

SERMONS FROM A SICK-ROOM

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649499045

Sermons from a Sick-Room by Alexander Mackennal

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ALEXANDER MACKENNA

**SERMONS FROM
A SICK-ROOM**

SERMONS
FROM A SICK-ROOM.

BY

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MANCHESTER:

BROOK AND CHRYSTAL, 11, MARKET STREET.

LONDON:

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & CO., STATIONERS' HALL COURT.

HAMILTON, ADAMS & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW.

1888.

TO MY WIFE

WHOSE TENDERNESS AND SKILL
LIGHTENED THE BURDEN OF PAIN
AND WHOSE PRESENCE
HELPED TO MAKE THE SICK-ROOM
A CHAMBER OF BENEDICTION
THIS LITTLE BOOK IS DEDICATED.

Methought the Master said—"Come, rest awhile!"
And I prepared to follow. Visions rose
Of sweeps of sand stretch'd in profound repose,
Of palm trees beck'ning to some desert isle,
Of crumbling temples on the shore of Nile;
A bald-topp'd hill without a city gate,
The garden hallow'd by the Saviour's strait,
And the lov'd lake that's haunted by His smile.
He gave me rest: a length of desert days,
Wherein He said—"Lie still, my child, and bear."
Glimpses I caught of Truth's majestic fane.
Fair forms of saints, alive and dead, were there.
He led my weary feet in quiet ways,
By streams that glad the Holy Land of Pain.

PREFATORY NOTE.

—o—

EIGHT of these sermons were actually written in the sick-room; the first seven to be read by the deacons of the Bowdon Downs Congregational Church at Wednesday evening services; the last was preached by the author, on resuming his ministry, on the first Sunday of 1881. When their publication was originally suggested, they seemed too autobiographic to be laid before a larger audience than the congregation for whom they were prepared. Time has, however, by obscuring the personal incident of their preparation, removed this feeling of hesitancy; and they are sent out in the earnest hope that they may be of service to some who are in the seclusion of sickness or sorrow. The remaining four sermons were written under the influence of sympathy with others' sufferings; the sick-rooms, out of which the author came to write them, have risen before his memory while transcribing them for the press.

BOWDON,

Nov. 8th, 1887.

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