

PREFACE

be the organizing principle of any restatement of truth which does justice to all the factors involved. I have used the word "Friendship" because I believe that in its best modern use it better expresses that free spiritual relation, which is the core of religion, than the word "love." As Henry Drummond somewhere says, "On earth no word is more sublime. Friendship is the nearest thing we know to what religion is. God is love. And to make religion akin to Friendship is simply to give it the highest expression conceivable by man."

In twelve sermons delivered to a popular audience, it is impossible to do more than suggest how the thought of Religion as Friendship with God interprets each of the great doctrines of the Church, but those who have been most helped by them found their helpfulness to lie in the suggestions they contain of other ways of looking at old truths. They are therefore given here just as they were preached, with one or two slight changes in the first sermon.

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