

**SOME ELEMENTS
OF RELIGION. LENT
LECTURES, 1870**

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Some Elements of Religion. Lent Lectures, 1870 by H. P. Liddon

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H. P. LIDDON

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RELIGION

Lent Lectures

1870

BY

H. P. LIDDON, D.D.
CANON OF ST. PAUL'S

NEW YORK
SCRIBNER, WELFORD, & ARMSTRONG

1872

Perchè, se tu a' virtù circonda
La tua misura, non alla perfezza
Delle sostanze che t'apparion tonde,
Tu vederai a' suoi convenenza,
Di maggio a più, et di minore a meno,
In ciascun cielo, e sua intelligenza.

PAR. xxviii. 73—78.

TO

John William Egle, Esq., M.A.

OF TRINITY COLLEGE, OXFORD

WHOSE WORK AND CHARACTER SUGGEST

MANY PRECIOUS LESSONS

WHICH HE NEVER THINKS OF

TEACHING

ADVERTISEMENT.

THESE Lectures were delivered in St. James' Church, Piccadilly, during the Lent of 1870.

They were, at the time, through God's mercy, of service at least to some minds, anxious, if it might be, to escape from perplexities which beset an age of feverish scepticism. It was accordingly difficult to resist the practical reasons which were urged in favour of publishing the Lectures; but the announcement of their intended publication was, perhaps, made, before the drawbacks which must necessarily accompany the rhetorical treatment of such a subject as the present, in a permanent form, had been sufficiently considered. Moreover, a fulness and method of discussion which satisfies the purposes of a Lecture, and which indeed is all that an audience will bear, must fall altogether below the standard which may be reasonably looked for in a book, supposed to make

any pretension whatever to claim the character of a formal treatise upon a wide and serious subject. Of this, upon further reflection, the writer became so strongly convinced as to have entertained the design of expanding these fragments into a larger work. But, apart from the pressure of other duties, he could not but feel that such an attempt would destroy, together with the identity of the Lectures, any moral or spiritual associations that might cling to them; and, in working for the cause of Faith, as in other matters,

" Un seul, quand il est assuré,
Vaut mieux, que cinq en espérance."

The Lectures are therefore published as they stand. It will be borne in mind that they suggest only a few thoughts on each of the points of which they treat; that they cannot but raise some difficulties which they leave unanswered; and, in a word, that their limits are not in any sense determined by those of the general subject, but only by the number of Sundays in Lent.