

**THE YALE LECTURES ON PREACHING,
DELIVERED BEFORE THE THEOLOGICAL
DEPARTMENT OF YALE COLLEGE, NEW
HAVEN, CONN., AS THE FIRST SERIES IN
THE REGULAR COURSE OF THE "LYMAN
BEECHER LECTURESHIP ON PREACHING"**

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HENRY WARD BEECHER

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YALE
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BY

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

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PUBLISHERS' NOTICE.

ABOUT thirty-five years ago Mr. Beecher grouped his "Six Lectures to Young Men" and allowed them to be published for the benefit of a young friend who was about beginning business; and although more than fifty thousand copies of that book have been printed, until recently it brought no income to its author. Since that time, in one way and another, various books from Mr. Beecher's pen have been issued by different publishers, and, while welcomed by the reading public, have been treated by their author with more or less indifference. The "Lectures to Young Men," two series of "Star Papers," "Fruit, Flowers, and Farming," "Eyes and Ears," "Royal Truths," "Norwood," "Lecture-Room Talks," and other works, are widely known, but have hitherto been printed in different cities, in varying styles, by separate houses.

The undersigned, having in hand the publication of the regular authorized weekly reports of Mr. Beecher's Sermons (issued thus far in six uniform octavo volumes), and of his most elaborate and important literary work, the "Life of Jesus the Christ," have thought it due to him that his works should be gathered together by them, and as many as could conveniently be put forth in the size and style of the present book should be issued in a "*Uniform Author's Copyright Edition.*"

In pursuance of this design, the "Lectures on Preaching" are herewith presented to the public, to be followed at brief intervals by others of Mr. Beecher's works.

J. B. FORD & CO., *Publishers.*

NEW YORK, June, 1872.

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LETTER.

THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT, YALE COLLEGE,
Feb. 23, 1872.

REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER.

DEAR SIR, — Allow us to express our high estimation of the Lectures on Preaching given by you in the Marquand Chapel to the students of this Department. We value them for the views which they give of eloquence in general, and of that eloquence in particular which seeks to save men by the exposition and application of the gospel. We value them for their stimulating and inspiring effect on the hearers, and for the high ideal which they hold up before ministers and students for the ministry. We cannot but hope that in some form of publication they will have a wider usefulness, not only among students preparing for the ministry, but among preachers of the gospel in all the churches. It is with great satisfaction that we look forward to the enjoyment of other courses from you in successive years.

The Lyman Beecher Lectureship which was founded by your parishioner, Mr. Sage, and of which you are so fitly the incumbent, promises to exceed in usefulness our highest expectations.

Yours truly,

LEONARD BACON,

(Lecturer on Church Polity, etc.)

SAMUEL HARRIS,

(Prof. of Systematic Theology.)

GEORGE E. DAY,

(Prof. of Hebrew and Biblical Theology.)

JAMES M. HOPPIN,

(Prof. of Homiletics and the Pastoral Charge.)

GEORGE P. FISHER,

(Prof. of Ecclesiastical History.)

TIMOTHY DWIGHT,

(Prof. of Sacred Literature.)



PREFACE.

IN 1871, Mr. Henry W. Sage, of Brooklyn, New York, contributed the funds necessary to found a Lectureship on Preaching in the Divinity School at Yale College, New Haven, Conn. In honor of my father, it was styled the LYMAN BEECHER LECTURESHIP ON PREACHING. As this title implies, it was the design of the donor and of the Theological Faculty to secure a more perfect preparation of young men for preaching, as the highest act of the Christian ministry, by providing for them, in addition to their general and professional studies, a course of practical instruction in the art of preaching, to be given by those actively engaged in the practice of it. At the request of both the Founder and the Theological Faculty, I consented to serve as Lecturer in this course for three consecutive years.

Since each class, however, passes through a three-years' course, it was deemed desirable that the lectures

should not be condensed into a single course of twelve, to be repeated in substance each year, but that they should be so enlarged and divided as to give to each year its separate and distinct topics. I have therefore considered in this, the first year, chiefly the personal elements which bear an important relation to preaching.

The second year will deal with the auxiliary forces and external implements by which the preacher prepares the way for the sermon, or gathers up its fruit: the conduct of public service, of prayer-meetings, and of social gatherings of every kind; the function of music in public worship; the methods of dealing with new fields of labor; the direction of church-work in old communities, — in short, a consideration of social and religious machinery as connected with preaching.

I purpose to discuss during the third year the method of using Christian doctrines, in their relations to individual dispositions and to the wants of communities.

It will therefore be seen that this volume contains only one division of the whole course of lectures.

The discourses here given were wholly unwritten, and were familiar conversational addresses, rather than elaborate speeches. I have not been able to revise the reporter's notes, or to correct the proofs of the printer. If any are offended by literary infelicities, it may placate them to know that I am more annoyed

than they can be. The phonographic report of the lecture on "Sermon-Making," when prepared for the press, unaccountably disappeared, and was never regained. I was obliged to dictate a new lecture in the best way I could. Those who heard the course may by this circumstance explain the difference between what they read and what they remember to have heard.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., June, 1872.

