

**WITH OPEN
MIND, PP. 1-153**

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With Open Mind, pp. 1-153 by John Williams Bradshaw

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PREFACE

THE sermons in this little book have been selected from material which was left by Dr. Bradshaw—with no thought of publication, or even reading by anyone save himself. He was so truly a prophet of God that many of his most effective sermons, which quickened his hearers and inspired their daily living, are not in form for general use through the printed page. He was no religious essayist, but a preacher of truth, of convictions reached in the busy life of the pastorate and the quiet, persistent, clear-minded research of the study, their utterance governed and shaped by his great sympathy for human need. His private record of written and extempore sermons gave clear evidence of the wide range of his thought and his thorough-going habits of study and work. The sermons presented here are only suggestive of Dr. Bradshaw's frank and helpful preaching; the permanent and full record has been written in the lives of those of us who called him Pastor and Friend.

Dr. Bradshaw was born at Crown Point, N. Y., July 7, 1849. He died of spinal sclerosis at Peoria, Ill., September 2, 1911. His college preparation was made at Middlebury College,

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from which he graduated in 1869, with scholarship honors and election to Phi Beta Kappa. For two years he was in the employ of the United States Government at Washington, and then pursued theological studies at Chicago Seminary, where he received his degree in Divinity, and later the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. His pastorates were notable: at Batavia, Ill., for six years, at Rochester, Minn., for six years; and then three remarkable college pastorates, at Galesburg, Ill., for three years; at Ann Arbor, for twelve years; and the last ten years of his service, at Oberlin, Ohio, in the historic First Church, as a worthy successor of Finney and Brand.

W. F. BOHN.

Oberlin, September, 1913.

INTRODUCTION

JOHN WILLIAMS BRADSHAW was a preaching thinker who worked quietly at his high calling for nearly forty years with a mind steadily open to the Christian view of the world that is slowly being shaped by the processes of scientific investigation and reverent philosophical reflection. He sought for no conspicuous recognition in the periodicals or organization of the church. He rather went quietly on his way thinking deeply and preaching simply—so quietly and simply that not every one realized the deep reaches of his thought. He made no provision for literary recognition after he should pass away; his parishioners who read this volume will wonder why certain sermons they have heard do not appear here. The reason is that his greatest sermons were never written out and exist only in outlines. Through three of his pastorates, covering a period of twenty-five years, he was subjected to the exacting, stimulating demands of college communities—Galesburg, Ann Arbor, and Oberlin. His native mental alertness of mind, sincerity and sympathy had ample opportunity for exercise and development.

A strange feature of his successful career