

# **TWO PARABLES**

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Two parables by Charles R. Brown

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**CHARLES R. BROWN**

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BY

CHARLES R. BROWN

PASTOR OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

*"And without a parable spake He not unto them"*



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1898

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TO  
MY FIRST AND BEST TEACHER  
IN THOSE PLAIN TRUTHS WE LIVE BY  
MY MOTHER



## Preface

This little book is not an attempt at the systematic exposition of the "Two Parables,"—that work has already been well done. It contains a series of sermons growing out of those two passages in the teachings of our Lord, and its purpose is to interpret His words and apply their lessons to the needs of common life. These sermons were preached, not consecutively, to the people of the First Congregational Church in Oakland, California, and the kindly comments of those good friends, and their oft-expressed wish to have them in permanent form, furnish me my chief reason for putting them in print.

I confess, also, to another motive. By the pressure of that more than Athenian craze to hear ever some new thing, some of us are impelled to search out the queer and odd texts that lie in the corners of holy writ. The cleverness displayed in some of the

## Preface

startling selections is remarkable, but wholesome good taste often suffers in the house of those who should be its staunchest friends. "Old friends are the best;" and so are old texts. Those verses from the Bible which have passed into such common use as to form part of the circulating medium of daily speech, will, when interpreted in fresh and vital fashion, prove the most useful texts to be had. If these sermons on two of the most familiar passages in the New Testament should serve, however imperfectly, to illustrate this fact, I should count it a privilege to modestly offer them "for the good of the Order."

CHARLES R. BROWN.

Oakland, California,  
March 15, 1898.



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