## LECTURES TO YOUNG MEN, ON VARIOUS IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

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Lectures to Young Men, on Various Important Subjects by Henry Ward Beecher

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Trieste



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### LYMAN BEECHER, D. D.

TO

New York

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To you I owe more than to any other living being. In childhood, you were my Parent; in later life, my Teacher; in manhood, my Companion. To your affectionate vigilance I owe my principles, my knowledge, and that I am a Minister of the Gospel of Christ. For whatever profit they derive from this little Book, the young will be indebted to you.

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### PREFACE

HAVING watched the courses of those who seduce the young—their arts, their blandishments, their pretences; having witnessed the beginning and consummation of ruin, almost in the same year, of many young men, naturally well disposed, whose downfall began with the *appearances* of innocence; I felt an earnest desire, if I could, to raise the suspicion of the young, and to direct their reason to the arts by which they are, with such facility, destroyed.

I ask every YOUNG MAN who may read this book, not to submit his judgment to mine, not to hate because I denounce, nor blindly to follow me; but to weigh my reasons, that he may form his own judgment. I only claim the place of a companion; and that I may gain his ear, I have sought to present truth in those forms which best please the young; and though I am not without hope of satisfying the aged and the wise, my whole thought has been to carry with me the intelligent sympathy of YOUNG MEN.

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