

**LIFE IN THE SICK-
ROOM. ESSAYS BY
AN INVALID**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649634057

Life in the Sick-Room. Essays by an Invalid by Harriet Martineau

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HARRIET MARTINEAU

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ESSAYS.

"Quand on se porte bien, on ne comprend pas comment on pourrait faire si on était malade; et quand on l'est, on prend médecine gaiement: le mal y résout. On n'a plus les passions et les desirs des divertissemens et des promesses, que la santé donnait, et qui sont incompatibles avec les nécessités de la maladie. La nature donne alors des passions et des desirs conformes à l'état présent. Ce ne sont que les craintes que nous nous donnons nous-mêmes, et non pas la nature, qui nous trouble; parcequ'elles joignent à l'état où nous sommes les passions de l'état où nous ne sommes pas."—PASCAL.

LIFE IN THE SICK-ROOM.

ESSAYS.

BY

AN INVALID.

Harriet Martineau

"For they breathe truth that breathe their words in pain."—SHAKESPEARE.

"The saddest birds a season find to sing."—ROBERT SOUTHWELL.

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:
EDWARD MOXON, DOVER-STREET.

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LONDON:
BRADBURY AND EVANS, PRINTERS, WHITEFRIARS.

W. W. W. W.
L. L. L. L.
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TO _____

" Passion I see is catching ; for mine eyes,
Seeing those beads of sorrow stand in thine,
Began to water."

SHAKESPEARE.

" When we our betters see bearing our woes,
We scarcely think our miseries our foes ;
Who alone suffers suffers most i' the mind,
Leaving free things and happy shows behind.
But than the mind much sufferance doth o'erskip,
When grief hath mates, and bearing fellowship."

SHAKESPEARE.

As I write this, I cannot but wonder when and how you will read it, and whether it will cause a single throb at the idea that it may be meant for you. You have been in my mind during the passage of almost all the thoughts that will be found in this book. But for your sympathy—confidently reckoned on, though never asked—I do not know that I should have had courage to mark their procession, and record their order. I have felt that if I spoke of these things at all, it must be to some fellow-sufferer—to some one