SEVEN SERMON STORIES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649702657

Seven Sermon Stories by Henry Housman

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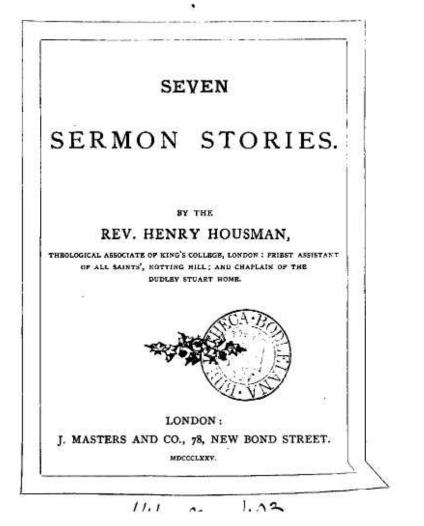
LONDON : J. MASTERS AND CO., 78, NEW BOND STREET.

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PREFACE.

I^T is now generally acknowledged by our parochial Clergy that to take young children—say between the ages of four and twelve—to Church, and expect them to behave with attention and reverence throughout the long Morning and Evening Services and Sermons, is not only to tax infant endurance beyond its powers, but also to incur the very serious risk of implanting a life-long distaste for public worship.

Instead then of taking the little ones to Church and forcing them to attend to devotions which even their seniors find require the utmost self-concentration, the wise and merciful custom has obtained of late of giving them a short cheerful Service in the school-room. This is an admirable way of turning the old Sunday morning's weariness into a delight; and then in Churches where there are three Services with Sermons, the afternoon may well be devoted specially to the young people.

At these children's Services, whether held in the schools or in Church, catechising in some form or other naturally