HOME DUTIES FOR WIVES AND MOTHERS, ILLUSTRATED BY WOMEN OF SCRIPTURE

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Home Duties for Wives and Mothers, Illustrated by Women of Scripture by Mrs. Donaldson

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MRS. DONALDSON

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ILLUSTRATED BY

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MRS. DONALDSON.

(St. Stephen's Vicarage, Spitalfields.)

Whith Introduction by
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INTRODUCTION.

THE astonishingly rapid rise and progress of "Mothers' Meetings" is in itself sufficient evidence of their value. The older among us can remember the time when they were unknown, and now a large parish without a "Mothers' Meeting" is quite a rarity. It is seldom that some kind lady cannot be found ready, for the love of Christ, to gather together her poorer neighbours, and to read or talk to them as they sit at their needle-work. And thus it comes to pass, that one is continually being asked to recommend some book of simple instruction, and yet of sufficient interest, to read to a Mothers' Meeting. And suitable books are somewhat scarce. I was glad, therefore, to find that the wife of a hard-working East End

Curate had not only written a number of addresses upon the female characters in the Bible for reading to her "Mothers' Meeting," but that she was also encouraged to print them, so as to extend their usefulness to others. This little book is very simple and unpretending, which is just what one wants. Poor weary women, in such a population as that of East London, want very plain teaching, and very kind and loving words. And such the writer of this little book has sought to give them. I can only trust the readings will be as much appreciated by others as by the mothers of St. Stephen's, Spitalfields, and may be blest to many by giving them new and deeper interest in the manifold lessons to be gathered from the study of the lives and characters set before us in God's Holy Word.

WM. WALSHAM BEDFORD.

(Bishop Suffragan for East London.)

PREFACE.

I PUT these addresses, into print with the sincere trust that the great Head of the Church may bless the reading of them to many souls.

Being myself a wife and mother, I have ventured to address the mothers who assemble in large numbers every week in the School Room connected with this large but very poor Parish, on some of the duties of wives and mothers.

Living, as I do, in the midst of those to whom I have spoken, and going in and out among them from time to time, I think I have had ample opportunity of knowing much of their outward characters and habits of life; and I have become more and more convinced of the solemn responsibilities of parents, and more especially of the influence a mother has for good or for evil over her family. If her own heart be changed, and the value of the immortal soul be realized, surely she will fervently yearn for the salvation of her child. In these pages I have endeavoured, by Divine help, to set before them the examples of women of old, who have had difficulties and trials, joys and sorrows, such as theirs; some of whom shone forth as bright lights, not only to be admired, but to be hopefully and patiently followed. Others, on the contrary, serve only as sad and awful examples of duty neglected, opportunities wasted, and of responsibilities abused.

Many home truths and personal applications, drawn forth by the experience of what I have seen and heard, will, I trust, be received in the same spirit of love which has prompted their