

SERMONS FOR CHILDREN

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Sermons for Children by Mark Guy Pearse

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MARK GUY PEARSE

**SERMONS
FOR CHILDREN**



"PLEASE, SIR, I WAS PRAYING."

"BUT WHAT ARE YOU SAYING YOUR LETTERS FOR?"

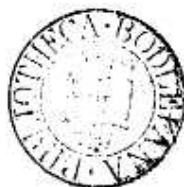
SERMONS
FOR
CHILDREN.

BY
MARK GUY PEARSE,

AUTHOR OF "DANIEL QUORN, AND HIS RELIGIOUS NOTIONS," ETC.

Illustrated by Charles Trevidder.

SECOND THOUSAND.



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TO
The Boys and Maidens

OF THE

MILDMAY PARK CHAPEL :

TO WHOM THESE SERMONS WERE PREACHED,

I DEDICATE THIS VOLUME,

WITH EVERY GOOD WISH FOR BOTH WORLDS.



P R E F A C E .



THESE Sermons were preached to the children of the congregation in the ordinary course of the ministry. Once a month the week evening service was given up to them. Not the sermon only but the whole service. Their hymns were used; the prayer was very brief and simple, and the lessons were expounded so as to interest and instruct them.

There was no difficulty in making the first service a success. An announcement from the pulpit on the previous Lord's Day secured the services of the best advertisers in the world—for in this matter none can compete with the children. They told their schoolfellows and friends, and henceforth it became an easy thing to get some hundreds of children at the monthly service.

Nor did the interest end here. It broke up the monotony of the week evening services. The grown folks liked it, some of whom were not "great scholars"—for in these very learned times it has almost the charm of novelty to hear a sermon that

is easy to be understood. Parents too came with their children, and thus in many instances began a regular attendance at the House of God.

By no means least is the benefit that the preacher himself derived from such services. To try and come down to the level of the little ones, to be gladdened by the sight of so many bright and interested faces, to become a child again in sympathy and thought, and to have the children's love so generously given in return—not many things will check so effectually as this all tendencies to *dry-rot* in the pulpit. And other services will come to share in the simplicity and tenderness of these.

In not a few instances these sermons have been blest to the salvation of the children. All the sermons are aimed at this, and without this they will be the worst of failures. Children can no more be saved by moral essays, than adults. They have sinned, and good works will no more avail for them than for others. It is bad enough to let our neighbour starve for lack of good food; but what if when our children ask for bread we give them a stone? They can come to the Father only by the precious blood of Jesus. It surely is an insult to the blessed Redeemer to talk as if He Who bade them come to Him were unable to save them until they are grown up. That religion cannot be so greatly beyond them, of which its Author said—“*Verily I*