

**SABBATH CHIMES;
MEDITATIONS IN
VERSE FOR THE
SUNDAYS OF A YEAR**

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Sabbath Chimes; Meditations in Verse for the Sundays of a Year by W. Morley Punshon

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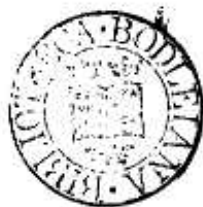
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VERSE FOR THE
SUNDAYS OF A YEAR**

Sabbath Chimes;

Meditations in Verse for the Sundays
of a Year.

BY
W. MORLEY PUNSHON, M.A.

THIRD THOUSAND.



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P R E F A C E .

TO those whose "heart is as my heart," I offer this little volume, the offspring of a year's enforced pause amid the activities of a busy ministry. I covet for it, chiefly, three successes; that, if God wills, it may be a messenger of mercy to the wandering; that it may be a comforter to the troubled; and that it may be a memory of the writer to many friends.

W. M. P.

REDLAND, *February 1867.*

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SABBATH CHIMES.

Advent.

I.

"The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."—
ISA. XL 3.

WITH lightnings belted, cloud and tempest broke
On Sinai's sacred crest,
When God before affrighted Israel spoke
His high behest.

In the cleft rock the cowering prophet gazed
Upon the God unknown,
While, round the awful form, such brightness blazed
As girds the throne.

By many a gleam throughout the dazzled dark,
He shamed His people's fear ;
And seers in desert visions bade us mark
His presence near.

Still speak the voices, not with accents stern
Nor boding words of wrath,
As when the fiery cross is wont to burn
Through glen or strath.

When pelts the frightened hail upon the panes,
Stern Winter rules as king.
The sweet-breath'd zephyrs and the gentler rains
Herald the spring.

Though from the wilderness the summons swells,
"For God the way prepare,"
The spirit of a milder Advent dwells
Within its prayer.

Straight to our hearts it reaches, 'mid the throngs
Of thoughts which come and go ;
As, on dull ears of age, a mother's songs
Sound clear and low.

It beats upon the spirit with a sense
Of softest, holiest calm ;
A fragrant soul-myrrh ;—a kind influence
Of healing balm.