

## Introduction

This collection provides sermons and theological lectures of this American Congregational minister, antislavery advocate, and professor of theology and church history at the Yale Divinity School. Leonard Bacon graduated from Yale in 1820, attended Andover Theological Seminary, then became minister to the First Church of New Haven, Connecticut, where he served from 1825 to 1866. An early antislavery leader, Bacon organized a society aimed at improving the lives of New Haven Negroes. He was founder and editor of the free-soil paper, the *Independent*. In addition, he served as editor of the *Christian Spectator* and the *New Englander* and wrote *The Genesis of the New England Churches*, published in 1974. At Yale Divinity School, he was acting professor of revealed theology (1866-1871) and lecturer on church polity and American church history (1871-1881).