

**LIFE AT HOME; OR,
THE FAMILY AND
ITS MEMBERS**

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Life at Home; Or, the Family and Its Members by William Aikman

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WILLIAM AIKMAN

**LIFE AT HOME; OR,
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LIFE AT HOME;

OR,

THE FAMILY AND ITS MEMBERS.

BY

WILLIAM AIKMAN, D.D.

The pilgrim's step in vain
Seeks Eden's sacred ground!
But in Home's holy joys again,
An Eden may be found.

Downing.

NEW YORK:
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TO
My Wife,
WHOSE LIFE HAS GIVEN THE IDEAL OF THE PLEASANT
PICTURES I HAVE TRIED TO DRAW,
IN THE
FOLLOWING PAGES,
OF
DAUGHTER AND SISTER, WIFE AND MOTHER,
This Book
IS
DEDICATED.

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PREFACE.

THE following pages substantially were preached as a series of discourses to the people of the writer's pastoral charge. The favor with which they were received and the request of the publisher have led him to believe that their issue in a more permanent form might be desirable and useful.

At a time when the sacredness of the marriage relation is so much called in question, and when the bonds which hold the family together are in danger of being lightly esteemed, any attempt to exalt the family life may be hopeful of good.

The failure to reach the highest happiness of married life, and the best results of family training are caused, we may believe, not so much by willfulness as by ignorance or inexperience. If, at the outset, a few cautions and suggestions,

founded on maturer thought and larger observation, were received, mistakes could be corrected and errors avoided which too often occasion long years of disappointment and sorrow. If this book shall make such suggestions, its design will be accomplished.

The Bible is incomparably the best manual for the regulation of the family. In these chapters much has been made of its teachings, and it will be an unspeakable reward if the writer shall have done anything to enhance its value in any home.

All that is hopeful for our country and the world is from the family. Christian homes are the want of the world. Have them, and the future of the Church and therefore the well-being of the race is secure. These pages are sent forth with a very deep desire to bring, if possible, the blessed light of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ into the family circle. That light will fill any home with a radiance of peace and joy.

NEW YORK, March 24, 1870.



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