

**PAPERS ON  
PREACHING AND  
PUBLIC SPEAKING**

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Papers on preaching and public speaking by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

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# PAPERS ON PREACHING

AND

## PUBLIC SPEAKING.

BY

A WYKEHAMIST.



LONDON:

BELL AND DALDY, 186, FLEET STREET.

1861.



TO  
MY FATHER,  
WHO GAVE ME A PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION,  
*This Book*  
IS DEDICATED BY A  
WYKEHAMIST.







## PREFACE.

**I** OFFER to the public a rough sketch of some of my gleanings from the wide field of men and books, as regards the *usefulness* and the *power* of our modern pulpits. Nor have I spared myself any toil to make these Essays as good as I could; but this I feel — that, though I have read every book that I could find opportunity to read, there is still much knowledge to be gathered in; and that, in so wide a field of theology, the passages first selected for illustration and examples of style are not always the ones which would ultimately be considered the best. Yet while I was waiting, I found my commonplace book growing wild and tangled with quo-

tations and references, so that it was my only chance to publish at once, and to engraft into a future edition the strength and substance of my after reading. The first half of these Essays was published in the "Guardian" newspaper; and I received, through the editor, amidst many encouragements, some hints and observations, a continuation of which I hope I may still be favoured with through my publishers; and I can safely take, for my motto, the words,—

" Si quid novisti rectius istis  
Candidus imperti—si non, his utere mecum."

The incognito which I assumed when I wrote in that newspaper was very useful to me—because it enabled me to receive criticism and congratulation without their coming through the filter of private friendship; and I now, in publishing the "Papers on Preaching" in a permanent form, acknowledge the request of many of the clergy that I would continue the series, and collect them into a volume.

Another reason why I have written anonymously is that, it seemed to me, in any work setting forth a high standard of excellence, the individual should not appear; lest the imper-

fection of his single endeavour should detract from the standard held up for imitation. A remark made to me some years ago seems to the purpose. I was asking the opinion of a friend on a work of great pretension, and his answer was:—"I always admired the standard set up, until I became acquainted with the writer, and saw how impossible it was in practice." If this were made in my case, I could but compare myself to the whetstone, which sharpens without being able to cut.

Having for these reasons kept back my individuality, I was yet desirous of numbering myself among the clan of Wykehamists, and so of offering some tribute of gratitude, however small, to the memory of our founder. For in days when the utility of a classical education is called in question as a basis for the labours of after-life, it behoves those who were reared amidst the associations of the old foundations to remember "the rock whence they were hewn," and to contribute their mite to roll away the reproach from these ancient seats of learning. There is something about the clanship of public schools which is very sweet in after-life—for I have always felt that, in