

**THE ART OF PREACHING, THE  
FORTY-EIGHTH SERIES OF  
LYMAN BEECHER LECTURES ON  
PREACHING IN YALE UNIVERSITY**

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**THE ART OF PREACHING**

# THE ART OF PREACHING

BY

**CHARLES REYNOLDS BROWN**

DEAN OF THE DIVINITY SCHOOL, YALE UNIVERSITY

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OF LYMAN BEECHER LECTURES ON PREACHING  
IN YALE UNIVERSITY

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To

GEORGE A. GORDON

Whose Preaching Kindled My Own Heart with  
Fresh Impulse During My Three Years in the  
Seminary; Who Has Nobly Maintained the In-  
tellectual Dignity of the Ministry in Times of  
Stress; Who for Well-nigh Forty Years Has  
Made the Pulpit of the Old South Church,  
Boston, a Place of Power and of Spiritual  
Impartation, I Dedicate This Book in Grateful  
Appreciation.





## FOREWORD

WHEN my honored colleagues in the Faculty of the Yale Divinity School first asked me to give the Lyman Beecher Lectures for the year 1922-23 I declined their generous invitation. I did this on the ground that I had already given a course of Lyman Beecher Lectures sixteen years ago on "The Social Message of the Modern Pulpit;" and for the further reason that it seemed to me inappropriate for one of our own Faculty to perform this office on the occasion of the celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of the School. These objections however did not appear to them important, and when the invitation was cordially renewed two months later it seemed best for me to undertake this service.

We have had in recent years several notable Courses of Lyman Beecher Lectures discussing the relation of the pulpit to the Great War and to the vast and intricate problems which it created. Dr. John Kelman lectured on "The War and Preaching;" Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin considered the issues involved "In a Day of Social Rebuilding." Dr. William P. Merrill considered "The Freedom of the Preacher" as affected by recent developments. We have had other courses dealing particularly with the theological, the educational, the social phases of the minister's vocation in these grave times upon which we have fallen.

We have not had for thirty years a series of Lyman Beecher Lectures dealing directly with the technique of preaching. It has seemed fitting therefore that as a teacher of homiletics and as one whose main office for many years has been that of preaching, I should take up in a more intimate way the making of a sermon.

I have not attempted anything so ambitious as a thoroughgoing treatise on homiletics. This book contains a series of lectures filled mainly with practical suggestions as to "the art of preaching." I have retained the form of direct personal address as best suited to the purpose in mind. The expressions which have come from the students who heard the lectures have encouraged me to hope that these words may have value for some of my brother ministers in active service who are sharing in the heat and burden of a day made difficult to all of us as preachers by the tense and troubled conditions of our modern life.

The reluctance of multitudes of thoughtful people to "sit under our preaching" after the manner of their more patient forefathers, becomes a kind of challenge to do our bit in a more interesting and a more effective way. How difficult a task it is I have learned full well by oft-repeated, humbling experiences. Yet in the face of everything, I still believe with all my heart (as I believed thirty-three years ago when I was first ordained) that to preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is the highest office and the most alluring interest to which any human being can be called.

CHAR. R. BROWN.

*Yale University,*  
October 1, 1922.