The essence of religion

Bowne Borden Parker
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Author: Bowne Borden Parker

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THE ESSENCE OF RELIGION
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BY

BORDEN PARKER BOWNE

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PREFACE

The author of these sermons found many opportunities to “minister to the conscience of men.” He always kept a warm heart for humanity, and was absorbed by a passion for helping others. During his thirty-four years of service as a Christian teacher he was constantly sought, in his lecture-room and in his home, by those who needed him. And so he bound up the broken-hearted, strengthened those of feeble will, and gave inspiration and cheer to all who came in contact with him. He showed men and women, as never before, that the essence of religion lies in the filial spirit, in the desire to serve and please God, and in the daily life pervaded and sanctified by this spirit, offered up in service and worship.

It was not strange that he was urged to preach, and also to publish his sermons in book form so that they might have a wider hearing; and at the time of his departure for
the life beyond he had nearly made ready this group for the press.

Some of these sermons have been printed elsewhere—"Religion and Life" appears in "Modern Sermons by World Scholars"; "The Church and the Kingdom of God" was one in a course of sermons delivered before the Union Theological Seminary; "The Supremacy of Christ" was preached during a visit in the Orient, to crowds of eager listeners; "Prayer" was written to strengthen the faith of a member of the home circle, and at her request given to a larger audience one memorable Sabbath at Wellesley College. Throughout this book there are familiar echoes of private and public speech.

"If," to use the author's own words, "the great end of religion is a developed soul, a soul with a deep sense of God, a soul in which faith, courage, and resolution are at their highest," then the writer of these sermons had in this life entered into the fullest realization of all he taught to others.

His Wife.

Boston, November 7, 1910.
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THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST