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LIFE WIT AND WISDOM SERIES

SPURGEON

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THE GIFT OF

KENNETH BALLARD MURDOCK
CLASS OF 1916

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

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C. H. Spurgeon

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A LOOKING-GLASS IS OF NO USE TO A BLIND MAN.

He who will not see is much the same as if he had no eyes; indeed, in some things, the man without eyes has the advantage, for he is in the

dark *and knows it.* A lantern is of no use to a bat, and good teaching is lost on the man who will not learn. Reason is folly with the unreasonable. One man can lead a horse to the water, but a hundred cannot make him drink: it is easy work to

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DON'T CUT OFF YOUR NOSE TO SPITE YOUR FACE.

ANGER is a short madness. The less we do when we go mad the better for everybody, and the less we go mad the better for ourselves. He is far

gone who hurts himself to wreak his vengeance on others. The old saying is, "Don't cut off your head because it aches," and another says, "Set not your house on fire to spite the moon." If things go awry, it is a poor way of mending to

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NEVER STOP THE PLOUGH TO CATCH A MOUSE.

THERE's not much profit in this game. Think of a man and a boy and four horses all standing still for the sake of a mouse! What would old

friend Tusser say to that? I think he would rhyme in this fashion:

> A ploughman deserveth a cut of the whip
> If for idle pretence he let the hours slip.

Heaps of people act like the man in our picture. They have a great work in hand which wants all

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EVERY MAN SHOULD SWEEP BEFORE HIS OWN DOOR.

He is a wise man who has wit enough for his own affairs. It is a common thing for people to *mind* Number One, but not so common to see

people *mend* it. When it comes to spending money on labor or improvements, they think that repairs should begin at Number 2, and Number 3, and go on till all the houses up to Number 50 are touched up before any hint should be given to

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YOU MAY BEND THE SAPLING, BUT NOT THE TREE.

LADDER and pole and cord will be of no use to straighten the bent tree; it should have been looked after much earlier. Train trees when they

are saplings, and young lads before the down comes on their chins. If you want a bullfinch to pipe, whistle to him while he is young; he will scarcely catch the tune after he has learned the wild bird's note. Begin early to teach, for children

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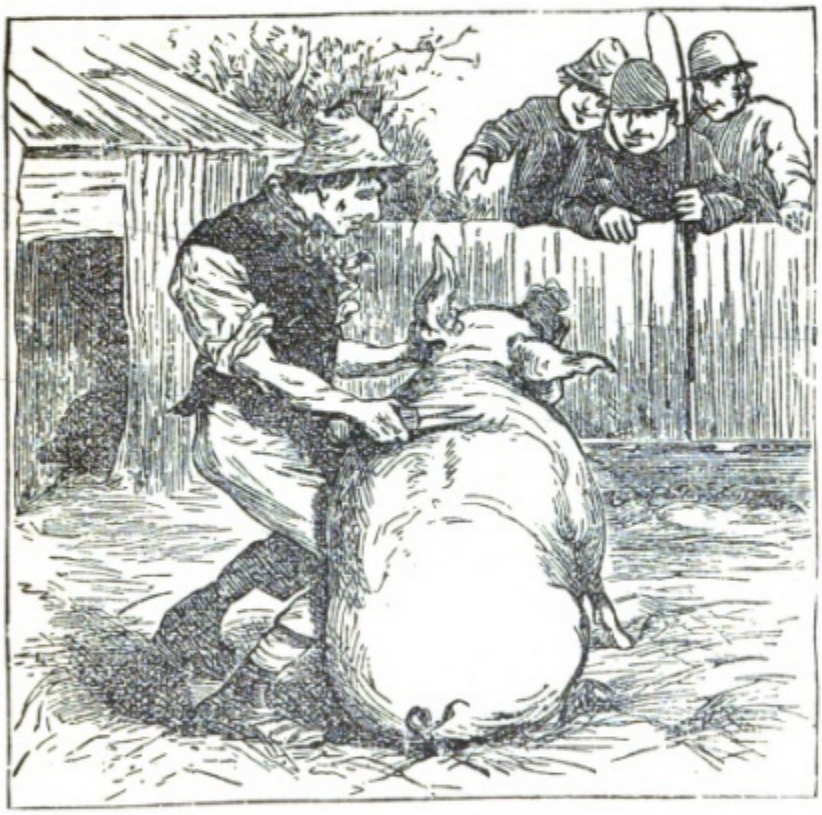
"GREAT CRY AND LITTLE WOOL," AS THE MAN SAID WHO CLIPPED THE SOW.

