

# Practical Papers.

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## THE HIGHER CHRISTIAN LIFE.

BY REV. W. E. BOARDMAN.

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PART I.—WHAT IT IS.

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CHAPTER I.—INTRODUCTORY.

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“Prepare ye the way of the people.”—ISAIAH lxii. 10.

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SOME disciples of Christ live, life-long, under condemnation, and know no better. They are always doubting, and think they must always doubt. And very many live a life of ups and downs, and suppose *that* to be the best God has in store for them while in the body. Occasionally they gain some lookout in the mount, and then, through the swaying branches of the trees of life moved by the breath of heaven, they catch glimpses of the river of the waters of life, gleaming in the rays of the Sun of Righteousness, and are filled with gladness. But then again, soon they find themselves in the low grounds of unbelief, wrapped up in fogs of doubt, and chilled and poisoned by the mist and malaria of worldly cares and worldly company. To all these, a book which should bring the knowledge, as really reliable and true, that there is actually a sunny side of the Christian life,—such an experimental knowledge of Jesus, as would place the soul, as a vineyard on the southern slope, under the sun and the rain of heaven, to blossom and ripen its luscious fruit in abundance for the glory of the Master—ah, how such a book would be hailed as glad tidings from God!

Many have heard or read upon this subject, and do really believe there is something better than they have found, but are afraid. They are convinced that there is something in it, but they fear to try to find out what it is. They are earnest Christians, too, and would gladly go on out of the wilderness of doubt and perplexity if they dared to venture. They see that there is a land of milk and honey offered by the promises of God, and would press for it; but, alas! the spies bring back a bad report of the land. “Hard to gain,” say they. “Cities walled up to heaven. Giants in the land—sons of Anak.” “Hard to keep, even if conquered.” Fear chimes in with this, and so they shrink back