

THE JOYFUL LIFE

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The joyful life by Margaret E. Sangster

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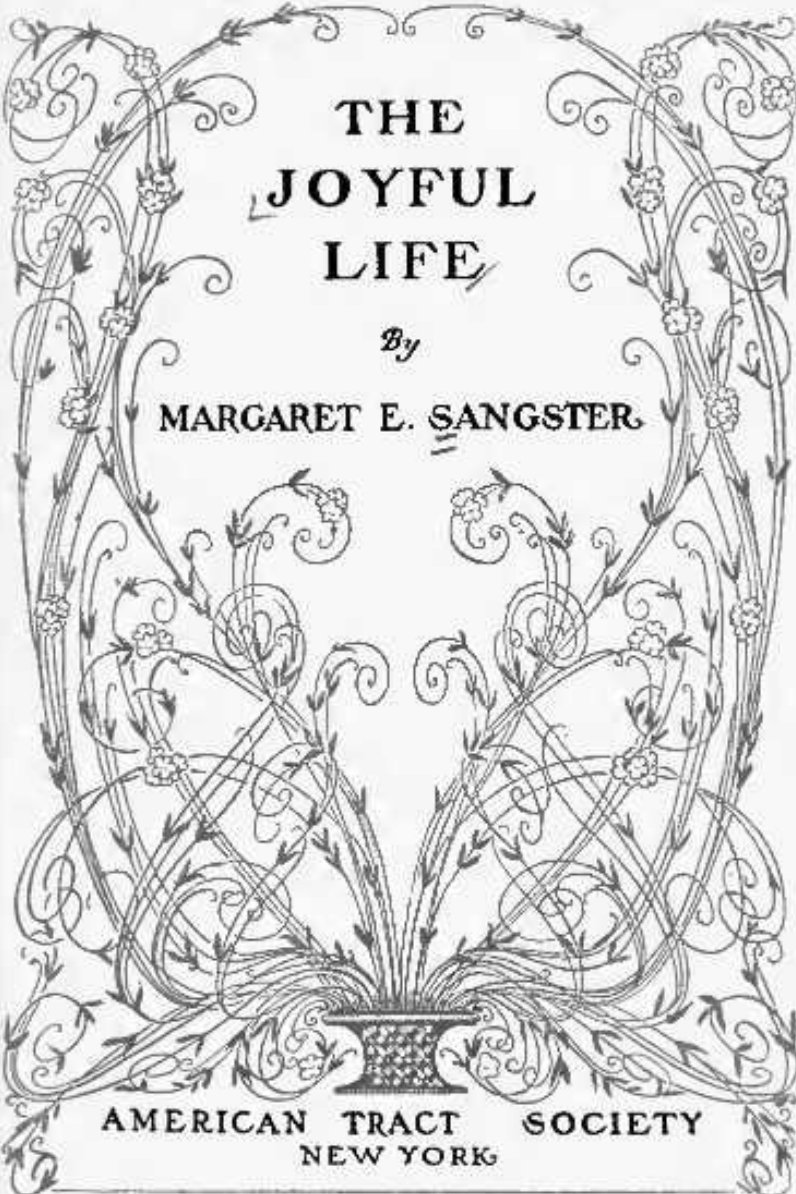
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MARGARET E. SANGSTER

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A highly detailed Art Nouveau style decorative border surrounds the text. It features intricate, symmetrical scrollwork, floral motifs, and a central vase-like base from which the design appears to grow. The border is composed of fine lines and small floral elements, creating a delicate and ornate frame.

