

**THE PILGRIM  
CHURCH AND  
OTHER SERMONS**

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The pilgrim church and other sermons by Percy C. Ainsworth

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**PERCY C. AINSWORTH**

**THE PILGRIM  
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OTHER SERMONS**





James Swain  
Percy C. Ansdworth

THE  
PILGRIM CHURCH

*AND OTHER SERMONS*

BY THE  
REV. PERCY C. AINSWORTH

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## FOREWORD

THE simple facts of Percy Clough Ainsworth's quiet life may soon be written : the hidden springs of his influence and charm it would take long to trace. He was born at Woodbridge in Suffolk in 1873. His father, the Rev. William Ainsworth, was a Wesleyan minister, honoured and successful in his calling, of great force of character, and heroically patient under much physical suffering. Genius, like knighthood, does not pass by earthly inheritance, yet the Spirit who brings the gift loves to visit the home of puritan grace and strength. Percy Ainsworth received a heritage of fortitude from both his parents.

The home was singularly sunny, with an eager intellectual atmosphere. Brothers and sisters vied with one another in fresh thought and humour : the good fruits of the mind were never frost-bitten. Percy early learned to value aright his gifts, and this training of encouragement helps to explain his modest self-reliance and secret faithfulness in following the bent of his original powers. His education was obtained chiefly at Batley Grammar School and Lincoln

## Foreword

Grammar School. From the latter he matriculated at London University, and entered Didsbury College in 1893 to prepare for the Wesleyan ministry.

He came to college with a good equipment of school knowledge and a habit of conscientious work, ready for the impulse which would make him a vigorous and independent thinker. Dr. R. Waddy Moss, whose knowledge of the students and interest in them never failed, writes of him as follows: 'As a student he read widely and profitably, thereby attaining a good working knowledge of the best English classics. He was attracted by good style and fond of the poets and essayists, though by no means neglectful of the novelty and intrinsic value of thought that had an ethical bearing. It can hardly be said that he gave promise of the ripeness in the pulpit which in a very few years' time he began to exhibit. He was a somewhat shy, self-conscious man, who gradually grew into the easy mastery of himself and his conditions. Of his character and influence, nothing less than the highest should be said. His life at college provided exactly the kind of discipline he needed at that time; and he left it with a wider outlook and with enforced convictions, and soon proved himself to be a great gift of God to our Church.' Those closely-packed sentences are full of insight and truth.