Now, is not this very like the world with its notions of pleasure? There is noise enough: laughter and shouting and boasting; but where is



the comfort which can warm the heart and give peace to the spirit? Generally there's plenty of smoke and very little fire in what is called pleasure. It promises a nag and gives an egg. Gayety is a

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A MAN MAY LOVE HIS HOUSE, THOUGH HE RIDE NOT ON THE RIDGE.

You can love your house and not ride on the ridge; there's a medium in everything. You can be fond of your wife without being her drudge, and

you can love your children dearly, and yet not give them their own way in everything Some men are of so strange a kidney that they set no bounds to their nonsense. If they are fond of roast beef they must needs suck the spit; they cannot

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GREAT DRINKERS THINK THEMSELVES GREAT MEN.

WONDERFUL men and white rats are not so scarce as most people think. Folks may talk as they like about Mr. Gladstone, Lord Beaconsfield,

and that sharp gentleman Bismarck, but Jack, and Tom, and Harry, and scores more that I know of, could manage their business for them a fine sight better; at least, they think so, and are quite ready to try. Great men are as plentiful as mice in an

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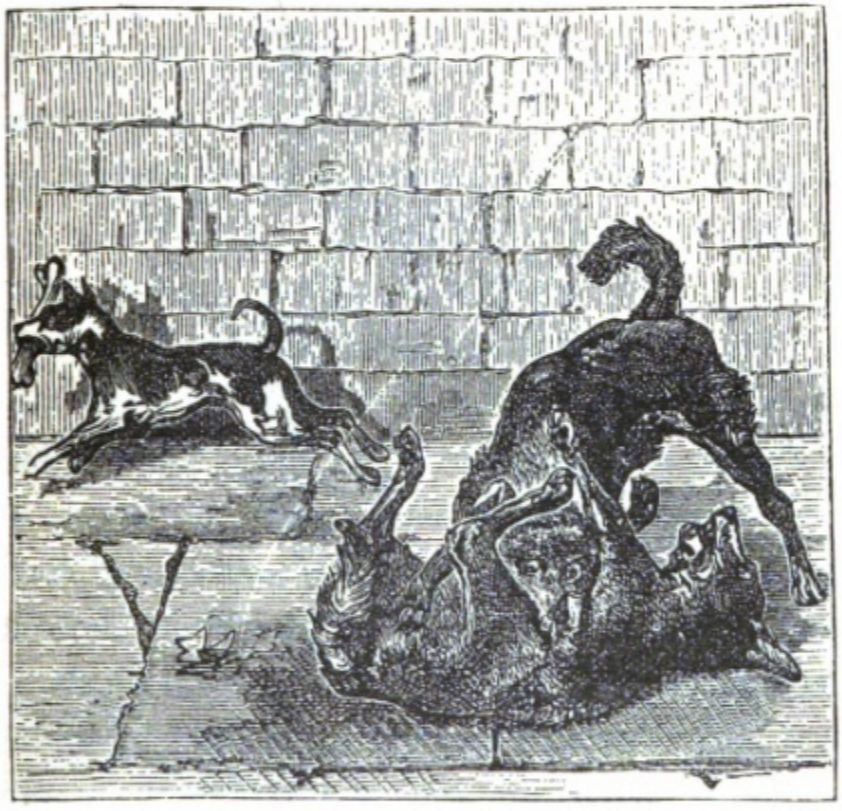
TWO DOGS FIGHT FOR A BONE, AND A THIRD RUNS AWAY WITH IT.

We have heard of the two men who quarrelled over an oyster, and called in a judge to settle the question; he ate the oysters himself, and gave them



a shell each. This reminds me of the story of the cow which two farmers could not agree about, and so the lawyers stepped in and milked the cow for them, and charged them for their trouble in drinking the milk. Little is got by law, but much is

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STICK TO IT AND DO IT.

SET a stout heart to a stiff hill, and the wagon will get to the top of it. There's nothing so hard but a harder thing will get through it; a strong job can be managed by a strong resolution. Have at

it and have it. Stick to it and succeed. Till a thing is done men wonder that you think it can be done, and when you have done it they wonder it was never done before.

In my picture the wagon is drawn by two horses;

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AN OLD FOX IS SHY OF A TRAP.

THE old fox knows the trap of old. You don't catch him so easily as you would a cub. He looks sharp at the sharp teeth, and seems to say,

"Hollo, my old chap,
I spy out your trap.
To-day, will you fetch me?
Or wait till you catch me?"

The cat asked the mice to supper, but only the young ones would come to the feast, and they never went home again. "Will you walk into my parlor?"

