

# **SOME PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE**

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Some principles and practices of the spiritual life by B. W. Maturin

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**B. W. MATURIN**

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THE SPIRITUAL LIFE**





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PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES  
OF  
**The Spiritual Life**

BY

B. W. MATURIN

MISSION PRIEST OF THE SOCIETY OF S. JOHN THE EVANGELIST  
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TO THE CONGREGATION OF  
ST CLEMENT'S, PHILADELPHIA, U.S.A.  
IN MEMORY OF  
TEN HAPPY YEARS' MINISTRY  
AND MANY KINDNESSES RECEIVED FROM THEM  
THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED



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I.

*THE CHRISTIAN AIM.*

BESIDES the general effort which every Christian must make to do what is right and to keep from what is wrong, it is important that he should have some special and definite aim which will help to keep him from dissipating his strength. The end of the Christian life is, of course, *holiness*, but holiness is rather an indefinite thing to beginners, and it may manifest itself in many forms. And those who would attain to holiness

must begin as they are, with their many sins and imperfections and ignorances, and work on towards an end that becomes clearer as they advance, and yet ever more difficult of attainment. Indeed, they have to work towards an end which at first they cannot see, for only as the eye of the soul becomes purified does it get to see clearly what holiness means, and how imperfect were its first conceptions of it. It is a good thing, therefore, to concentrate our efforts, to be definite in our aim, to set before ourselves clearly some one purpose, some special virtue to strive after, upon the attainment of which we shall have advanced considerably towards holiness of life.

Now there are two kinds of virtues which we may seek after : there are particular virtues which may counteract certain specific evil tendencies of the soul, and help to overcome individual sins ; and the acquirement of these virtues is,