

**THE KESWICK
CONVENTION: ITS
MESSAGE, ITS
METHOD AND ITS MEN**

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The Keswick convention: its message, its method and its men by Charles F. Harford

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CHARLES F. HARFORD

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Its Message, Its Method and Its Men

Edited by

CHARLES F. HARFORD, M.A., M.D.



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EMANUEL

Handwritten text, possibly a signature or name, appearing as a faint scribble.

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TO THE MEMORY OF
THOMAS DUNDAS HARFORD-BATTERSBY
AND
ROBERT WILSON,
FOUNDERS OF THE KESWICK CONVENTION,
THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED
BY THE EDITOR.

Help from Earth and Heaven

WE who are called apart to hills and dales
Where in each sunrise God is speaking clear,
Where from each sunset's glow we seem to hear
The songs of wreathéd angels, the all-hails
Of bright-winged seraphims—may watch the sails
Of yonder boat that steals across the mere,
And know that to the haven as we steer
For us the invisible power of God prevails.

Lo! to the mountains, as we lift our eyes,
For help we feel th' Almighty arms are spread ;
To bring us peace, the lake and field and grove
Proclaim a Father's mercy and His love ;
While, from the tireless stars, at night is shed
The joy of those who watch in Paradise.

H.D.R.

Preface

TO-DAY is Whit-Sunday which is observed throughout the world as the day on which the Church of Christ remembers that great article of the Christian Creed which all hold in common, "I believe in the Holy Ghost." The Keswick Convention exists to make this belief not merely a theological formula, but "a living bright reality" to each Christian soul. The manner in which this annual gathering of God's people has attained to the position of world-wide influence and importance which it now holds is told in the following pages by the pen of many witnesses. Three small volumes have already been issued dealing with this subject. The first and largest of these is entitled "Canon Harford-Battersby and the Keswick Convention," by two of his sons, tracing the origin of the Convention to the life of the founder. The second is a volume by the Rev. A. T. Pierson, D.D., the gifted missionary writer from the United States, and a chapter from this book is embodied with some modification in the present volume. The third volume has been issued by the Religious Tract Society and its title is "Holiness by Faith" containing four chapters by the Bishop of Durham, Rev. J. Elder Cumming, Rev. F. B. Meyer, and Rev. Hubert Brooke. Part of Mr. Brooke's chapter in that book is also reproduced here. It was felt, however, by the publishers of this volume that there was a widespread need for a more detailed statement concerning the history of the Convention, its teaching and its results, to which those

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most closely identified with the Convention should be asked to contribute. The Editor as the youngest son of the founder and as a layman was invited to gather together the necessary material, and the accompanying pages indicate the response which has been made to his appeal.

Although help has been most generously given by all of those who are the recognised leaders of the Convention, yet this volume is not an official publication, the Editor being solely responsible for the arrangement of the work, each individual contributor being only responsible for his or her own contribution. At the same time, whilst there may be some difference of expression, there is a unity of thought running through the different chapters which is characteristic of the definiteness of the teaching, and which shows very plainly what is the aim and object of the Keswick Convention. If there is some repetition this is accounted for by the fact that each contributor wrote independently of the others, and in many cases it will add to the interest of the book.

Pasteur Theodore Monod, of Paris, who took a leading share in the Convention in early days, and the Rev. Andrew Murray, D.D., who is well-known as the founder of the Wellington Convention in South Africa, and a most helpful writer on the subject of sanctification, were both invited to contribute, but were unable to do so. Both of them are referred to in later chapters.

It was obviously impossible to invite all speakers at the Keswick Convention to write a chapter, but all who have at all regularly taken part in the meetings have been invited to send in some short message to be incorporated in this book. Most of these have done so, some have felt a difficulty in framing so brief a contribution as was suggested, but one and all have expressed their sympathy with this effort.

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These short paragraphs will be found on the back of the title pages facing some of the chapters. In the same position in other chapters some of the hymns are printed, which may be taken as typical of the Convention hymnology. We are grateful to the Rev. F. S. Webster for his contribution to this subject.

Seeing that the Keswick Convention owes very much to the beauty of its surroundings, it was felt that a short sonnet on the beauties of Keswick would be most appropriate. Canon Rawnsley, as the chief living poet of the lakes, and the man who has taken the lead in preserving for the public the beauties of the Lake district most kindly responded to our request, and a little poem from his pen will be found on an earlier page.

Many have from time to time, some even in the following pages, expressed the wish that it were not necessary to use such terms as "the Keswick Message," "the Keswick Speakers," or "the Keswick Movement." This is the strong feeling of the Editor, but whilst it is desirable that these expressions should be used sparingly, it is almost impossible to avoid their use in any lengthy contribution to the subject before us.

The Rev. John Battersby Harford has most kindly read through the proofs, and has made some valuable suggestions.

All who have helped in this work are busy people, and each chapter has meant much expenditure of time and thought. Mere formal thanks would be but poor acknowledgment of their trouble, but if it should lead some to Keswick who have never been before, if it should lead others to enter into blessing from the reading of the written page, one and all will feel that they have had the best reward.

Whit-Sunday, 1907.