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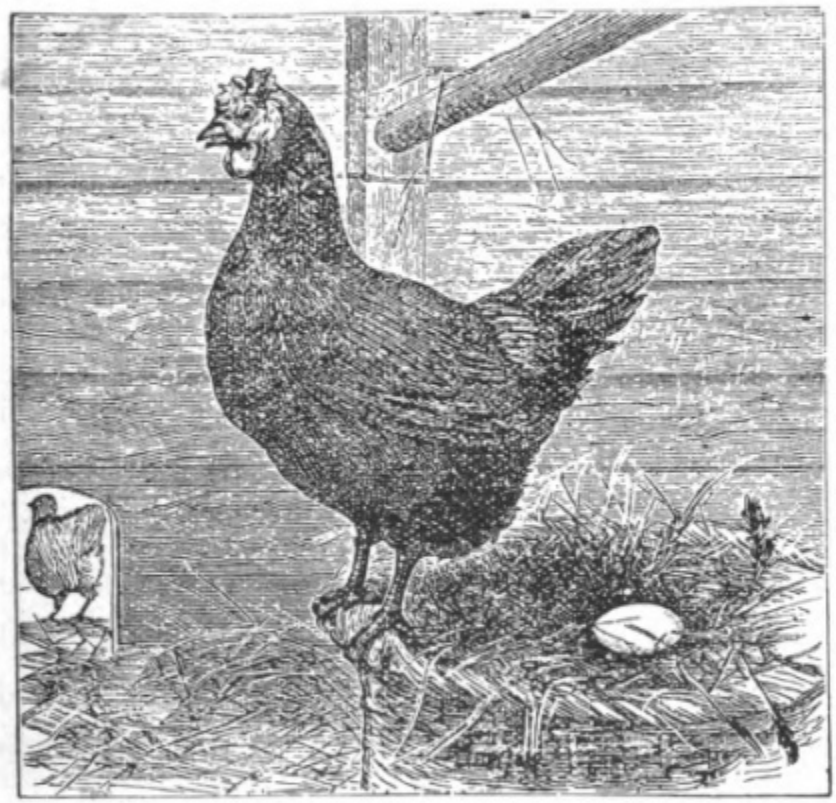
A BLACK HEN LAYS A WHITE EGG.

THE egg is white enough, though the hen is black as a coal. This is a very simple thing, but it has pleased the simple mind of John Ploughman, and made him cheer up when things have gone



hard with him. Out of evil comes good, through the great goodness of God. From threatening clouds we get refreshing showers; in dark mines men find bright jewels, and so from our worst troubles come our best blessings. The bitter cold

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HE LOOKS ONE WAY AND PULLS ANOTHER.

He faces the shore, but he is pulling for the ship. This is the way of those who row in boats, and also of a great many who never trust themselves on the

water. The boatman is all right, but the hypocrite is all wrong, whatever rites he may practice. I cannot endure Mr. Facing-both-ways, yet he has swarms of cousins.

It is ill to be a saint without and a devil within,

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FOOLS SET STOOLS FOR WISE MEN TO STUMBLE OVER.

THIS is what they call "a lark." Fools set stools for wise men to stumble over. To ask questions is as easy as kissing your hand; to answer them is as

hard as fattening a greyhound. Any fool can throw a stone into a well, and the cleverest man in the parish may never be able to get it up again. Folly grows in all countries, and fools are all the world over, as he said who shod the goose. Silly

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A MAN IN A PASSION RIDES A HORSE THAT RUNS AWAY WITH HIM.

WHEN passion has run away with a man, who knows where it may carry him? Once let a rider lose power over his horse, and he may go over

hedge and ditch, and end in a tumble into the stone-quarry and a broken neck. No one can tell in cold blood what he may do when he gets angry; therefore it is best to run no risks. Those who feel their temper rising will be wise if they rise them-

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SCATTER AND INCREASE.

PEOPLE will not believe it, and yet it is true as the gospel, that giving leads to thriving. John Bunyan said :

"There was a man, and some did count him mad,
The more he gave away the more he had."

He had an old saying to back him, one which is as old as the hills, and as good as gold :

"Give and spend
And God will send."

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HE WOULD PUT HIS FINGER IN THE PIE, AND SO HE BURNED HIS NAIL OFF.

SOME men must have a finger in every pie, or, as the proverb hath it, "their oar must be in every man's boat." They seem to have no business

except to poke their noses into other people's business; they ought to have snub noses, for they are pretty sure to be snubbed. Prying and spying, peddling and meddling, these folks are in every-

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A LEAKING TAP IS A GREAT WASTER.

A LEAKING tap is a great waster. Drop by drop, by day and by night, the liquor runs away, and the housewife wonders how so much can have gone. This is the fashion in which many laboring

men are kept poor. They don't take care of the pence, and so they have no pounds to put in the bank. You cannot fill the rain-water butt if you do not catch the drops. A sixpence here and a shilling there, and his purse is empty before a

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BIRTHPLACE OF C. H. SPURGEON, KELVEDON, ESSEX.