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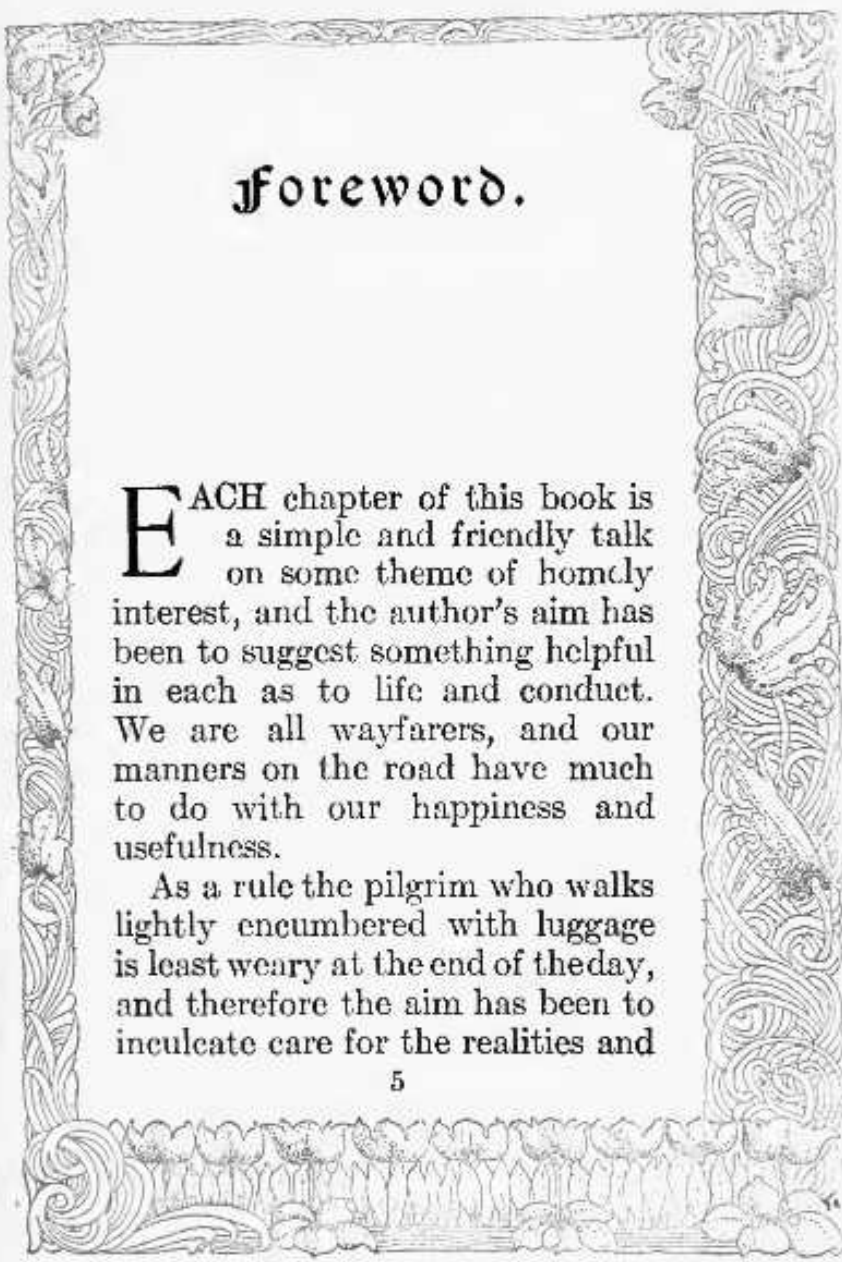
**AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY
NEW YORK**

