

**MISSION SERMONS PREACHED  
AT S. PAUL'S, KNIGHTSBRIDGE,  
AT THE LONDON MISSION OF  
NOVEMBER, 1869**

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Mission Sermons Preached at S. Paul's, Knightsbridge, at the London Mission of November, 1869 by William J. E. Bennett

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**WILLIAM J. E. BENNETT**

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AT THE LONDON MISSION OF  
NOVEMBER, 1869**



# MISSION SERMONS

PREACHED AT

S. PAUL'S, KNIGHTSBRIDGE,

AT THE

LONDON MISSION

OF NOVEMBER, 1869.

BY

WILLIAM J. E. BENNETT,

VICAR OF FROOME-BELWOOD, DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS.

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## DEDICATION PREFACE.

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TO THE EVANGELIST FATHERS OF  
S. JOHN, COWLEY.

MY DEAR FATHERS IN CHRIST,

It is to you that the Church owes, under God, the revival of Parochial Missions, and it is to you that, above all the other missions which you have so devotedly undertaken, the people of London owe the great work of November, 1869.

To you therefore I dedicate these sermons, forming a very humble part of that great mission in which you asked me to join.

It is very greatly against my own will that they appear in this shape, and I did all that I could that they might *not* so appear, because I am convinced that preaching is *preaching*, and not reading—and that the spirit and life of the pulpit is in the *pulpit* and not in the press. Nevertheless I gave up my own will at the request of those whom I did not like to disoblige.

Will you therefore accept them, such as they are, at my hands, as a testimony of gratitude to you as the originators and leaders in the revived work of English Parochial Missions.

Of this I am well assured, and I think I should have with me nine-tenths of the parish priests of England, that the parochial clergy, however zealous, careful, indefatigable in their work, however skilled in dealing with souls, never can have the power to accomplish with any effect the work which is before them *as long as they stand alone*. I speak as one who has now served his life as a parish priest, both curate and incumbent, thirty-four years—partly in the workhouse of one of our great metropolitan parishes, partly in the wealthy and aristocratic Belgravia, and latterly in a large manufacturing town. These contrasts and varieties may justify me in speaking of parochial work, and this I say, with deep and sorrowful regret in the retrospect of these past years, that had I but been taught, cheered, invigorated and lifted up out of the deadness of my solitary labours by such men as you, the retrospect of a thousand imperfections of my parochial ministrations would not have been as it is now.

The advantage of trained missionary priests living

in community, as you do, and issuing forth as God shall direct them, to cast in their lot for a time with the local parish priest, must be, in every way, immense.

First, to the parish priest himself. If he be young, or inexperienced, the voice of such as you obviating mistakes, guarding against dangers, pointing out schemes and plans for parochial administration, and so leading and furthering him in his perilous way, must be to him an inestimable blessing. And even if he be a veteran and long used to the work—then, in another way, yours would be the voice of sympathy in labour, of consolation in disappointment, and of fraternal love, urging on to perseverance in good works, which perhaps otherwise he might be weary in pursuing. Years and years he may have been at work, but as the years, so perhaps the tediousness, and the longing to rest. The same course of life, the same plans, the same preaching, the same face in the pulpit, the same faces out of the pulpit, no variation—all this may have brought him down to a dead level; and a sad listlessness, if not despair, may have been the result. He has done his best, but no good has come of it, why should he try any longer? He slides down