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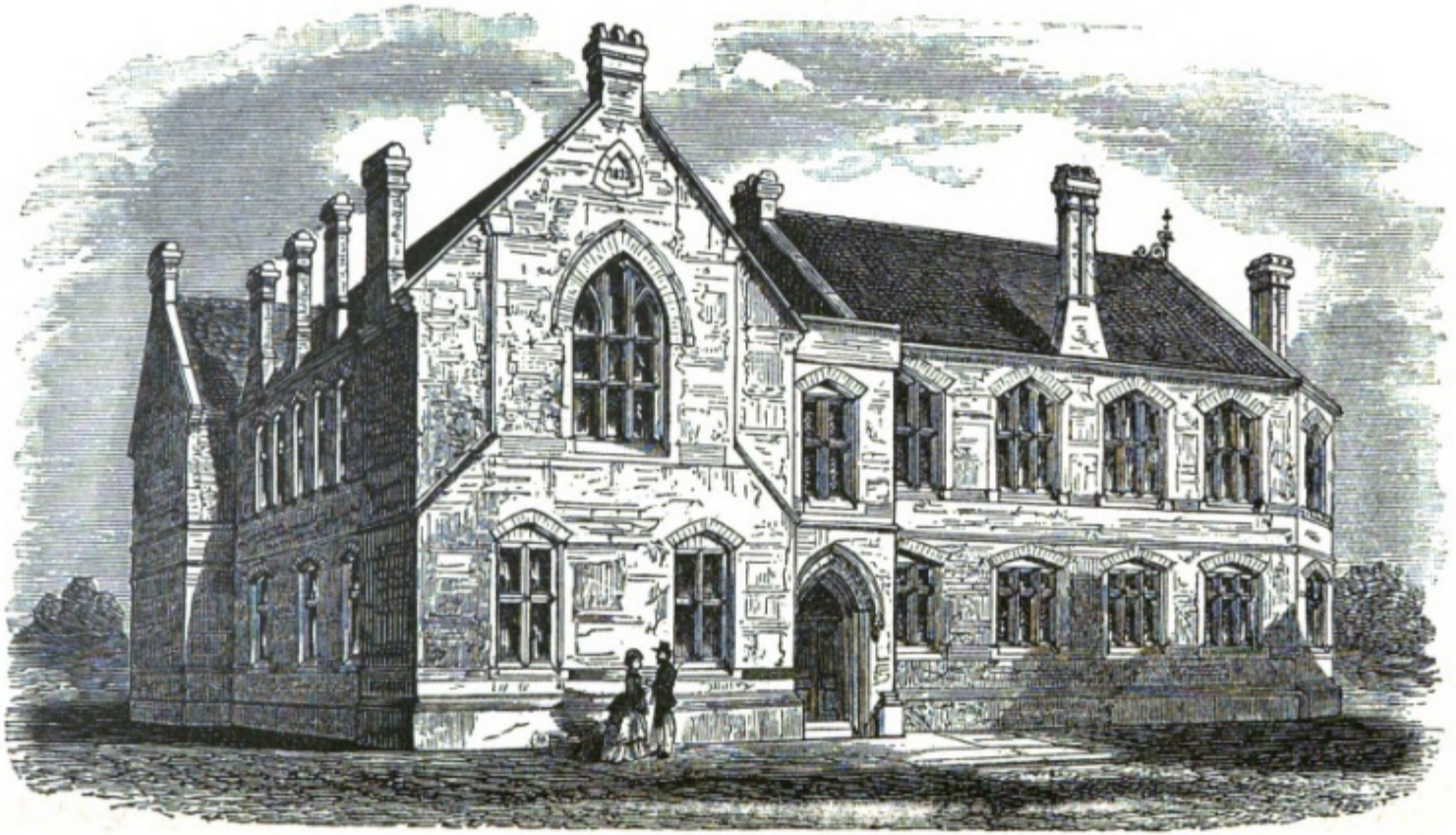

THE PASTORS' COLLEGE.

