## A MANUAL OF PRAYER: DESIGNED TO ASSIST YOUNG CHRISTIANS IN LEARNING THE SUBJECTS AND MODES OF DEVOTION. WITH AN INTRODUCTION, PP. 13-256

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A manual of prayer: designed to assist young christians in learning the subjects and modes of devotion. With an introduction, pp. 13-256 by A. Barnes

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# **A. BARNES**

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY REV. A. BARNES.

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TO

### WILLIAM B. TAPPAN,

#### TO WHOSE DEVOTIONAL POETRY

THE CHURCH OF GOD

HAS BEEN GREATLY INDEBTED,

AND AT WHOSE BEQUEST

THE FOLLOWING WORK ON PRAYER

WAS UNDERTAKEN ;

IT IS NOW AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED, BY

THE AUTHOR.

(i)

## INTRODUCTION.

The following work on Prayer was submitted to me in manuscript by the Author for my perusal, before it was committed to the press. It may be proper to state that the Author is a layman, and that the work has been prepared amidst the duties of a laborious calling, demanding necessarily nearly the entire hours of the day. This work has been written during the intervals which could be secured from active duties; and by practising much self-denial. It may be proper, also, further to state, that this is the first appearance of the Author before the public as the writer of a book; and on this account, he has felt reluctant that his name should be at present known to the public.

I have examined the work in manuscript, and as it has passed through the press, with deep and growing interest, and with increasingly augmented convictions of its utility, and of the ability with which it is written. Some of the characteristics of the work, I think, will be found to be the following.

1. It is designed to be an *outline* of the subjects of prayer. It is not intended to be used as a form of devotion; but to contain the leading sentiments on the various topics of prayer, which it might be desirable to employ. It had its origin in the Author's own sense of the need of such a work when he became a professor of religion. In his private devotions, as well as in his public prayers, he deeply felt then the desirableness of some such manual that would suggest the appropriate language, and the appropriate trains of thought on the various topics of prayer. This deeply-felt necessity in his own case, suggested to him the idea that such a work might be demanded also by the embarrassments of others. It was supposed by him-as is undoubtedly the casethat many others may have similar difficulties when they at first make a profession of religion; and that they would be materially benefited by some such aid as this volume is designed to furnish-Probably in all our churches there are many, particularly among the young, who experience much embarrassment when called to offer prayer in public,

and who would be materially aided by some such work as this, suggesting the appropriate language, and appropriate Scripture passages on the various topics of prayer.—There is no work, it is believed, which meets this deficiency; or which will serve to relieve the embarrassment which is so often felt. Unless I am deceived, this work will, therefore, occupy a place which is filled by no other, and will be found to be a very material aid, particularly to the younger members of the churches.

2. The style is uncommonly pure, simple, chaste, and remarkably adapted to the subjects. It abounds with Scripture phrases and with passages happily introduced and pertinent to the subject. It is elegant and finished, without any improper attempt at ornament, and yet with as much ornament as is proper in public prayer. It is always serious and solemn ; always breathes a spirit of true devotion ; and such as will express the feelings of elevated piety in an address to God. It is such as would be prompted by a well disciplined mind, a cultivated intellect, and a pure heart ; a spirit chaste, and refined, and impressed with a sense of the divine presence, and of the importance of the service of prayer, when deeply