

**AN ALPHABETICAL
PSALM OF
CHRISTIAN LIFE**

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An alphabetical psalm of Christian life by Thomas Plumtre Methuen

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THOMAS PLUMPTRE METHUEN

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OF
CHRISTIAN LIFE.

BY
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PREFACE.

THE Author thinks it desirable to state that the fashion of the Poem here given to the Public, was suggested by the Alphabetical arrangement of the 119th Psalm. His readers are aware that the several portions of that wonderful effusion, so full of the Holy Ghost, have prefixed to them in our Bibles the various letters of the Hebrew Alphabet in their due order. Each of the eight verses, into which such portions are divided, begins with the letter thus printed above them.

The capacities of the English language do not admit of this enlargement. The Author was obliged to omit the letter X, as we have not a word thus commencing. The choice in the letter Z was inconveniently limited.

The advantages of this method of presenting Truth are obvious. Not only does the eye derive an instinctive pleasure from such a display of order and symmetry, thus bespeaking the heed of the mind, but the mind itself takes easy and lasting hold of the instruction so marshalled and prepared. If the Author may be pardoned the seeming vanity of the comparison, he would liken his attempt to a treasure-house, so systematically arranged, and having its contents so carefully labelled and endorsed, that the finger may be laid at once

upon each separate item of value,—things large and small, “things new and old.”

The Alphabet is a well-known basis on which such classification is built. The Author has used it here, and if his words may conduce in any degree to the instruction, refreshment, or correction of his readers in those matters which concern the soul, he will thank and praise Him from whom cometh “every good and perfect gift.” May He grant this happy result.

The figures 1, 2, 3, 4, prefixed to the Scripture references, indicate the particular line of the stanza to which such references belong.



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A

AWAKE, awake, my soul awake ;
the night is well nigh gone ;

Arouse thee from the bed of sloth,
and gird thine armour on :

Above—the banner of the Cross
unfolds a sign of might ;

Around—God's angels minister,
to nerve thee for the fight.

1 Rom. xiii. 11, 12.

2 Eph. vi. 11.

4 Heb. i. 14.