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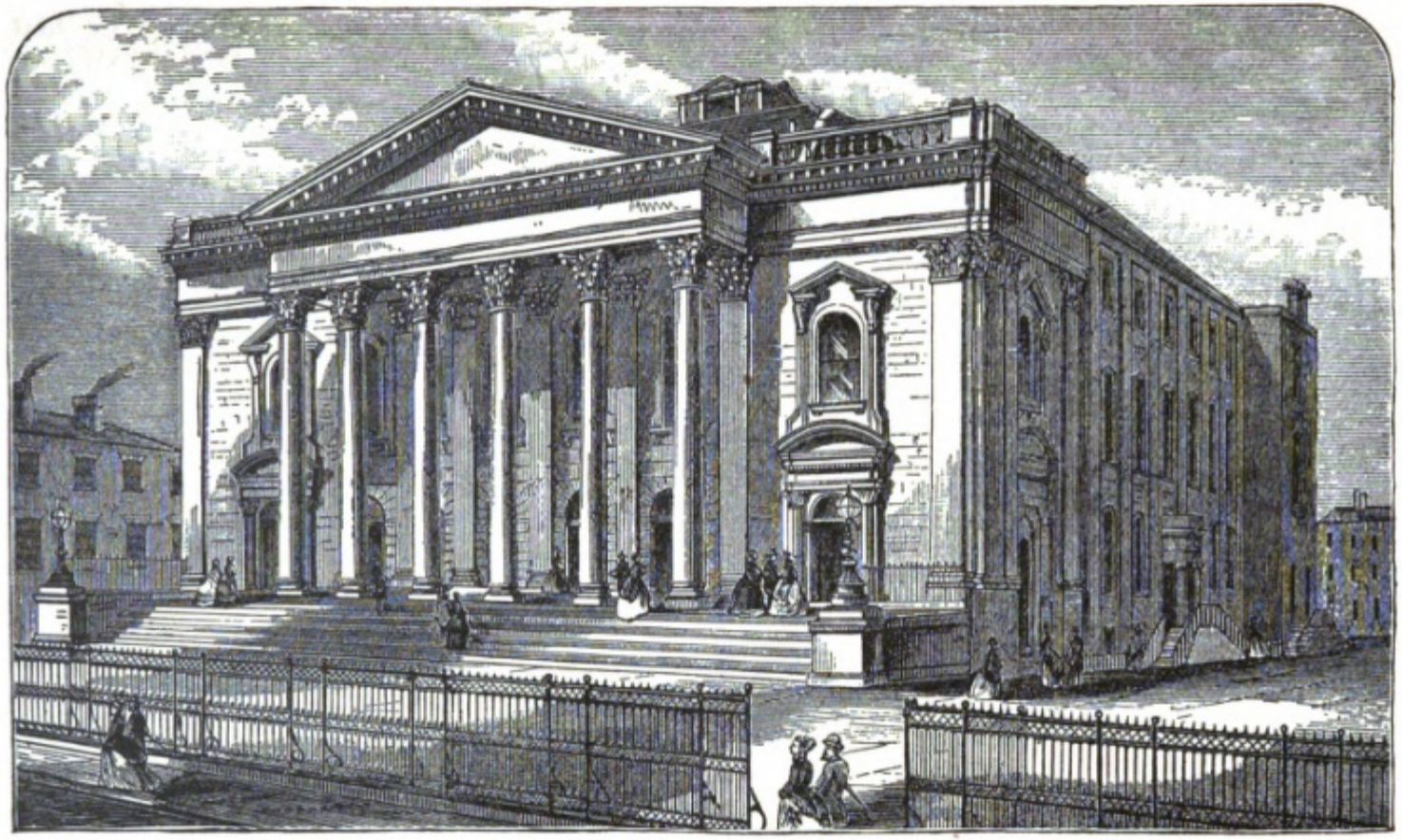

THE METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE.