174



CONTENTS

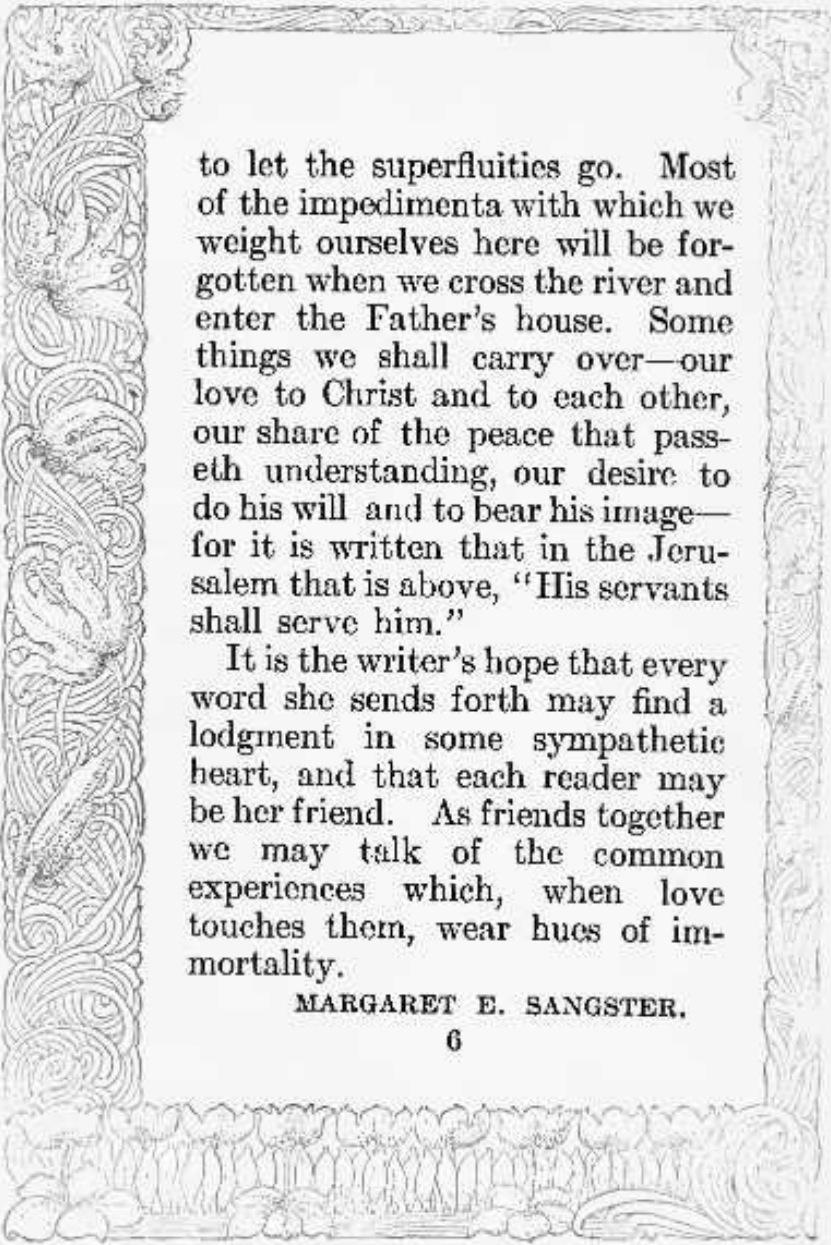
	PAGE.
FOREWORD	5
I. THE JOYFUL LIFE.....	7
II. MOULDING INFLUENCES	23
III. THE CHRISTIAN WOMAN'S OPPOR- TUNITY.....	41
IV. THE VACATION MONTH.....	59
V. NEARNESS TO GOD	79
VI. CHRISTMAS HOLLY.	97
VII. LIFE'S UPS AND DOWNS.....	113
VIII. A NEW YEAR MEDITATION.....	131
IX. INCOMPATIBILITY.	149
X. AFTER-EASTER MUSINGS.....	167
XI. WHEN MOTHER IS BLUE.....	183
XII. REVERENCE.....	201



foreword.

EACH chapter of this book is a simple and friendly talk on some theme of homely interest, and the author's aim has been to suggest something helpful in each as to life and conduct. We are all wayfarers, and our manners on the road have much to do with our happiness and usefulness.


As a rule the pilgrim who walks lightly encumbered with luggage is least weary at the end of the day, and therefore the aim has been to inculcate care for the realities and



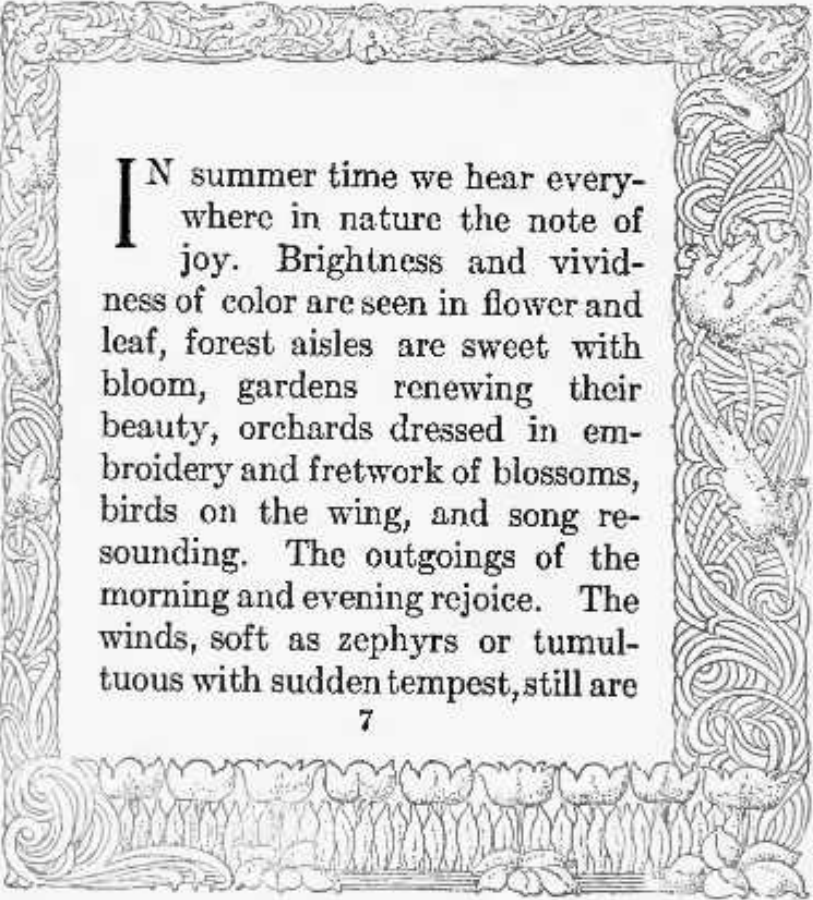
to let the superfluities go. Most of the impedimenta with which we weight ourselves here will be forgotten when we cross the river and enter the Father's house. Some things we shall carry over—our love to Christ and to each other, our share of the peace that passeth understanding, our desire to do his will and to bear his image—for it is written that in the Jerusalem that is above, "His servants shall serve him."

