

**SERMONS PREACHED IN CHRIST
CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM, AND ST.
GEORGE'S, EDGBASTON, IN
MEMORY OF THE REV. GEORGE LEA, M.
A., TO WHICH ARE ADDED, HIS LAST
TWO SERMONS**

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Sermons Preached in Christ Church, Birmingham, and St. George's, Edgbaston, in Memory of the Rev. George Lea, M. A., to Which Are Added, His Last Two Sermons by Various

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the very able historian

S E R M O N S

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In Memory of

THE REV. GEORGE LEA, M.A.,

Incumbent of St. George's, Edgbaston;

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

HIS LAST TWO SERMONS.

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"THE FAITHFUL PASTOR'S APPEAL TO THE FLOCK."

A SERMON,

Preached in Christ Church, Birmingham, on Thursday Evening, May 17th, 1883, after the funeral of the Rev. GEORGE LEA, M.A., sometime Minister of Christ Church, and Prebendary of Lichfield, and afterwards Incumbent of St. George's, Edgbaston, by

THE REV. CHARLES MARSON, M.A.,

Vicar of Clevedon, Somerset.

"Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: as ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, that ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto His kingdom and glory."—I. Thessalonians, ii., 10-12.

It is well, indeed, when a minister of Christ can make such an appeal as this to God and to his flock, on the strength of his *personal* character as an "example to the believers," and of his *pastoral* character as their instructor, comforter, and guide. St. Paul could do it, but not very many besides, even of those whose spirit and life have been moulded and fashioned after the image of the holy and faithful Apostle. A deep consciousness of much infirmity and many shortcomings keeps, for the most part, even the best and holiest silent. They know but too well how keen and sharp-sighted are the eyes of men for the weaknesses and faults of their ministers, and

when they think of the holy and heart-searching God, who is there that will not exclaim with good Richard Baxter of old : " O Lord, for the merits and sacrifice and intercession of Christ, be merciful to me a sinner, and forgive my known and unknown sins ! "

But when death has closed their eyes and sealed their testimony, it is often otherwise. Their lives speak, though their lips are shut for ever. A voice from the grave is heard, and, it may be, heeded : yes, heeded by some who have listened in vain to the living preacher, and hardened their hearts against his loving appeals. And with what power does a completed life—holy, consistent, loving, blameless to the end—speak to the heart and conscience ! It calls God to witness, it calls man to witness. Its silent speech is very moving, very penetrating : comforting to some, convincing to many, salutary to all.

My brethren, such a voice speaks to-day from the grave of that beloved and honoured minister of Christ, round which so many true mourners were lately standing. " He, being dead, yet speaketh. " May the Holy Ghost who often spoke by him in life, speak to us all now that he is laid to rest for ever in this world, and may every soul here present receive the Word and keep it and bring forth fruit, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Could any passage of the Word of God more truly express our departed brother's whole career than the words before us ? Might he not justly have appealed to those amongst whom he laboured so long, so faithfully, so lovingly, and say, " Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe : as ye know how we exhorted and