

**BOSTON MONDAY  
LECTURES. MARRIAGE,  
WITH PRELUDES ON  
CURRENT EVENTS**

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Boston Monday Lectures. Marriage, with Preludes on Current Events by Joseph Cook

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**JOSEPH COOK**

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WITH PRELUDES ON  
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*BOSTON MONDAY LECTURES.*

# MARRIAGE,

WITH PRELUDES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

BY JOSEPH COOK.

Keiner Anfang ist schwer, am schwersten der Anfang der Wirklichkeit.  
GOETHE.



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## INTRODUCTION.

THE object of the Boston Monday Lectures is to present the results of the freshest German, English, and American scholarship, on the more important and difficult topics concerning the relation of Religion and Science.

They were begun in the Melonaon in 1875; and the audiences, gathered at noon on Mondays, were of such size as to need to be transferred to Park-street Church in October, 1876, and thence to Tremont Temple, which was often more than full during the winter of 1876-77, and in that of 1877-78.

The audiences contained large numbers of ministers, teachers, and other educated men.

The thirty-five lectures given in 1876-77 were reported in the Boston Daily Advertiser, by Mr. J. E. Bacon, stenographer; and most of them were republished in full in New York and London. They are contained in the first, second, and third volumes of "Boston Monday Lectures," entitled "Biology," "Transcendentalism," and "Orthodoxy."

The lectures on Biology oppose the materialistic, and not the theistic, theory of evolution.

The lectures on Transcendentalism and Orthodoxy contain a discussion of the views of Theodore Parker.

The thirty lectures given in 1877-78 were reported by Mr. Bacon, for the Advertiser, and republished in full in New York and London. They are contained in the fourth, fifth, and sixth volumes of "Boston Monday Lectures," entitled "Conscience," "Hereditity," and "Marriage."

In the present volume some of the salient points are:—

1. The employment of natural law only as the basis of the justification of sound views as to marriage.

2. The empanelling of a jury consisting chiefly of pagan arbitrators, to decide what the teaching of natural law is as to marriage (Lectures I. and II.).

3. The presentation of scientific and unscientific contrasted propositions to this unprejudiced jury or symposium, supposed to be assembled in Pliny's villa in Italy.

4. The swift refusal of the symposium to admit to its hospitality the supporters of the infidel attack on the family.

5. The discussion before the jury of lax divorce-laws (Lecture IV.).

6. An examination of the obstacles to marriage (Lecture V.).

7. A discussion of elective affinities from Goethe's point of view (Lecture VII.).

8. A study of woman's nature as exhibited in literature, especially in Shakspeare, Goethe, Mrs. Browning, Tennyson, and Plato (Lecture VIII.).

9. An examination of the laws of morbid alterations in the blood (Lectures IX. and X.).

10. A study of the pre-natal influences which connect the topic of Marriage with that of Heredity (Lectures IX. and X.).

The committee having charge of the Boston Monday Lectures for the coming year consists of the following gentlemen:—

Hon. A. H. RICE, Ex-Governor of Massachusetts.	Prof. EDWARDS A. PARK, D.D., Andover Theological Seminary.
Hon. WILLIAM CLAPLIN, Ex-Governor of Massachusetts.	Right Rev. BISHOP PARDECK.
Prof. E. P. GOULD, Newton Theological Institution.	Prof. R. N. HORSFORD.
Rev. WILLIAM M. BAKER, D.D.	Hon. ALPHEUS HARDY.
Rev. WILLIAM F. WARREN, D.D., Boston University.	Rev. J. L. WITHROW, D.D.
Prof. L. T. TOWNSEND, Boston University.	A. BRONSON ALCOTT.
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	WILLIAM B. MERRILL.
	Prof. D. P. BOWNE.
	M. R. DEMING, <i>Secretary</i> .
	B. W. WILLIAMS, <i>Financial Agent</i> .

HENRY F. DURANT, *Chairman*.



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## PUBLISHERS' NOTE.

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IN the careful reports of Mr. Cook's Lectures printed in the Boston Daily Advertiser, were included by the stenographer sundry expressions (applause, &c.) indicating the immediate and varying impressions with which the Lectures were received. Though these reports have been thoroughly revised by the author, the publishers have thought it advisable to retain these expressions. Mr. Cook's audiences included, in large numbers, representatives of the broadest scholarship, the profoundest philosophy, the acutest scientific research, and generally of the finest intellectual culture, of Boston and New England; and it has seemed admissible to allow the larger assembly to which these Lectures are now addressed to know how they were received by such audiences as those to which they were originally delivered.

I.

INFIDEL ATTACK ON THE FAMILY.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LECTURE IN THE BOSTON  
MONDAY LECTURESHIP, DELIVERED IN  
TREMONT TEMPLE, FEB. 12.