

**WAYSIDE SPRINGS
FROM THE
FOUNTAIN OF LIFE**

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Wayside Springs from the Fountain of Life by Theodore L. Cuyler

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THEODORE L. CUYLER

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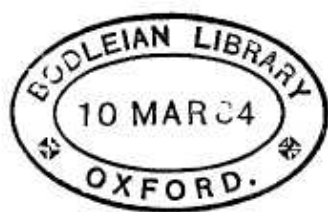
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BY
THEODORE L. CUYLER, D.D.,
AUTHOR OF
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"HEART LIFE," ETC.

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WAYSIDE SPRINGS.

THE SONG AT THE WELL.

THERE was once a sermon at a well. The teacher was Jesus of Nazareth, and the discourse was delivered to one poor sinful woman as the entire audience. The Son of God felt (what we ministers too often forget on stormy Sundays) that a single immortal soul is a great audience.

Other wells in the Bible are historic besides the well of Sychar. One, at Bethlehem, is associated with a princely act of chivalry; another, at Nahor, with the beginning of a singular courtship. We venture to say that there is one well beside which most of our readers never halted and out of which they have never drawn either a song or a sermon.

It was situated on the borders of Moab, not far from Mount Pisgah, whose site has lately been identified by our Palestine Exploration Society. It bears the name of Beer, which signifies a well-spring. Up to this spot thirsty Israel came on their journey from Egypt to Canaan. The Lord had just said unto Moses, "Gather the people together, and I will give them water." Here is a promise; but, like most of God's promises, it is coupled with a condition. The condition in this case is that the leaders of the congregation were to dig for the water.

A striking scene unfolds itself. The leaders of the host begin to open the loose sand with the staves which they carried. Moses directs the work, and the earth is thrown out fast. While the digging goes forward the people sing a simple song—one of the oldest snatches of song that has come down to us:

"Spring up, O well! Sing ye unto him!
The princes dug it; the nobles of the people
opened it, with the lawgiver's sceptre, with the
staves."