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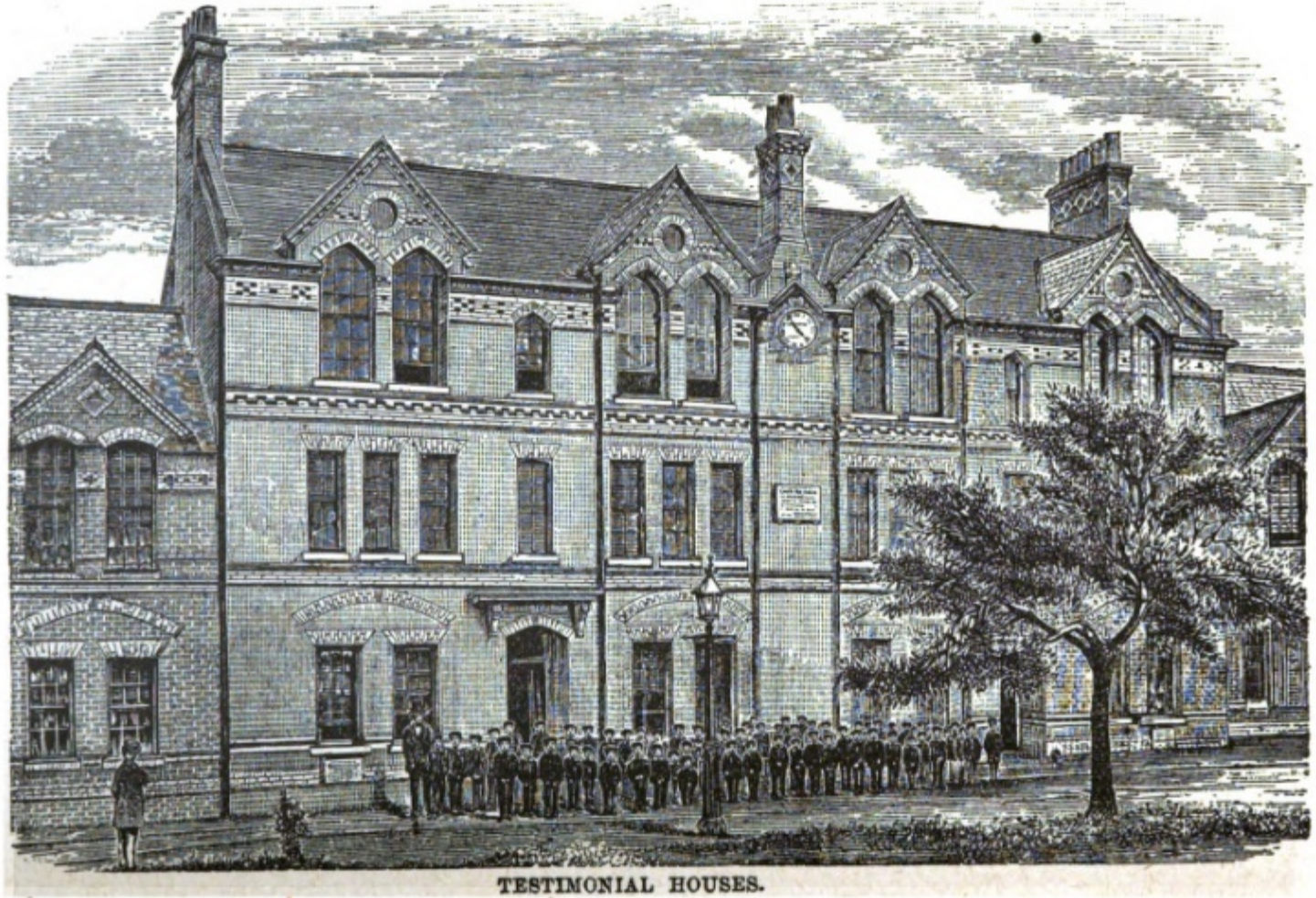

TESTIMONIAL HOUSES.

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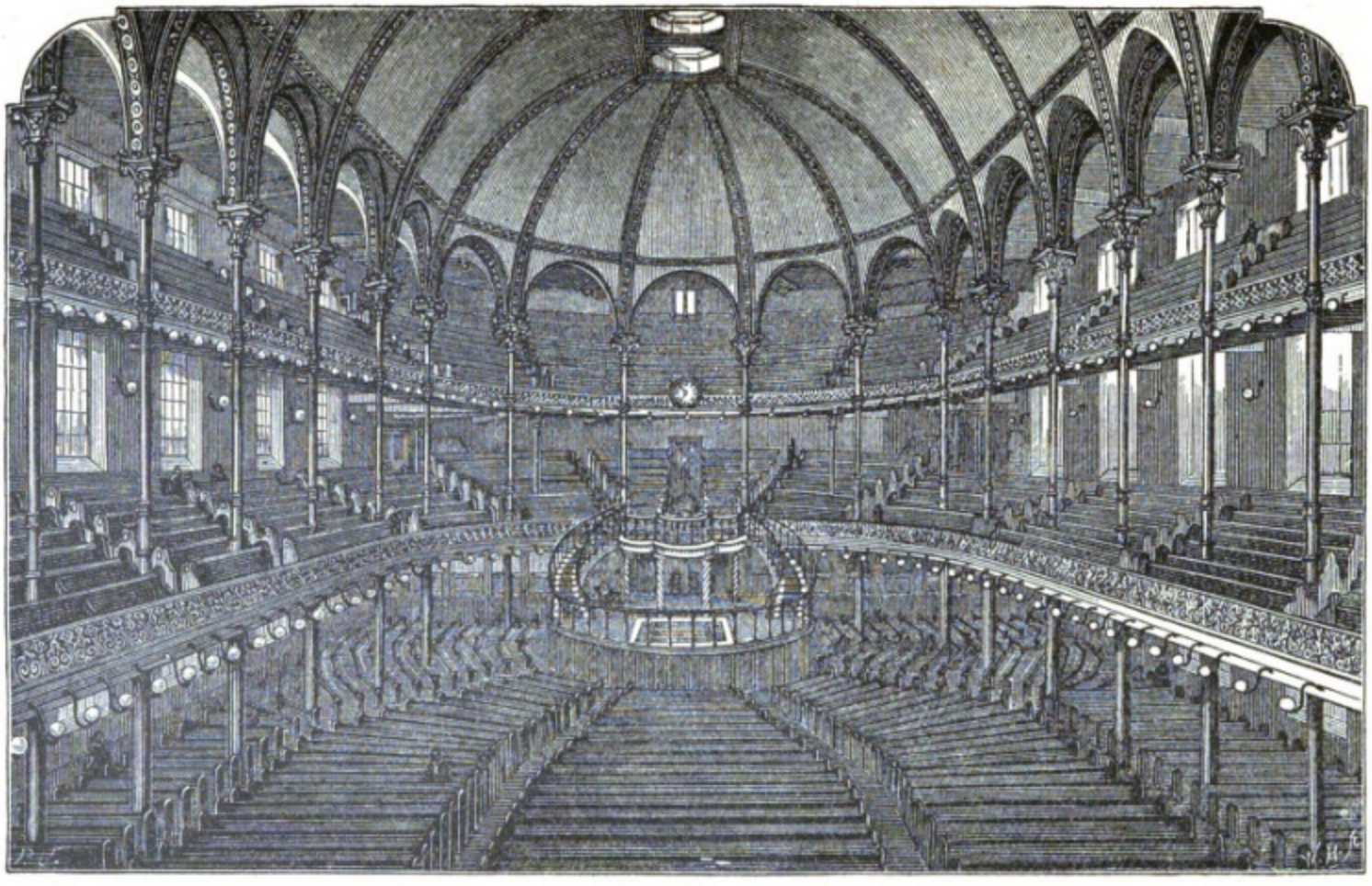

