

EAST AND WEST LONDON

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EAST AND WEST LONDON,

BEING NOTES OF COMMON LIFE AND
PASTORAL WORK IN SAINT JAMES'S, WESTMINSTER
AND IN SAINT GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST

BY THE

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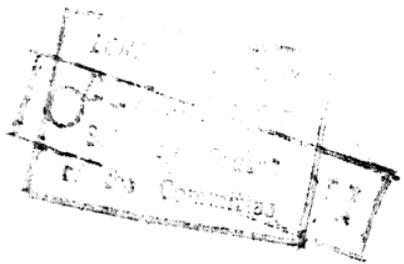
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PREFACE.

I HAVE penned most of this little volume at odd times in the course of a very busy year, and finished it in my holydays ; but, however short it may come of my wishes and its title, it is at any rate no mere hasty utterance.

I have tried to set plainly down something of what I have seen, and some of the conclusions to which I have been led, during a ministry of twenty-five years in several parts of London. Thus, whether I have learned aright from it or not, at least I speak from experience.

As, however, the chief matters of which I write, such as pastoral economy, education, and sanitary or social improvements, are neither new nor of themselves necessarily entertaining, I have not scrupled to garnish them with some touches of

natural life that have happened to come in my way ; for I want my little book to be read, and not thrown aside as a mere dull contribution to the large store of current published opinions on questions of a civil and ecclesiastical character.

I have written it with deep interest in the grave subjects of which it mainly treats, and I hope to engage the sympathy of those who are anywise concerned in promoting the welfare of their fellows, and, though they may occasionally differ from him, are willing to hear what a man of some experience has to say about matters which no thoughtful worker, or well-wisher of his kind, regards with indifference.

I may add that, in speaking about various modes of Church work, I have been conscious of a desire to avoid strictly theological questions, and I hope I have successfully resisted that tendency to sermonise, with which we parsons are sometimes credited, when we talk of things with which we are continuously and professionally occupied.

In respect of divers facts referred to in the following pages, I have avoided any display of