THE HOME OF BETHANY: OR, CHRIST REVEALED AS THE TEACHER AND COMFORTER OF HIS PEOPLE

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The Home of Bethany: Or, Christ Revealed as the Teacher and Comforter of His People by George Everard

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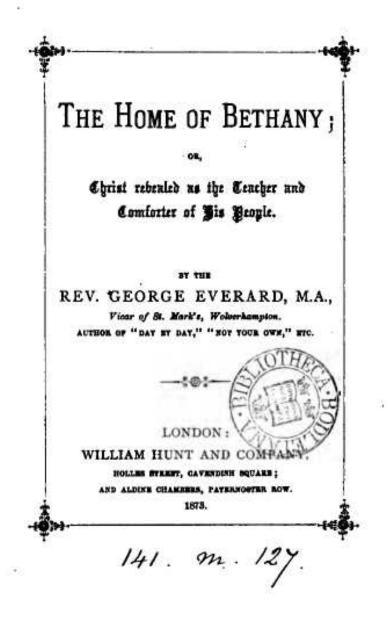
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GEORGE EVERARD

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с	ONT	ENT	s.		
		•			
					PAGE
THE SISTERS				•	7
THE DARK CLOU	D	•			- 25
Love's Delay, an	D THE	JOURNE	Y TO	JUDÆ	41
THE MASTER IS COME					55
AROUND THE TOP	мв	ŧ.	•	33	- 70
THE MIGHTY VOICE				20	86
THE FAMILY RE-U	INITED		343	5	102

 $\left\{ \cdot \right\}$ 19

121

\$ 8 G *

The Home of Bethany.

I.

THE SISTERS.

oLV SCRIPTURE is a tree of life, and every part of it, every branch, every twig, yea, every leaf, is full of healing virtue.

How true is this of the story of Bethany! In itself it is a very Gospel of grace and love. To Christian hearts it has a peculiar charm. It tells of a family every member of which was dear to Jesus. It tells of a home where was found true, deep, genuine piety. We see the sisters when all was well with them. We see them again when a heavy burden of grief was crushing them to the

THE HOME OF BETHANY.

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8

ground. We see the tender, loving Saviour with them as a willing Guest, sharing their hospitality, and speaking to them in words of heavenly wisdom. We see Him again with them as a Divine Comforter, fulfilling His office to heal the mourner and to bind up the broken-hearted.

If ever there was a home where the ark of God dwelt, it was in this home. Here Christ was honoured, and His word was received into meek and obedient hearts. A deep well-spring of love toward the Saviour dwelt in each breast, and in Christ's heart there was a well of love for Martha, Mary, and Lazarus.

Let us go in spirit and visit that home. Let us go and learn its precious lessons. Let us go and listen to the words of the sisters and the words of the Saviour. Let us discover, if we can, the secret of true peace in our ordinary every-day life, and the secret of hope and strength and consolation when sorrow befalls us. Would that in every

THE SISTERS.

9

household to which this book may come, there might be felt something of the spirit that dwelt in the home of Bethany !

It has been remarked that the beloved Apostle gives a description of Bethany which is worthy of notice. If another writer had described it, he would probably have told something of its position,—of its being a suburb of Jerusalem where some of its wealthy inhabitants had their abode; but John speaks of it, under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, as "the town of Mary and her sister Martha."

Ah, God values not a town or village for its beauty, for its salubrity, for its wealth; but for those who dwell there in His fear and love. Doubtless many a spot, little esteemed amongst men, is dear to God, because His eye beholds there humble loving souls, to whom the name of the Redeemer is precious. It may be the quiet hamlet, far removed from busy mart and town; it may be the street or the court where noise and smoke,

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