THE CALLING OF A CHRISTIAN WOMAN AND HER TRAINING TO FULFIL IT

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The Calling of a Christian Woman and Her Training to Fulfil It by Morgan Dix

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NOTE.

I ASK the reader of the following lectures to bear in mind: 1. That they were written for my own people, and in the line of my usual pastoral work. 2. That they were not intended for publication. 3. That I now give them to the public in my own defence, because of the misrepresentation of my views by critics who had not the means of knowing exactly what I said, or all that I said. They are printed just as they were delivered, with scarcely the change of a word; and, in order to comply with the request of the publishers that they should appear at the earliest possible day, I am obliged to omit adding a large number of notes and quotations by which, if more time were allowed me, I should have endeavoured to fortify, by

NOTE.

strong authorities, the position which I have taken. I pray the reader to bear these points in mind as he proceeds. In their present crude state, these conferences may, perhaps, serve only as a brake on some wheels which appear to me to be revolving too fast for safety.

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TRINITY RECTORY, March 7, 1883.

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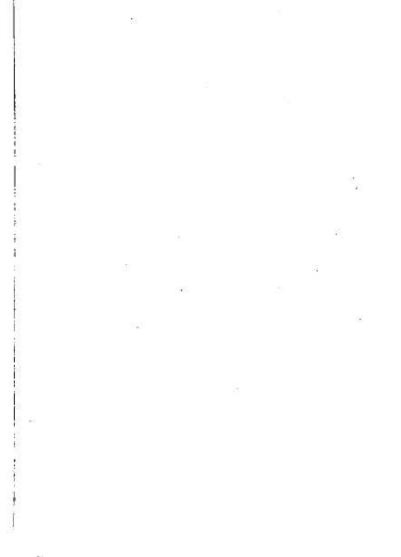
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LECTURE I.

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THE PLACE OF WOMAN IN THIS WORLD.

HE subject chosen for my lectures this year is the Calling of the Christian Woman, and her Training to fulfil it. I ought, perhaps, to begin with an apology for undertaking to speak to you on that theme. Women are, in many respects, more competent than men to teach their sex their duty and their mission. Some have written so admirably that it seems as if nothing had been left to say. Still, there are points at which even the best women diverge in their views, and topics on which the wisest may go wrong; and we priests who, whatever our personal shortcomings, have a commission from above, and a message to man from God, and are the mouth-piece of that Church to which His handmaidens belong, may be, and ought to be, able to help occasionally

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2 THE PLACE OF WOMAN IN THIS WORLD.

by merely stating what the Bible and the Church declare on certain great matters, on which many lesser ones depend. With modesty, then, and with great deference for those whom I address, yet under a strong sense of duty, I proceed.

My subject brings us instantly to the question of the Place of Woman in the World. It is not worth while to beat about the bush, and waste time on side issues; let us go at once to the root of the matter. What did Almighty God, the Creator, the wise Father of all, make Woman for? What did He intend her to do? What did He not mean her to do, or to try to do? That these are vital questions is clear from the fact that we differ so greatly about the It is a part of the restlessness of our answers. time, in which so many traditions have been abandoned and so many convictions have changed; it is one of innumerable signs of the extent to which things have been upset, and confusion has been bred in the thoughts of men.

Every one sees and hears it; how the people dispute about everything, and doubt about that of which they dispute; how they grope for