

THE PRODIGAL SON.

I.

SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

"And he said, a certain man had two sons: and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him."—LUKE xv. 11-16.

THERE is something in this inimitable parable which goes straight to every human heart. It is almost impossible to refuse an entrance to it; it storms the strongest fortress of the soul. By its appeal to that latent sensibility to impression—that dormant or sepulchred humanness which underlies, in every man, his surface of passion or pride—it makes its way to the sympathy of the rudest, and surprises the most callous into an emotion which finds its best relief in