

**THE FAITH BY
WHICH WE STAND:
SERMONS**

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The Faith by Which We Stand: Sermons by John Tunis

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JOHN TUNIS

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THE
FAITH BY WHICH WE STAND

Sermons

BY
THE REV. JOHN TUNIS
LATE RECTOR OF GRACE CHURCH, MILBROOK, N. Y.

WITH INTRODUCTION BY
THE RT. REV. HENRY C. POTTER, D.D.
BISHOP OF NEW YORK



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1898

IN
LOVING REMEMBRANCE
OF
ONE WHO WALKED WITH GOD
"HE WAS NOT; FOR GOD TOOK HIM"

INTRODUCTION

THE Rev. John Tunis was born in the city of New York, December 23, 1858, and died at the rectory of Grace Church, Millbrook, N. Y., August 18, 1896, being, therefore, at the time of his death but thirty-seven years of age.

He entered the College of the City of New York in 1873, and left it, on account of ill health, without graduating. In June, 1882, he graduated at the Harvard Divinity School, and later entered the Unitarian ministry, becoming an instructor in the Meadville Theological Seminary, and later pastor of a Unitarian congregation at Quincy, Ill. Subsequently he entered the senior class of Harvard University, and received the degree of A.B. in 1891.

Having undergone a radical change in his theological and ecclesiastical convictions, he became a candidate for holy orders in the diocese of New York, and was ordained to the diaconate in February, 1893, and to the priesthood in the following year. He was, during his diaconate and until

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November, 1895, minister in charge of the Church of the Epiphany, New York City, when he became rector of Grace Church, Millbrook.

No hand but his own could fully write the intellectual and spiritual history of his brief but not uneventful life. He had a profound and controlling love of the truth and sought it earnestly and reverently. Deprived of wise and sympathetic guidance at a critical period in his student life, he followed the leading of his earlier convictions out of and away from his earlier fellowships, only to find, with wider reading and larger reflection, that the household of faith in which he had been born was the only one which offered to him the satisfaction of his intellectual convictions and of his highest spiritual aspirations.

How strong were the former and how lofty and clear-visioned the latter, the sermons that follow will show. They are not the sermons of a controversialist, but of a true prophet and messenger of the Eternal, touching and enriching the most familiar themes with the fine insight of a singularly pure and direct spiritual faculty. No one ever heard Mr. Tunis preach without the conviction that he was listening to a true seer—one with the vision to discern, and with the gift to translate that which he saw. His sermons have the rare charm of a clear, direct, and scholarly style, a delightful naturalness which makes them

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models for all preachers, and, best of all, they illumine that of which they speak. The sermon in this volume entitled "The Privilege of Power" is a signal illustration of these qualities. It takes an incident in the earthly ministry of Christ, and from the first word to the last lifts it to the height of its greater meaning with a sureness of touch, felicity of illustration, and a firm grasp of its highest spiritual message which are irresistible.

To have lost so prematurely, as it seems to us, such a voice, out of a generation that so sorely needs voices that have in them a lifting quality, is verily to be greatly bereaved. It will be some compensation to those who knew and loved him to have these sermons, the spell of which, as they listened to them, they will never forget. And there are others, I venture to think, who will be glad to learn from these pages that God is still speaking by the mouth of His holy prophets, and to find in them a new inspiration to hold fast to the things that have been most clearly revealed and "are most surely believed among us."

HENRY C. POTTER.

NEW YORK, Advent, 1896.

