

## PREFACE

Any treatment of the formal principles of prayer, however carefully the author may guard himself, is liable to leave the impression that he is recommending artificial aid to devotion. Nothing, however, could be farther from our purpose. The artificial and formal are fatal to prayer. Above all things we must avoid and abhor unreality in worship.

The object of this manual is not to offer substitutes for the spirituality indispensable to power, but to aid beginners to the knowledge which is also indispensable, and to guard against dangers which must be seen to be avoided. Our endeavor is to provide a brief but complete survey of all the principles involved in prayer, both public and private.

Chapter II was inserted, not because it is a part of our theme, but because it constitutes an instructive background for it.

The term "free" or "extemporaneous," as used herein of public prayer, means not the impromptu utterance of an unprepared person, but rather "conceived" prayer, which has received suitable premeditation as to its purpose, its substance, and its form.