

PREFACE.

This little book originated some FIFTEEN YEARS ago from a sermon by Rev. C. H. Spurgeon. Text, "Deep calleth unto deep." Subject, "The deeps in God answering to the deeps in man." As Rev. Dr. Fulton says, "The book was born, not made."

Its first suggested couplets were:—

"Keep me as the apple of the eye."

"He that toucheth you, toucheth the apple of His eye."

"Hide me under the shadow of Thy wings."

"He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shall thou trust."

From this, the work went on, as time and labor from a busy pastorate could be given to it.

At the request of the Y. M. C. A. secretary, London, Ont., it appeared first in pamphlet form; and then in a larger edition, entitled, "Spiritual Longings and Divine Responses."

The present is a complete revision and enlargement of the latter volume, with poetry added.

The author's idea in preparing this book has been, that as poet and musician, artist and artizan aim to give effect, by skilfully selecting and arranging their material, so, and much more, should the composer of Scripture Readings. As Israel's royal poet said, "Neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God which cost me nothing."

Thus in these readings, the author has endeavored, from various versions of the scripture, to select and arrange the passages faithfully, appropriately, tastefully, and responsively; developing in each topic the thought.

May He "who has magnified his word above all his name," own the imperfect endeavor, and make it a comfort and blessing to many.

AUTHOR.