## GOD AND PRAYER: A DISCUSSION OF THE REASONABLENESS OF PRAYER

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God and prayer: a discussion of the reasonableness of prayer by Boyd Vincent

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### **BOYD VINCENT**

# GOD AND PRAYER: A DISCUSSION OF THE REASONABLENESS OF PRAYER



## GOD AND PRAYER:

A DISCUSSION OF

THE REASONABLENESS OF PRAYER.

THE BEDELL LECTURES FOR 1895, DELIVERED IN THE COLLEGE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, GAMBIER, OHIO, ON FOUNDERS' DAY, BEING THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS, 1895,

BY

BOYD VINCENT, S.T.D.

BISHOP COADJUTOR OF SOUTHERN ONIO.



NEW YORK: JAMES POTT & CO., PUBLISHERS. 1897.

## MY FATHER,

WHOSE DEEP DEVOUTNESS, REGULATED BY A STURDY
COMMON SENSE AND JUSTIFIED IN A
LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FIRST TAUGHT ME
THE REASONABLENESS OF PRAYER.



## FROM THE COMMUNICATION OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE BEDELL LECTURESHIP.

June 20, 1880.

GENTLEMEN: We have consecrated and set apart for the service of God the sum of five thousand dollars, to be devoted to the establishment of a lecture or lectures in the Institutions at Gambier on the Evidences of Natural and Revealed Religion, or the Relations of Science and Religion.

We ask permission of the Trustees to establish the lecture immediately, with the following provisions:

The lecture or lectures shall be delivered blennially on Founders' Day (if such a day shall be established) or other appropriate time. During our lifetime, or the lifetime of either of us, the nomination of the lectureship shall rest with us.

The interest for two years on the fund, less the sum necessary to pay for the publication, shall be paid to the Lecturer.

The Lecturer shall also have one half of the net profits of the publication during the first two years after the date of publication. All other profits shall be the profits of the Board, and shall be added to the capital of the lectureship.

We express our preference that the lecture or lectures shall be delivered in the Church of the Holy Spirit, if such building be in existence; and shall be delivered in the presence of all the members of the Institutions under the authority of the Board.

We ask that the day on which the lecture, or the first of each series of lectures, shall be delivered shall be a holiday. We wish that the nomination to this lectureship shall be restricted by no other consideration than the ability of the appointee to discharge the duty to the highest glory of God in the completest presentation of the subject.

We desire that the lectures shall be published in uniform shape and that a copy of each shall be placed in the libraries of Bexley Hall, Kenyon College, and of the Philomathean and Nu Kappa Pi Society.

Asking the favorable consideration of the Trustees,

We remain, with respect,

G. T. BEDELL, JULIA BEDELL.

To the Trustees of the Theological Seminary of the Diocese of Ohio and Kenyon College.

### LIST OF PREVIOUS LECTURES ON THE BEDELL FOUNDATION.

1881. "THE WORLD'S WITNESS TO CHRIST," by the Rt. Rev. John Williams, D.D., etc., Bishop of Connecticut.

1883. "REVEALED RELIGION IN RELATION TO THE MORAL BEING OF GOD," by the Rt. Rev. Henry Cotterill, D.D., etc., Bishop of Edinburgh.

1885. "THE WORLD AND THE LOGOS," by the Rt. Rev. Hugh Miller Thompson, D.D., etc., Bishop of Mississippi.

1887. "THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT OF EVOLUTION," by the Rev. James McCosh, D. D., etc., President of Princeton College. 1889. "The HISTORICAL CHRIST THE MORAL POWER OF HISTORY," by the Rev. David H. Greer, D.D., etc., Rector of St. Bartholomew's Church, New York.

1891. "HOLY WRIT AND MODERN THOUGHT," by the Rt. Rev. Arthur Cleveland Coxe, D.D., etc., Bishop of Western New York.

1893. "THE WITNESS OF THE AMERICAN CHURCH TO PURE CHRISTIANITY," by the Rt. Rev. William A. Leonard, D.D., etc., Bishop of Ohio.

#### PREFACE.

THESE lectures were not written when delivered; and it has not been easy, in the midst of an otherwise busy and active life, to find time to fill out the notes for publication. This must account for the lateness of their issue in book form—a delay which the writer greatly regrets.

They were prepared with reference to the special audience of students to which they were originally addressed rather than with an eye to the reading public; and it has consequently been thought best in writing to preserve the informal and direct style of address of the platform. They are lectures, too, not sermons. The merely hortatory has been avoided as far as possible.

They were delivered as two lectures, in accordance with the usual custom; but in publishing, the natural division of the subject under an introduction and three heads has been followed.

The writer wishes to acknowledge his obligations to all the works named below, whether expressly quoted or not, and especially to Professor Le Conte's "Religion and Science," to which he has been largely indebted throughout.

B. V.