
IS DEDICATED, WITH AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE, AND
EARNEST DESIRES FOR THEIR SPIRITUAL WELFARE ;
BY THEIR SINCERE FRIEND IN CHRIST,

T. R. BIRKS.



NOTICE.

THE original object of these Sermons is explained by the title and dedication. As their chief object was to present the great truths of the gospel in a simple form, when about to leave a congregation before whom I had been allowed to minister for several years, I am led to hope that they may perhaps be made useful to others also. With this view they are now offered to the public. Their title alone will be a caution to those who look for original and profound thought, or laboured eloquence, to resort elsewhere; but I trust that the truths which they contain, however simple and unadorned, may, with God's blessing, sink into the hearts of other Christians, besides those for whom they are especially designed.

*Kelshall Rectory,
March 17, 1845.*



SERMON I.

PSALM CXXXIX. 1.

O LORD, THOU HAST SEARCHED ME, AND KNOWN ME.

THESE words are few and simple, but how vast and unsearchable is the truth which they reveal! It is one which lies at the foundation of all true godliness. It gives power and solemnity to every doctrine of God's word. To walk in the light of this truth is the life of heaven upon earth, a foretaste of that fulness of joy which is in God's presence for evermore.

Every verse of Holy Scripture is like a star of the firmament. When we look on it carelessly, and at a distance, it seems a mere speck of light, and may be soon overlooked and forgotten. But when we draw nearer, and look on it closely, we find in it a whole world of truth. Years and ages might pass away, before we could explore all its various regions, and the unknown wonders of Divine power, and grace, and wisdom, which they reveal. So it is with the words before us. They are soon read, and as soon forgotten; but