# POSITION AND PROGRESS, ADDRESSES

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Position and progress, addresses by S. A. Blackwood

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## S. A. BLACKWOOD

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# POSITION AND PROGRESS.

### ADDRESSES

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#### BY

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### PREFACE.

THE contents of this little volume consist, like those of some previous publications, of Addresses delivered at a series of drawingroom meetings.

They do not pretend to be anything more than suggestive of a special line of thought in connection with the particular subject dealt with in them. Indeed, the consideration of the POSITION which the grace of God confers on the believer in Jesus, and of the PROGRESS which is then both his privilege and his duty, is one of such magnitude as to require, if at all fully handled, far more time than such a limited series of Addresses afforded.

An endeavour was, therefore, only made to treat the subject under four of the terms used in the Scriptures to illustrate such position

#### PREFACE.

and progress, viz., "Standing," "Sitting," "Walking," and "Running," though even then it was only possible to touch upon a few of the passages where these expressions occur.

I trust that the publication of the Addresses may be attended with the blessing of God, both by reminding those who heard them of the important truths with which they deal, and by leading others "to know what is the hope of their calling," in order that they "may walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

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MANOR HOUSE, CRAYFORD, October 1879.

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## POSITION AND PROGRESS.

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I.

#### THE STANDING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

THE subject of "The Standing of the People of God" is of immense importance. It is all-essential that the Lord's people should know their true position, since in the things which belong to the life to come, as in earthly things, knowledge is power. If a man is to behave himself rightly in any position of life, whether he be a prince, a merchant, a soldier, or a servant, he must understand his position in relation to others. A prince of the Royal family must know his position ere he can fill 'it aright. No man can fight the battles of the Queen with a good heart if he is not sure that he is a soldier in her army. So no man can serve the Lord unless he knows, without a doubt, the relation in which he stands to God.

In opening this subject, I would call your attention to three questions which occur in Scripture. They are the following: "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord, or who shall *stand* in His holy

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place?" (Ps. xxiv. 3). Again, "If Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who should stand?" (Ps. cxxx. 3). And, finally, "The great day of His wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand?" (Rev. vi. 17).

These questions are infinitely solemn and searching. But while they bring us to a sense of our sinfulness, and consequently of our inability to stand in the presence of a holy God, we may learn from other Scriptures that the grace of God provides us with a position where we can stand before Him, in the full light of His countenance, with peace and joy. Let us consider where and what that position is.

In the first place, the standing of God's people is one of assured salvation. As such, it is described by David : "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay . . . and set my feet upon a rock." And we may say of this rock, as of that one referred to in I Cor. x. 4, "That Rock was Christ." Thus the believer's standing is on that Rock-on the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He is no longer in the horrible pit of his own ruin and misery; he is no longer in the miry clay-the old ways and sins that clung so fast to him, and kept him down; but by the mighty power of the redeeming love of God. manifested in Christ, he has been brought up out of the pit, and out of the clay, and his feet have been set upon the Rock, and his goings established. He is saved, and no longer in danger of being engulphed in the horrible pit; the righteous wrath of God no longer terrifies him; he is on the Rock-Christ!

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