

ECHOES FROM A VILLAGE CHURCH

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Echoes from a Village Church by Frederick Harper & Arthur Cotton

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FREDERICK HARPER & ARTHUR COTTON

**ECHOES FROM A
VILLAGE CHURCH**

ECHOES

FROM A

VILLAGE CHURCH

BY THE

REV. FREDERICK HARPER, M.A.

VICAR OF SHALFLEET

WITH PREFACE BY

LIEUT.-GEN. SIR ARTHUR COTTON, R.E., K.C.S.I.



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1880

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PREFACE.

IN this day of rebuke, when so many, who are in the place of teachers, have need to learn again what are the first principles of the oracles of God and desire to be brought again to the weak and beggarly elements under which they may be in bondage, it is a great satisfaction to be reminded by such Sermons as these, that there are yet those, not a few, but many of her Ministers, and moreover *that* an increasing number, who know and teach the way of God in truth, and heartily abide by their oath to be faithful to the Articles of the Church of England. We indeed require to be reminded that the few evil men of whom the newspapers are full, are not all who compose the Clergy of the Church of England, but that by God's grace, there never were so many faithful men in her ministry, whose names are never hardly mentioned beyond their own parishes; who preach in such simplicity, clearness and fulness as these Sermons exhibit, the truth of God, men in whose churches the Pulpit and Reading Desk are in perfect accordance.

Who can estimate what God did for England when He

laid this deep and solid foundation of truth in our Liturgy, containing so wonderful a declaration of all the great and essential truths of Scripture, without adding to or taking from the Word of God? With this inestimable foundation, solidly laid in every Parish of the land, which all the wood, hay and stubble, that is in so many places built upon it cannot remove, the truth holds its own, nay continually extends.

And, as with the ordained Ministry of the Church of England, so also was there anything approaching to the number of faithful men and women unordained, who hold forth the Word of Life from every rank of the body politic, whom it has pleased God in His extraordinary mercy to our land, to raise up for the furtherance of the truth, though they must never be called "Reverend." And in this day of wonderful awakening and thirsting for the truth, what multitudes are there in many Parishes, who cannot be satisfied with the chaff which is so often offered to them, to whom such Sermons as these are an absolute necessity, even in this country. In India, where the earnest inquirer is driven out of almost all the churches, such a book as this will be invaluable.

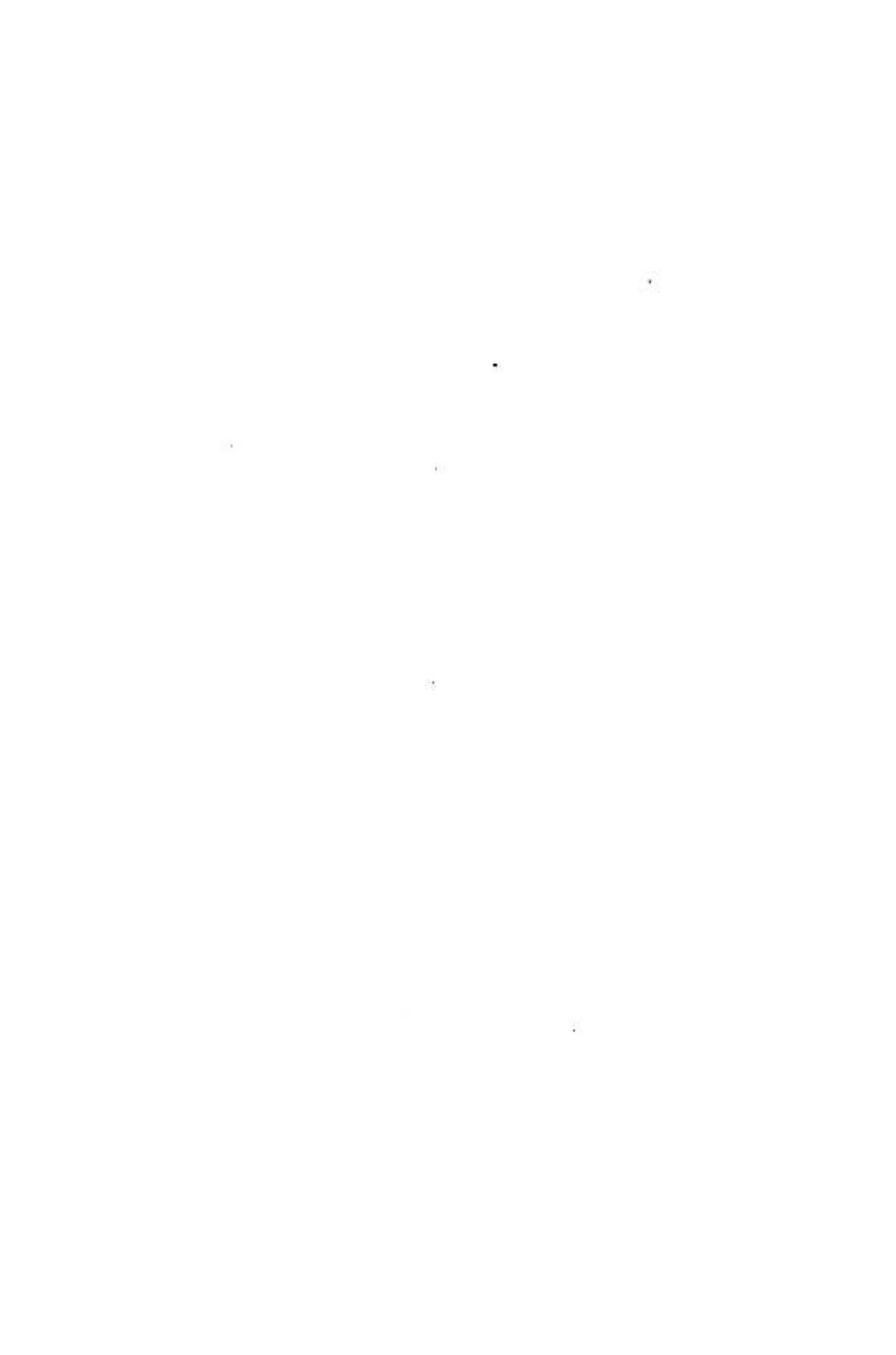
May God in His mercy abundantly bless and prosper it.



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PRAYER BEFORE SERMON.

ALMIGHTY God, open our eyes by Thy Holy Spirit
that we may behold wondrous things out of Thy
Law, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen,