

DISCOURSES ON THE BEATITUDES

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Discourses on the Beatitudes by E. H. Chapin

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E. H. CHAPIN

**DISCOURSES ON
THE BEATITUDES**

DISCOURSES

OR

THE BEATITUDES.

BY

E. H. CHAPIN.

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PREFACE.

THE present volume is submitted to the public as a companion to preceding works, such as "Hours of Communion," and "The Crown of Thorns." I presume upon no merit in them beyond that of discourses preached in the ordinary ministrations of the pulpit; but I have the same desire in publishing that I had in preaching them,—a desire to do what I can in extending the spirit of Christ's religion among men. To accomplish this, I know no other method than a reiteration of the truth, however old and simple.

I wish here to express my sense of the favor with which other works of mine have been received, and my special gratification in knowing that they have passed beyond denominational lines, and struck the common chord of Christian sympathy. This is the result of no intentional compromise of what I deem the truth. But, while I would never turn out of

the way to avoid the expression of what I believe, I would never drag in my peculiarities where they are not spontaneous. I am willing the sentiments I utter should pass by their intrinsic superscription, and shall take no pains to affix a sectarian label. And I rejoice that the field of practical religion is the very centre of the church universal, where we may exchange unspoken salutations with the seekers and with the good of every name, and hear the murmuring of those Beatitudes which flow deeper than our dogmas, and refresh *all* who really love the Master.

E. H. C.

NEW YORK, MAY, 1858.

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I.

THE BLESSING OF THE POOR IN SPIRIT.

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. — MATTHEW 5 : 3.

THE characteristic which more immediately strikes us, in studying the Beatitudes, is the difference between their *estimates* and those which are current in the opinions and feelings of the world. This contrast, we all know, was peculiarly distinct when they were first pronounced. The minds and the hearts of that multitude which listened to the sermon on the mount were stirred by a brooding expectancy, a splendid hope. They had witnessed the great moral movements of the day,—the career of John and the wonders of Jesus; and that idea,