INTERIOR OF METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE.

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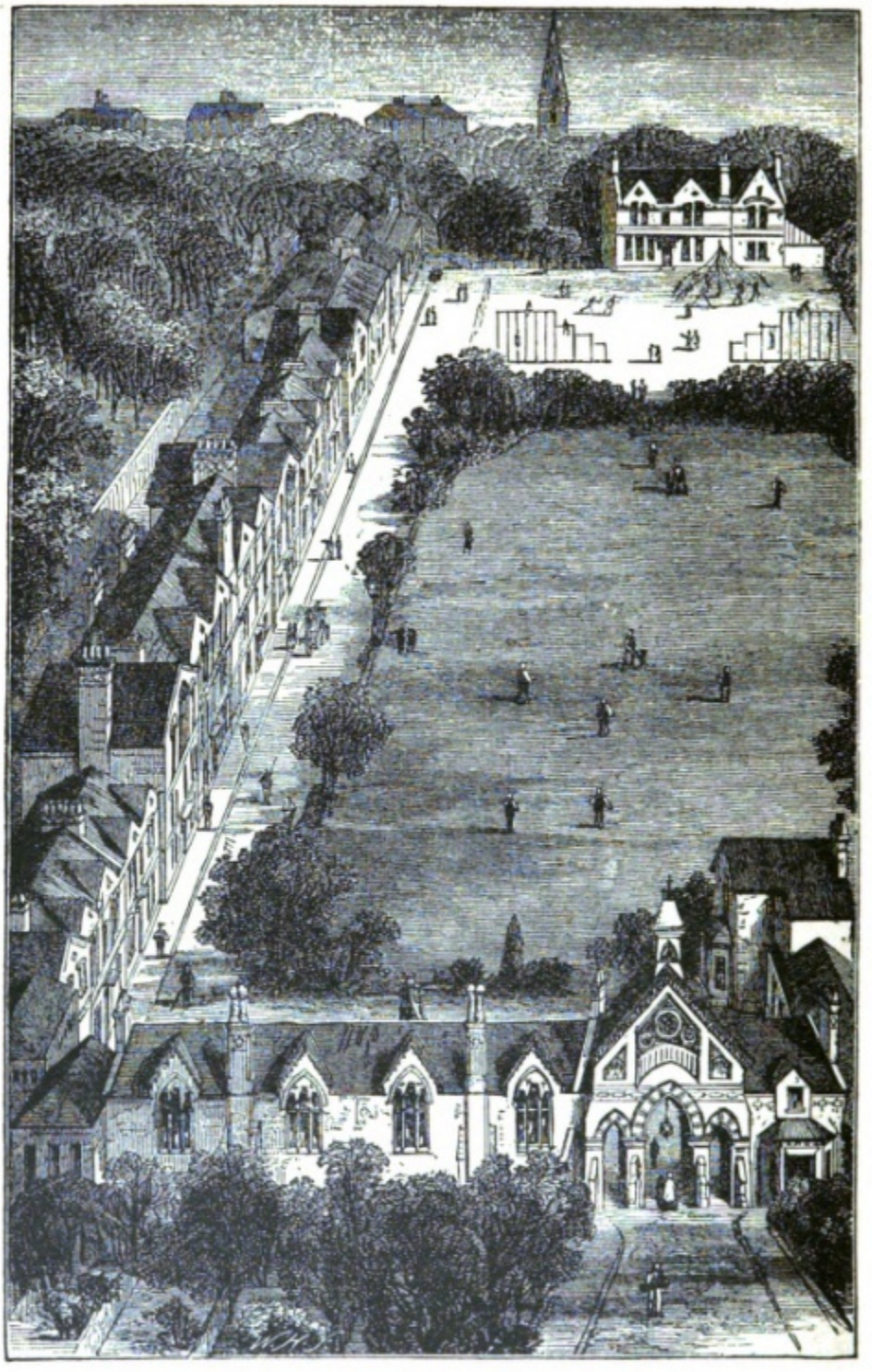