It is the writer's hope that every word she sends forth may find a lodgment in some sympathetic heart, and that each reader may be her friend. As friends together we may talk of the common experiences which, when love touches them, wear hues of immortality.

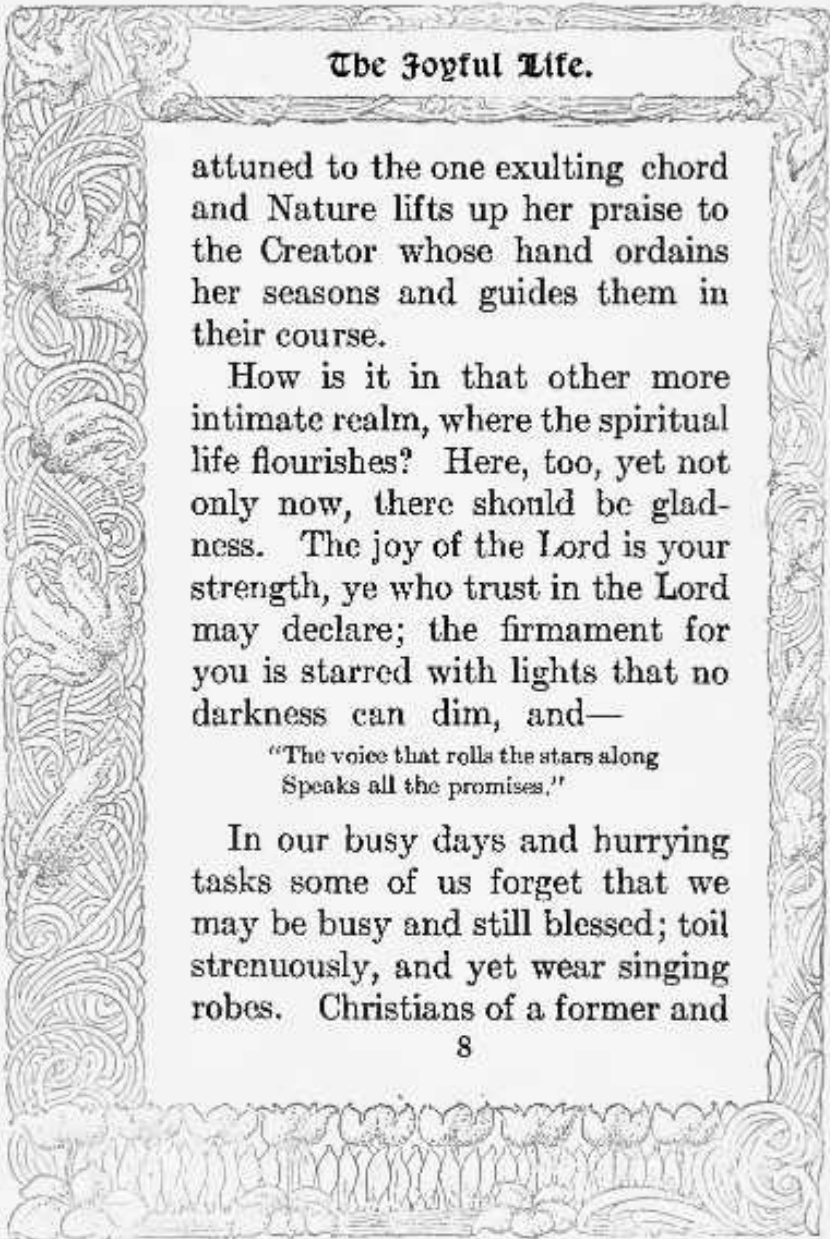
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The Joyful Life.



