THOUGHT AND DEED. SERMONS ON FAITH AND DUTY

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649720873

Thought and Deed. Sermons on Faith and Duty by R. Hayes Robinson

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R. HAYES ROBINSON

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SERMONS

ON

FAITH AND DUTY.

RY

R. HAYES ROBINSON,

Late of the Octagon Chapel, Bath; Curate of Weston.



LONDON:

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & Co., STATIONER'S HALL COURT. BATH: R. E. PEACH, 8, BRIDGE STREET.

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Dedicated as a small token of affectionate esteem to the Reverend JOHN BOND, M.A., Prebendary of Cudworth, Vicar of Weston.

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PREFACE.

In the Sermons which form this little volume my constant aim has been to show that the theory and practice of Christianity, so often treated as separate paths of thought, cross and recross each other constantly; that thinking right leads to doing right, and that doing right leads to thinking right; that Faith and Duty have been eternally joined together by God, and can be put asunder by no human hand.

None of these Sermons were written with any idea of publication; and I wish it to be distinctly understood that they are printed now in compliance with the repeated requests of various bearers. This remark is made because the author, in the composition of Sermons, has always been guided by a rule which he hopes here briefly to explain and defend. The bearing of this rule on the question of publishing preached Sermons will speedily discover itself.

The prime difficulty of modern preachers seems to spring from the question whether spoken or read Sermons are most effective. It is amusing, if not instructive, to compare the utterances of different men, equally competent, on this subject. For example, an eminent modern divine has declared that read Sermons are not, cannot be, Sermons at all; and that a man with a manuscript before him cannot be justly styled a preacher. Again, a Nonconformist Minister, who stands in the front rank of men of culture, has declared that the practice of extempore preaching "is as little likely to produce a genuine Sermon as that of improvising is to