THE STOCKWELL ORPHANAGE.

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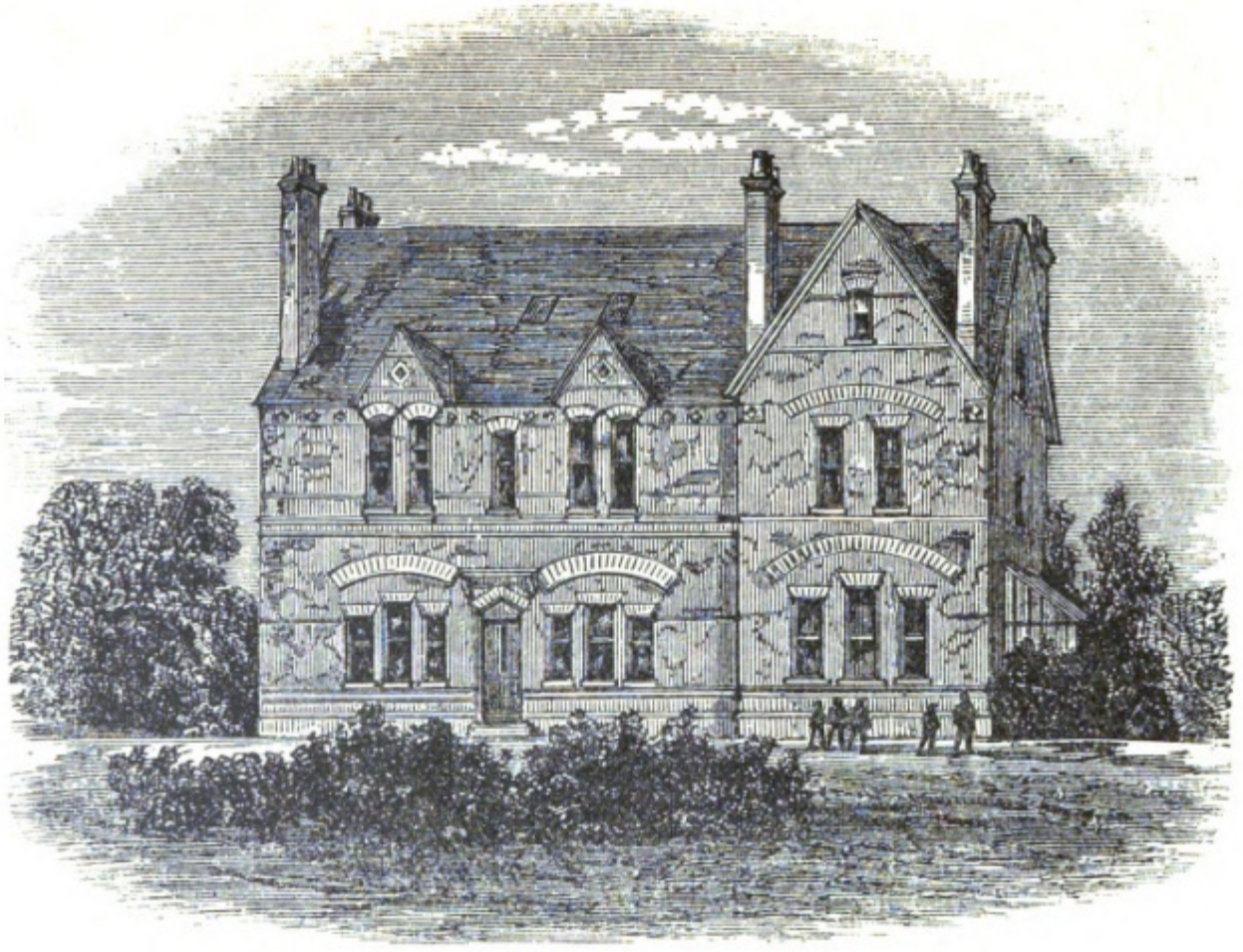

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COTTAGE AT TEVERSHAM, WHERE MR. SPURGEON FIRST PREACHED.

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