

# **THE ART OF SERMON ILLUSTRATION**

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The art of sermon illustration by H. Jeffs

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**H. JEFFS**

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SERMON  
ILLUSTRATION**



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BY

H. JEFFS

EDITOR OF "THE CHRISTIAN WORLD PULPIT"

"Storied windows richly light."—MILTON

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## FOREWORD

EVERY preacher covets the power to illustrate his sermons and addresses. Few preachers possess it in any marked degree. A fertile illustrator, like the poet and the painter, is born, not made. None the less, it is possible to cultivate the art; and the purpose of this book is to assist those who realise the necessity of being interesting, and are not destitute of imagination, to develop what gift they have. There are pitfalls in the way of the sermon and address illustrator, and the preacher and speaker will be put on their guard against them. The author has gone to the Bible as a storehouse of illustrations by inspired writers who possessed the art in perfection. Most of all he would send preachers to the Gospels, to Him who "spake as never man spake," and "without a parable spake He not unto them," for matchless examples of the illustration of spiritual truth. None realised as the Master realised how

" Truth embodied in a tale  
Shall enter in at lowly doors."

It has been a protracted but pleasant labour to search for illustrations in the sermons of preachers of the past and present, and the harvest has richly repaid the labour. It is hoped that preachers will learn much of the art of illustration from the examples, many of



## Foreword

which have been grouped in the chapters, still leaving a large residue for the Appendix of Illustrations. To each illustration a text has been appended, and an Index of Texts is supplied. The author has ventured to include original illustrations, from sermons and addresses he has delivered. He is indebted to preachers and literary friends for the gift of other original illustrations that enrich the book. Illustrated outlines and addresses to children are included to show how illustrations arise out of the subject, and serve the double purpose of lighting up a point and investing the subject with colour and dramatic interest.

The Sunday morning address to children is in increasing demand, but there are few who really succeed in capturing the attention of the eager-minded and keen-witted modern child. The author expresses his thanks, and the thanks of his readers, to the masters of the art who have favoured him with suggestions and presented him with model addresses, from which the preacher, who finds the children "do not listen" when he talks to them, will learn much. The bouquet of "Flowers from Old English Gardens" will, it is hoped, be relished for the quaintness of the illustrations from imaginative preachers and writers of the Golden Age of the seventeenth century.

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