

**THE LIGHTHOUSE OF  
SAINT PETER: AND  
OTHER ADDRESSES**

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The Lighthouse of Saint Peter: And Other Addresses by Arthur Noel Malan

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**ARTHUR NOEL MALAN**

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**THE LIGHTHOUSE OF ST. PETER.**

THE  
LIGHTHOUSE OF SAINT PETER:

AND

*OTHER ADDRESSES.*

BY

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THE  
LIGHTHOUSE OF ST. PETER, &c.



I.

*THE LIGHTHOUSE OF ST. PETER.*

THERE is a dangerous reef of rocks in the English Channel about fourteen miles from the coast, known, in allusion to the waters always seething and swirling round it, by the name of "the Eddystone." The first attempt to build a lighthouse on these rocks was a failure. The work was of too fanciful a character to withstand the fury of such storms as often sweep the Channel; and on the night of November 26, 1702, this first lighthouse, soon after its completion, was hurled into destruction. A second was built, which lasted for fifty years, and then perished by fire. A third was afterwards



erected, and the architect and builder displayed such masterly skill that it endured the shock of storms for one hundred and twenty years, and only proved unsafe when the rock on which it stood became undermined by the sea.

For this third lighthouse much wisdom was brought to bear upon the first connection of the building with the rock of its foundation. The surface of the rock was cut in steps, and into these steps the blocks of granite were securely wedged, each stone being interlocked with the next, so that as one course rose upon another it contributed to form one mass of solid masonry. The great designer carved upon one of the courses the words, "Except the Lord build the house, their labour is but lost that build it." And on the topmost stone he put the words in Latin, "Praise be to God." God blessed the labour wrought in such a noble spirit, so that this lighthouse became the most famous in the world, a grand witness to the triumph of mind over matter, and a source of safety to the ships of all nations.

"Steadfast, serene, immovable, the same  
Year after year, through all the silent night  
Burns on for evermore that quenchless flame,  
Shines on that inextinguishable light !

It sees the ocean to its bosom clasp  
The rocks and sea-sand with the kiss of peace ;  
It sees the wild winds lift it in their grasp,  
And hold it up, and shake it like a fleece.

The startled waves leap over it ; the storm  
Smites it with all the scourges of the rain,  
And steadily against its solid form  
Press the great shoulders of the hurricane."

Jesus Christ says, " Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works." St. Jude speaks of " building up yourselves on your most holy faith ;" and St. Peter, in his Second Epistle, gives directions for building up a godly life, which find an apt illustration and comparison in the building of the Eddystone Lighthouse.

St. Peter takes FAITH as the foundation, and lays one course of stone upon another, until the building is complete, and stands firm in stately proportions fitly framed together. The foundation is sure, but it may be undermined ; and if the work is careless, if the building is fantastic, if upon that foundation we build hay and stubble, then it will be certain ruin. But if we follow St. Peter's directions with sincere purpose, then, though the rain descended and the winds blew and beat upon that house, it will not fall.

St. Peter speaks of FAITH IN CHRIST as a precious gift, conferring on the believer great and precious promises, making him a partaker of the Divine nature. He shows that this FAITH must be the foundation on which to build up a godly life. For he teaches that Faith without works is dead; that good works must testify to its living active energy. Faith by itself belongs to the spirits of darkness, for they believe and tremble. They know Jesus Christ to have vanquished their prince: they tremble at His holy Name and infinite power; but they cannot build upon that foundation—their faith is dead and useless. So must it be with us. No one has a right to expect to inherit the kingdom of heaven who does not devote his life to building up godliness upon the foundation of Faith. Light cannot shine without the exertion of energy. For centuries the Eddystone gave no light; the foundation was there, but there was no working upon it.

We must prove that we fear God and believe in Jesus Christ by bringing forth the fruits of Faith. Christian duty is no matter of folding the hands to sleep. Life is real and earnest; the servant of Christ must be full of active energy in doing his Master's will; we must give diligence to make our calling and election sure.