

DANGERS OF THE DAY

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Dangers of the day by John S. Vaughan

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JOHN S. VAUGHAN

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Dangers of the Day

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The Rt. Rev. John S. Vaughan

*With an Introduction by
Mgr. Canon Moyes*



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Laus Deo Semper!

INTRODUCTION

By MONSIEUR. JAMES CANON MOYES, D. D.

THE eight chapters of this book are as so many danger-signals pointing to the perils which surround us in the life of to-day. We shall act wisely if we profit by their warning, and take care not to be misled by the over-confident frame of mind by which we are sometimes silly enough to imagine that we can escape a danger simply by ignoring it.

There is, if I remember right, in the West of Ireland, a hunt, the members of which have for years ridden straight over a difficult country in the spirit of their characteristic motto, "Where there is no fear there is no danger." No doubt there is a measure of wisdom and truth in their gallant device, and all will appreciate the ideal of bravery which inspires it. The motto does not hold good in the spiritual life. There, on the contrary, it would be far more true to say that "Where there is no fear, there is every

danger." That is due to the fact that in the spiritual domain, a higher order of courage is required; and that which is needed is not the reckless courage which closes the eyes to the danger in our path, but the calm, open-eyed courage which realizes it; and, in doing so, knows how to measure and surmount it. It is not the feeling of fear, but the yielding to it, that makes the coward. Nor is it the mere absence of fear, but the subduing of it, which makes the brave man.

A certain writer describes how artillery mules, having brought their pieces into action, are often found to graze quietly on the turf, concerned only in whisking away the flies with their tails, while shot and shell are ploughing furrows in the ground all around them. The mule is not brave, but merely danger-blind. A man may be found who, without any motive to compensate the risk, will balance himself on the edge of a precipice, or pirouette upon the summit of a chimney-stack. The man is not brave: he is merely stupid.

In moments of self-examination, when the light is more fully turned on, we may discover that there is a fair measure of