FIVE DISCOURSES ON THE PERSONAL OFFICE OF CHRIST AND OF THE HOLY GHOST; ON THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY ON FAITH AND ON REGENERATION

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Five Discourses on the Personal Office of Christ and of the Holy Ghost; On the Doctrine of the Trinity on Faith and on Regeneration by Junior Procter

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JUNIOR PROCTER

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FIVE DISCOURSES

ON

THE PERSONAL OFFICE OF CHRIST, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST;

ON

THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY; ON FAITH;

AND

ON REGENERATION

PREACHED IN THE PARISH CHURCH OF BELWICK UPON TWEED,
AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF HIS THURSDAY LECTURES,

BY THE REVEREND

WILLIAM PROCTER, JUNIOR, M. A.

PRELOW OF CATRADINE HALL, CAMBRIDGE,
AND LECTURER OF BERWICK.

WITE

AN APPENDIX.



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TO THE

MASTER, WARDENS, COURT OF ASSISTANTS,

AND

GENERAL COURT

OF THE

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MERCERS, LONDON.

GENTLEMEN,

When I call to mind how totally unknown I was to every individual amongst you at the time of my first appearance as a Candidate for the Lecture-ship of Berwick, I am at a loss which to admire most, my own boldness in venturing to come forward under such circumstances, or your disinterested Patronage in appointing me to the office. The only account I can give of my boldness is, that I had passed the thirtieth year of my age, without seeing any defined prospect of obtaining a permanent provision from the revenues of the Church, to the service of which I felt obliged in conscience to devote, undivided, the best exertions of the rest of my life.

The portion of those revenues which you have conferred upon me, will enable me to pursue the straight-forward path of duty, without fear of penury, as I pray God I may have grace to do, without weariness, and without ostentation. It is, therefore, with feelings of the sincerest Gratitude and Respect that I dedicate to you the following Discourses, which circumstances, mentioned in the Appendix, have induced me to publish.

I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most obliged and faithful Servant, WILLIAM PROCTER, Jun.

Berwick, 15th December, 1824.

DISCOURSE I.

ON THE PERSONAL NATURE OF JESUS CHRIST.

Preached on ASCENSION-DAY, 27th May, 1824.

PRILLIPPIANS, 21. 6-11.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fushion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore, God also hath highly exalled him, and given him a name which is above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

In these words we have a perfect outline of the history of Christ our Saviour, from "the beginning, when He was with God and was God;" to the great consummation, when "that same Jesus," now both God and Man, "who," as on this day,

¹ John, i. 1.

"was taken up into heaven, shall so come, in like manner as the holy Apostles saw him go into heaven," viz. when he shall come "with the clouds of heaven;" when "the judgment shall be set, and the books opened, and all people, and nations, and languages, shall serve the Son of Man." For "He must reign" as Messiah, as the anointed Prophet, Priest, and King, till he hath completed the purpose for which he vouchsafed to assume that peculiar character; "till he hath put all enemies under his feet," and till "every tongue," as well of his abased foes, as of his exalted subjects, "shall confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

To endeavour to fill up from Scripture this ample outline; by producing to view the several circumstances of the History of Man's Redemption, which, in its full extent, comprehends the whole of revealed religion; and so producing them, as not to destroy their native force and efficacy, "for the use of edifying;"—such, my brethren, are the arduous duties of the office upon which I this day enter, not without a deep sense of awful responsibility, and a humble consciousness of my own unworthiness and

⁹ Acts i. 11, ⁸ Dan. vii. 18, ⁴ Ib. 10, 14.

^{8 1} Cor. xv. 25.

insufficiency. But, praised be God, the fruit of our labours does not depend upon our own exertions alone. Our blessed Lord, before his ascension. thus encouraged the chosen "witnesses and ministers of the Word,"-" All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: And, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."8 This promise of being present with them, in teaching all nations, even to the end of the world, cannot be confined to the "eye-witnesses" to whom it was immediately addressed, but must extend to the whole succession of Christ's teachers, then represented by the Apostles; that is, to all those who, by an authority derived from the Apostles, are commissioned to preach the Gospel in any place, at any period of the world. Encouraged, therefore, by the promise of Divine support, I do not faint under the burden imposed upon me; but enter on the duties of this sacred office with a well-founded confidence, that He, who has given me grace at their com-

⁶ Matt. xxviii. 18-20.