

**LYMAN  
BEECHER**

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Lyman Beecher by Edward F. Hayward

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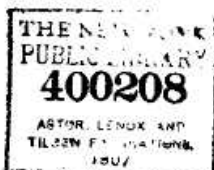


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# LYMAN BEECHER

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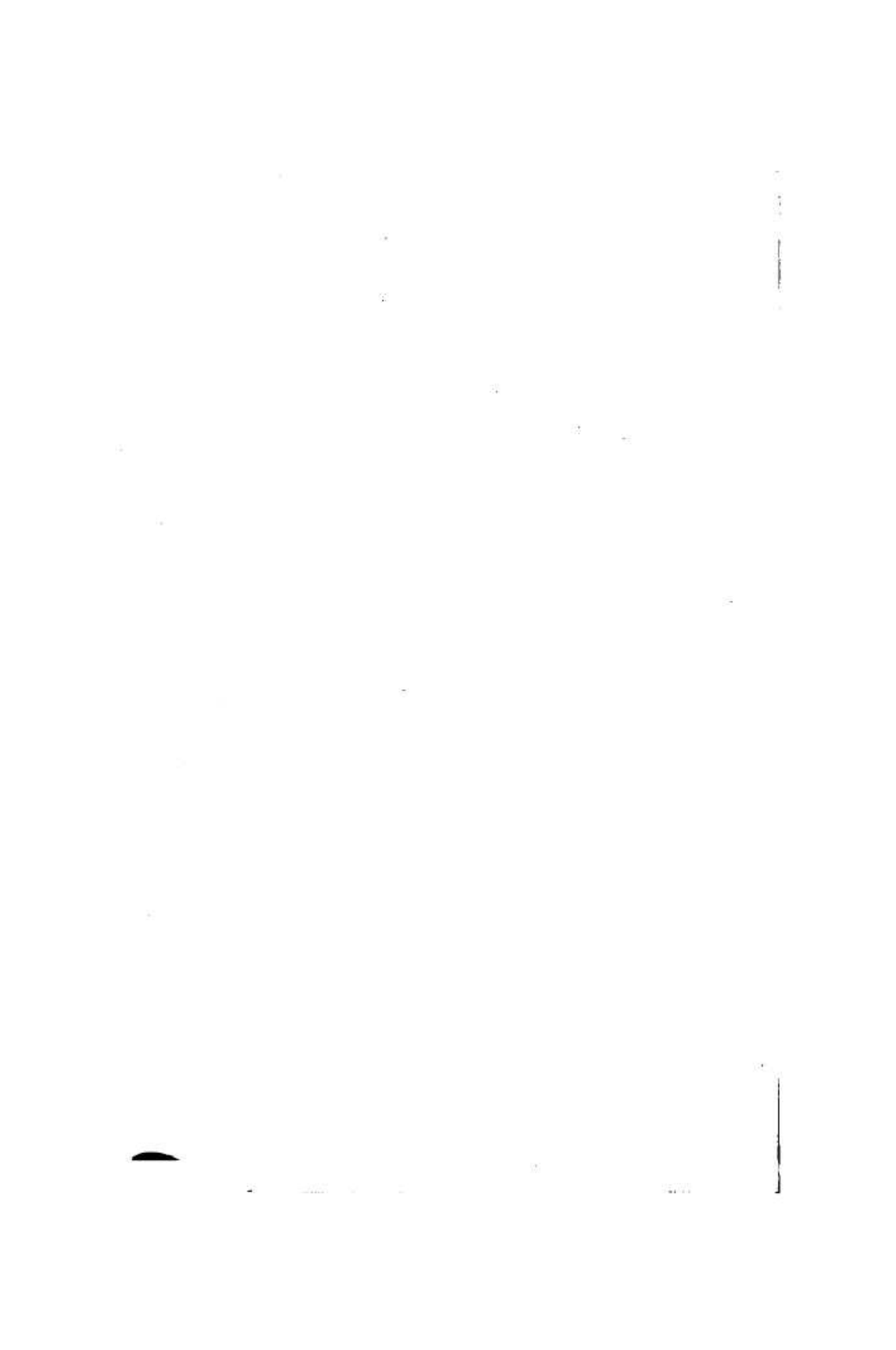
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## CHAPTER I

### EARLY LIFE AND MINISTRY AT EAST HAMPTON

Perhaps no one during the first half of the nineteenth century was more closely connected with the better life of America, both in its religious and in its reformatory aspects, than Lyman Beecher. Not only were his own activities wide-spread and effective, but he seemed like a broad and fertile tree, which had sent out many shoots to extend and continue his influence. In this respect a suggestive parallel might be drawn between the Beecher family in this country, and that of the Wesleys in England. The latter stood at the turning-point in the eighteenth century when a moral awakening was demanded, and inaugurated a movement which was to antagonize with the forces of freedom the more formal tendencies in religion. The former came upon the stage in America at a time when the Puritan theology was beginning