

**SYMPATHY; OR,
WORDS FOR THE WEAK
AND THE WEARY**

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Sympathy; Or, Words for the Weak and the Weary by David A. Doudney

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DAVID A. DOUDNEY

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SYMPATHY ;

OR,

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BY

THE REV. DAVID A. DOUDNEY,

INCUMBENT OF ST. LUKE'S, REDDINGHAM, BRISTOL ;

AUTHOR OF "HEART-BREATHINGS," "MUSINGS," "SONGS IN THE DESERT,"
ETC., ETC.

LONDON :

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1862.

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TO THE
SURVIVING SISTER
OF
ONE OF HIS FIRST CORRESPONDENTS IN CONNEXION WITH
THE "GOSPEL MAGAZINE,"
TO WHOSE MEMORY HE OWES A DEBT
OF DEEPEST GRATITUDE,
FOR
HER GENEROUS KINDNESS AND MOST PRACTICAL SYMPATHY,
THIS WORK IS,
WITH GREAT RESPECT AND REGARD,
DEDICATED BY
THE AUTHOR.

NOTE.

The newly-formed Parish of St. Luke's, Bedminster, is greatly inconvenienced through the want of Schools. The children at present assemble in merely hired rooms, at an expensive rental. It is intended, therefore, as soon as funds can be raised, to erect a plain but commodious building for the accommodation of some six hundred children. The entire produce of the First Edition of this work (after payment of paper and print), will be given to the Building Fund.

Introduction.

"The generous heart
Should scorn a pleasure which gives others pain."
THOMSON.

ONE of the most glowing descriptions of the character of the coming Messiah was that given by the Prophet Isaiah, seven hundred years before the actual incarnation of Christ. Personating the Lord Jesus, he says, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek: He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." The Holy Ghost, upwards of sixty years after the birth of the babe of Bethlehem, testifies by

the mouth of the Apostle to the great fact, that, "We have not an high-priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities ; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Moreover, in an earlier part of the same epistle to the Hebrews, He declares that "in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High-priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted." Furthermore, it is stated in the same epistle, that "though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered."

Here, then, we have not only a key to the very heart of our adorable Jehovah-Jesus, but an opening out of the groundwork of what may be termed that practical, experimental sympathy which He was wont to exhibit in the days of His flesh ; and which now, though exalted to His throne in glory, He retains and cherishes towards every member of that mystical body of which He is the ever-living and glorious Head.

It pleased God, in His good Providence, two-and-twenty years ago, to call the writer of this work to the conducting of a religious periodical, which has now been in existence within four years of a century. During those two-and-twenty years, he has been permitted, in the

opening paper of that periodical, to express the exercises of his own mind ; yea, these papers have been the simple utterances of a heart oftentimes crushed and broken under that almost endless variety of discipline to which it pleased Him who is infinite in wisdom as well as boundless in love, to subject it. To these simple and unconstrained heart-breathings, the writer has met the most pleasing and grateful replies ; insomuch that he has not only discovered the truth of the Divine testimony, that, "as in water face answereth to face, so doth the heart of man to man ;" but he has enjoyed, even in this vale of tears, the communion of saints, and has had thereby many a sweet foretaste of what will be the eternal and uninterrupted enjoyment of "the general assembly and Church of the first-born, whose names are written in heaven," when time and its trials and temptations shall for ever and ever have passed away, and God Himself shall wipe away all tears from off all faces.

Very, very many of those with whom the writer has thus had fellowship have since passed away ; and, as the contents of the following pages were penned nearly twenty years since, and appeared, as already stated, at various times, it has been thought desirable to collect and publish them in the present portable form. In doing this, the writer has fallen in with the oft-expressed wish of many of his correspondents.

It now only remains for him to commit these pages to

the gracious guidance, and to solicit upon them the covenant blessing of Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. May they serve to cheer, and encourage, and strengthen the hearts and hands of many a weary pilgrim Christward—heavenward—and homeward.

REDMINSTER, BRISTOL,

June 2, 1862.