

## Practical Papers.

### *THE MISTAKEN BUILDER; or, FALSE CONFIDENCE.*



ABOUT fourteen miles from Plymouth, on the Cornish coast, lies a perilous reef of rocks, against which the long rolling swell of the Atlantic waves dash with appalling force, and breaks up into those swirling eddies from which the reef is named—the Eddystone. Upon these treacherous crags many a gallant vessel has foundered and gone down, within sight of the shore it has scarcely quitted or was just about to reach; and, situated in the midst of a much frequented track, the rapid succession of calamities at the Eddystone was not long in awakening men's minds to the necessity of some warning light. The exposure of the reef to the wild fury of the Atlantic, and the small extent of the surface rock, however, rendered the construction of a lighthouse in such a situation a work of great, and, as it was long considered, insuperable difficulty.

The project was long talked of before any one was found daring enough to attempt it; but in the year 1696 a person of the name of Henry Winstanley came forward, and after six years of hard and dangerous labour it was accomplished.

It was found, however, that in the course of a few years the winds and waves had made sad havoc with the fabric, and that something must be done to repair and strengthen it; and with a view to the accomplishment of this, its builder, Henry Winstanley, in November, 1703, went out to the rock himself, accompanied by some workmen, observing to a friend as they left the shore that he only wished to be there in the greatest storm that ever blew, that he might see the effect it would have upon his structure! Alas! his wish was but too soon realised, for in a very few hours after he had reached his lighthouse both it and himself were buried beneath the proud waves for ever. Alas! what a solemn warning in relation to false and presumptuous confidence. How many are there, however, who emulate this conduct in relation to the soul? They believe that a day of test and trial will come, and they believe that they are perfectly secure; but when we reach the ground of their hope, how often do we discover that they are not hiding themselves in the salvation which God has provided, but in one which they have built and provided for themselves!