THE CURE OF SOULS: LYMAN BEECHER LECTURES ON PREACHING AT YALE UNIVERSITY, 1896

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The Cure of Souls: Lyman Beecher Lectures on Preaching at Yale University, 1896 by John Watson

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JOHN WATSON

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1896

BY

JOHN WATSON, M.A., D.D.

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TO THE

REV. GEORGE P. FISHER, D.D., LL.D.,

Prefessor of Ecclesiastical History and Dean of the Faculty of Theology in Yale University

IN RESPECT

FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED ATTAINMENTS

IN GRATITUDE FOR HIS THOUGHTFUL KINDNESS

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PREFACE.

IT was the excellent custom of a Theological College which from time to time has sent forth learned and brilliant scholars as well as many ordinary men, to invite ministers of age and reputation to inform the students on the practical work of their calling. Their addresses used to fill the College with admiration, because of the eloquence and distinction of the speakers, but one student they reduced to despair. He had secretly hoped for some account of the difficulties and dangers which were likely to beset the path of one who, like himself, represented the average man.

What he desired was never given, and he was in due course ordained and entered on the work of the holy ministry. As he paid his bitter premiums to experience, it came to him that some day he would write a little book in which he might be able to save some brother minister from humiliation and suffering, and this he has now tried to do according to the measure of his ability.

It is not likely, however, that the writer would have had the courage of his intention had not the Faculty of Theology in Yale University done him the unmerited honour of an invitation to deliver the Lyman Beecher lectures on Preaching, and had accepted from him simpler service than that which was fittingly rendered by his distinguished predecessors in the lectureship.