

**THE PLEDGES OF HIS LOVE:
THOUGHTS ON THE HOLY
COMMUNION, DEVOTIONAL
AND EXPLANATORY**

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The pledges of his love: thoughts on the holy communion, devotional and explanatory by H. C. G. Moule

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H. C. G. MOULE

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P R E F A C E

THIS little book touches an inexhaustible subject, and of course only touches it. The more the Holy Supper is pondered, the more wonderful it is to thought. The more it is rightly used, the more manifold and precious are its blessings to the believing Christian.

The writer's motive has been two-fold. He cannot but think that the true use of the Holy Communion is often beset, and more or less obstructed, by one or

the other of two tendencies. The one is towards a mysticism which goes to obscure, though with a golden haze, some of the majestic primary truths of the Ordinance, and of the Spiritual Life at large. The other is towards a shallowness or almost carelessness of view, which sees little, if anything, of the divine specialities of a Sacrament. He has sought, accordingly, to explain and to appeal, in view of Scriptural simplicity and Scriptural distinctiveness. And he has had all along in his mind the needs of the innumerable hearts which hunger and thirst to find full joy and power not only in the Lord's Ordinance, but in the Lord Himself, 'at all times and in all places.'

Here and there the reader will find passages where differing views of this or that aspect of the holy Rite are discussed. It seemed inevitable to make some reference, however brief, to such problems. Most of these passages have been placed apart, in an appendix; but some appear in the midst of a generally devotional context. In all such discussions the writer has earnestly sought to 'set the Lord before him,' and to think and speak, not as for an opinion, but humbly and in love, as for what he reverently holds as divine truth. If it has been otherwise in any case, he desires only to know it and to repent.

With earnest desires and prayers, this little book is offered, in all

humility, to the Church. Whatever in it is capable of blessing, may the Heavenly Master bless to the use of His people, to the strengthening of their faith, and the growth of their love of His Ordinance and of Himself.

RIDLEY HALL, CAMBRIDGE,
March, 1894.

* * In a small manual (published 1892), *At the Holy Communion*, many of the topics of this book are treated, sometimes on similar lines. But the purpose of that work more than of this is to assist the young Communicant in direct preparation, and in Communion itself. The present chapters aim rather at a simple examination of the sacred subject of the holy Ordinance in general.

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'TILL HE COME.

BY Christ redeem'd, in Christ restored,
We keep the memory adored
And shew the death of our dear Lord
 Until He come.

His Body, broken in our stead,
Is shewn in this memorial bread,
And so our feeble love is fed
 Until He come.

The drops of His dread agony,
His life-blood shed for us, we see ;
The wine shall tell the mystery
 Until He come.

And thus that dark betrayal night
With the last advent we unite,
By one blest chain of loving rite
 Until He come ;

Until the trump of God be heard,
Until the ancient graves be stir'd,
And, with the great commanding word,
 The Lord shall come.