

**A PREACHER'S
STORY OF HIS
WORK, PP. 1-243**

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A Preacher's Story of His Work, pp. 1-243 by W. S. Rainsford

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W. S. RAINSFORD

**A PREACHER'S
STORY OF HIS
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A PREACHER'S STORY
OF
HIS WORK

BY
W. S. RAINSFORD

RECTOR OF ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH
NEW YORK CITY



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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

TWENTY years ago there was a dying church on the East Side of New York. Families that had lived in the vicinity were moving away. Their houses were being transformed into flats. The incoming population was to all appearance indifferent to what the church had to offer. The emptying houses were being refilled with more people than they contained before. The emptying church became each year emptier and emptier. The church was offered for sale. Nobody would buy it.

To-day that church is one of the greatest powers for good in that great city. Its services are thronged. Working men and women sit and kneel be-

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side people of wealth and power. A Parish House joined to it affords recreation for those who have no other places of recreation than the saloons, the dance-halls, and the street, as well as for those who choose to go there from homes of refinement for the social life it affords. A trade school is maintained by the church to supply industrial training for the boys of the parish. Active organizations thrive — religious because ministering to needs that are fundamentally human. The church which two decades ago was itself in the grasp of death is to-day living in that community that the community itself may have life and have it more abundantly.

Humanly speaking, this change has been wrought by one man. In 1882 he was acting as rector of St. James's Cathedral Church, Toronto, Canada. When he was called to this despondent

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church in New York, he went with a clear idea of what a city parish ought to be and what ends it ought to serve. That idea, by persistent, active, courageous faith, he has translated into a living, visible reality. That man is Dr. W. S. Rainsford, and his achievement is the great parish of St. George's.

The story of human achievement is first of all the story of man. The story of every human achievement is the story of some human life back of the achievement. So the record of what has been done near Stuyvesant Square in New York is ultimately the record of the experiences and activities of the man who has done it.

This is why the publishers have asked Dr. Rainsford to tell in his own words the story of his work. And Dr. Rainsford has told it. He did not write it. He related it to listeners in his study at St. George's Rectory.