

ELEVEN VILLAGE SERMONS

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Eleven Village Sermons by Edward James Moor

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EDWARD JAMES MOOR

**ELEVEN VILLAGE
SERMONS**

ELEVEN
VILLAGE SERMONS.



BY THE AUTHOR
OF
"TWELVE PLAIN SERMONS," &c. &c. &c.

LONDON:
J. G. F. & J. RIVINGTON,
AND
J. LODER, WOODBRIDGE.

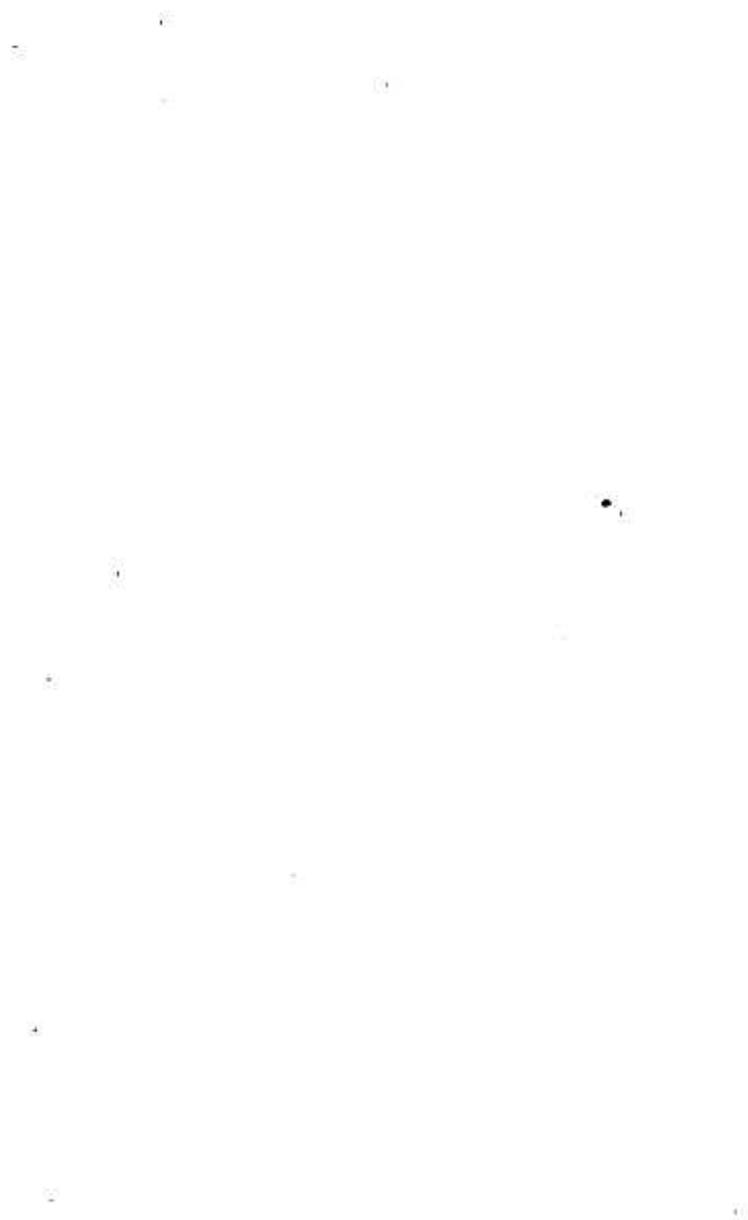
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* The numbering from 5. is incorrect; there being but Eleven Sermons in the whole.



SERMON I.

THE UNCLEAN SPIRIT.

LUKE xi. 24, &c.

When the unclean Spirit is gone out of a Man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest: and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other Spirits more wicked than himself: and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that Man is worse than the first.

1. THESE are the words of Almighty Wisdom: the words of Him, who is "the Wisdom of God:" who spake as Man never spake: the words of that CHRIST whose Spirit searcheth all things, yea "the deep things of God:" who by His excellent Wisdom knoweth all things in heaven, in earth, in the sea, and in all deep places: who, when a Man on earth,

knew what was in man; and being for ever the same, He still knoweth the very secrets of men's hearts, and is not ignorant of the dark devices of the Devil and his angels.

2. "The all-wise God our Saviour," sets before us in the Text a short but awfully interesting history of the doings of "the unclean Spirit" in this our world. May the Holy Spirit give us grace and wisdom to understand His own words, and hide them in our hearts to the enlightening and comforting and safety of our souls, and to the glory of God's name through JESUS CHRIST. He saith: "when the Unclean Spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest." It is certain that a man, left to himself, is no match for that evil Spirit which is in him. He is of his own nature strongly inclined to evil. He is not of himself able to cast out the Unclean Spirit from his own heart: neither is he naturally willing to do it. When the Unclean Spirit goeth out of a Man,

it is not because the Man is naturally weary of the evil Spirit's company, and wishes him to leave his heart : neither is it because the Man is naturally strong enough to open the door of his heart, and with authority to command, or with force to constrain, the dreadful Inmate to depart. "When the Unclean Spirit, therefore, is gone out of a Man," his going out has been wrought by a Will and a Power better than Man's. Whatever may be the second cause, or instrument by which so great and good a deed was done, the First Cause is God, the mighty Saviour, the Holy Spirit : it is the operation of His Hand. He is the Doer of it. This is true, whether the Man himself perceives and acknowledges the Almighty Workman, or whether he yet remains blind-hearted and dumb-spirited to the undeserved goodness which has visited him.

3. Let us, however, now go on to consider the doings of the Unclean Spirit, when he is gone out. "He walketh