IN summer time we hear everywhere in nature the note of joy. Brightness and vividness of color are seen in flower and leaf, forest aisles are sweet with bloom, gardens renewing their beauty, orchards dressed in embroidery and fretwork of blossoms, birds on the wing, and song resounding. The outgoings of the morning and evening rejoice. The winds, soft as zephyrs or tumultuous with sudden tempest, still are



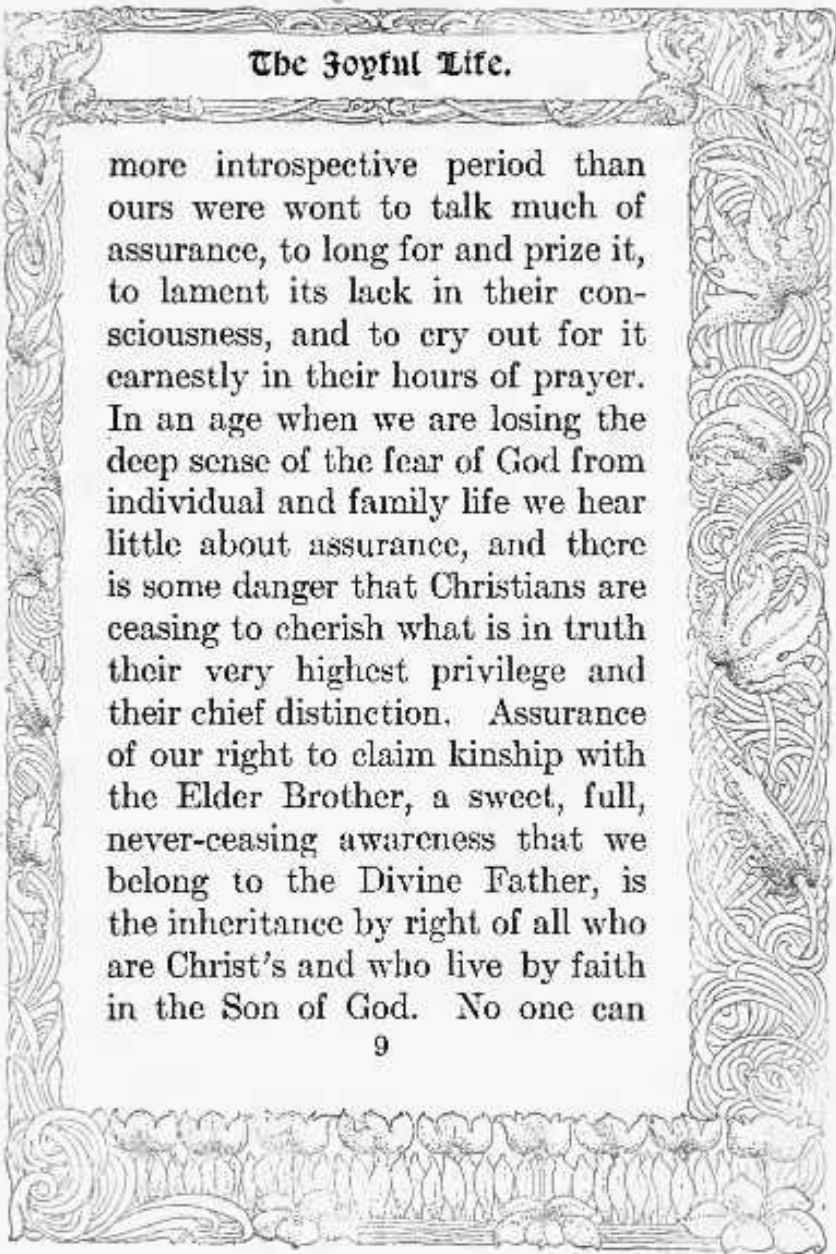
The Joyful Life.

attuned to the one exulting chord and Nature lifts up her praise to the Creator whose hand ordains her seasons and guides them in their course.

How is it in that other more intimate realm, where the spiritual life flourishes? Here, too, yet not only now, there should be gladness. The joy of the Lord is your strength, ye who trust in the Lord may declare; the firmament for you is starred with lights that no darkness can dim, and—

*"The voice that rolls the stars along
Speaks all the promises."*

In our busy days and hurrying tasks some of us forget that we may be busy and still blessed; toil strenuously, and yet wear singing robes. Christians of a former and



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more introspective period than ours were wont to talk much of assurance, to long for and prize it, to lament its lack in their consciousness, and to cry out for it earnestly in their hours of prayer. In an age when we are losing the deep sense of the fear of God from individual and family life we hear little about assurance, and there is some danger that Christians are ceasing to cherish what is in truth their very highest privilege and their chief distinction. Assurance of our right to claim kinship with the Elder Brother, a sweet, full, never-ceasing awareness that we belong to the Divine Father, is the inheritance by right of all who are Christ's and who live by faith in the Son of God. No one can