

**SUNDAY LESSONS  
FOR  
LITTLE CHILDREN**

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Sunday lessons for little children by Louisa Mary Barwell

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**LOUISA MARY BARWELL**

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# SUNDAY LESSONS

FOR

## LITTLE CHILDREN.

BY MRS. BARWELL,

AUTHOR OF

"LITTLE LESSONS FOR LITTLE LEARNERS."

&c. &c.

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## P R E F A C E.

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IN undertaking the following work, I have been fully impressed with the importance of my task, and have been stimulated to the endeavour to overcome the difficulties it presented, solely by the desire of aiding in the advancement of early education. I am quite aware of the difference of opinion respecting how much, or how little, should be known to children on religious subjects. To those who consider that little should be known during the period of extreme youth, I will only urge that, on such a subject, it is difficult to fix the limits of information;



and I would ask, whether it be not desirable that that little should be understood, and conveyed in language suited to the comprehension of a child? Upon this point, as upon all others connected with education, the *end* should first be well considered; the necessary *means* may then be adopted with a greater certainty of ultimate success.

Children are much more observant than they are generally supposed to be. They are taken to Church when very young, to habituate them to the conduct necessary in a place of worship. They hear language which becomes familiar to them, and to which they affix their own meaning. Words which should only be associated with reverential and respectful feelings, present no ideas but those which a childish imagination has formed for itself. It has been questioned

whether it were not better to keep children in ignorance upon all religious topics, until their reason and understandings be in some degree formed; this, however, all experience has proved to be impossible; and surely it is better to furnish them with just notions, than to leave them to their own imaginings, and to the chance information they may occasionally acquire. Perhaps it may be said, that every mother is able to inform her own children as far as is right and necessary. To this I must reply by asking, Is it done? Have all mothers fitting opportunity? do they avail themselves of those they possess? and have they sufficiently attended to the subject of education to instruct them at all? How many children are there whose early notions of religion are imbibed from an ignorant, unprincipled, or fanatical nursery maid? If early habits are influential in after life, why should

sensible person will therefore present only what is suited to the mind they wish to inform. There are already many excellent religious books for young folks. I do not pretend or presume to supersede these works by the present publication: I have only endeavoured to adapt the language to the powers and comprehension of young children, and to place the importance of religion before them in a form suited to a youthful understanding. I have endeavoured to shew the value, beauty, and necessity of piety, stripped of the fanatical terrors which a childish imagination is apt to imbibe; while at the same time I have sought to preserve all the awe and reverence which belong to the subject.

LOUISA MARY BARWELL.