

Everyday Christian Life

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OR

SERMONS BY THE WAY

BY

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PREFACE.



IN the title to this volume of Sermons, I have endeavoured to express the humbleness of their pretensions. They are ordinary parochial exhortations, mainly delivered on Sundays after Trinity, during that great division of the Church's year in which she endeavours to impress on us the reiterated lessons of daily duty—that duty towards God, and duty towards our neighbour, on which hang all the Law and the Prophets.

The work of preaching, which so many despise, is full of anxious responsibility. The anxiety of any sincere and honest man is only to teach the truth so far as God has enabled him to see it. I can imagine no calling more vulgar or

more miserable than that of the preacher, if he has in view anything but the edification, the moral advance, the religious instruction, the spiritual awakenment of his congregation. And, among many other perils of unfaithfulness, he must be on his guard lest, through carelessness or indolence, he fail "rightly to divide the word of truth."

The elements of our religious belief come to us not from one source but from many. Our religion is Natural—for it is confirmed by, and in part even derived from, that great Book of God which is the nature of created things. It is Historical—for even our shortest creed mentions the name of a Roman Procurator, and refers to facts which took place in the course of historical events. It is Revealed—for its most essential truths were brought to light by the Son of God, and were such as man's unaided intellect would never have discovered. It is Scriptural—for it refers as its ultimate authority to the Word of God, contained in a sacred book.