

**THE ANGEL IN THE
MARBLE, AND
OTHER PAPERS**

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The Angel in the Marble, and Other Papers by George F. Pentecost

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GEORGE F. PENTECOST

**THE ANGEL IN THE
MARBLE, AND
OTHER PAPERS**

THE ANGEL IN THE MARBLE.

GEORGE F. PENTECOST, D.D.

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With Bible Readings and Experiences with Inquirers.

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LONDON: HODDER & STOUGHTON,
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Author of "In the Volume of the Book," etc.

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THE ANGEL IN THE MARBLE.

N the fifth chapter of Ephesians Christ is represented as sustaining a similar relation to the Church as the husband to the wife. "This is a great mystery," said Paul, "but I speak concerning Christ and the Church." It is not of this mystical relation that we wish to write; but of a question that grows out of a statement made in this connection. In the 25th, 26th, and 27th verses, we have these words: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church, and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having

spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish." In this most wonderful and beautiful passage we see the glorious end contemplated in the gift of Himself to the Church, and the moving cause of that gift. "Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it." The question has, no doubt, arisen in your heart, as it has in mine: "Why did Christ love the Church?" "What is there, what was there about the Church, about thee, that moved Christ to love it and give himself for it?" When a man seeks a wife, there is usually some sufficient reason for his choice. Not always is the ground of man's choice such as commends him to our praise; but there is always some reason for it—either beauty in the bride chosen, or wealth, or social position, or intellectual attractions, or congeniality of affection or soul. But, in accounting for Christ's love, who will say, Christ saw this or that in thee that attracted his divine love and moved it to such depths that He left His Father's bosom, came to earth, and "endured the cross, despising the shame," that He might win thee for his bride? Was it thy beauty of spirit or soul that won Him? Was it thy goodness? Was it thy riches? Was it anything in thee or about thee, thinkest thou, that stirred and won his love?