

**MEMOIR OF
MARTHA
THOMPSON SHARP**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649646159

Memoir of Martha Thompson Sharp by Jas. I. Helm

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JAS. I. HELM

**MEMOIR OF
MARTHA
THOMPSON SHARP**

MEMOIR

OF

MARTHA THOMPSON SHARP,

BY HER PASTOR,

REV. JAS. I. HELM, A. M.,

PASTOR OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SALEM, N. J.

"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not
even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, at His coming?"
PAUL.

PHILADELPHIA:

DANIELS & SMITH, FIFTH AND ARCH STS.

1849.

Entered, according to the act of Congress, in the year 1848.

By REV. JAS. I. HELM, A. M.,

In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

W. M. B. YOUNG, PRINTER.

TO THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

WITH WHOM SHE WAS ASSOCIATED,

AND TO WHOM HER DYING LIPS DICTATED

THE LOVING REQUEST—

“MEET ME IN HEAVEN!”

This little volume

IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED

BY

MARTHA'S SORROWING

PASTOR.

6 Why love we so a sin-stained earth,
 When fetterless to roam
 'Tis ours among yon isles of light,
 Each starry isle a home.

6 Home of the pure and innocent!
 Where spirits live and love;
 Home, where the holy and the just,
 A Saviour's mercies prove.

6 Home of the Christian's humble hope,
 The Christian's ardent prayer;
 Who would that humblest hope forego,
 For all that's certain here!

MEMOIR
OR
MARTHA THOMPSON SHARP.

INTRODUCTION.

A perfect image of religion is found only on the page of God's word. But a very interesting portraiture is seen, also, in the life of every consistent Christian. An exact delineation of the Christian life, is therefore alike interesting and instructive. Next to the simple and inimitable views of Christian character and experience which have been given by inspired authors, may be placed those authentic narratives which record with strict fidelity the life, and truly represent the character of exemplary and devoted Christians.

The preparation of religious memoirs is not, however, without its difficulties. One of these arises from the very nature of the Christian life. This has always two aspects—one interior and invisible, another outward and apparent. The true *life* of a Christian, is that which is going on in the soul itself, and consists in its own trains of emotion and successive exercises. A record of this life would describe the secret impressions, the mysterious workings, and the invisible conflicts of the pious heart. It would reveal the operation of divine grace in the conversion, and its progress in the sanctification of the believer. It would depict the vicissitudes of his experience—the alternate fears and hopes, joys and sorrows by which his breast is agitated: the decay of spiritual affections into which he sometimes falls, and the merciful revivings with which he is again favoured. But this is a *hidden* life. It is not always comprehended by the subject himself, and another can take

no direct cognizance of it whatever. That which is ordinarily called the life of a Christian, is only the expression of his real life. It is always, too, an imperfect manifestation of what is taking place in his own soul. Yet it is all that belongs properly to the public; while at the same time its value depends on its being shown in a true relation to the other; because a man is really what he is at heart. If the likeness which is drawn from his external conduct be the faithful copy of his true principles and real motives, it speaks truth; otherwise, however beautiful in itself, it only deceives. But to preserve this strict truth, not only of appearance, but of fact, is often very difficult.

Again, it is not every true, nor even every eminent Christian that furnishes a good subject for biography. It is not every bright example of piety that can be so embodied in a memoir as to please and benefit those who did not enjoy a living acquaintance. To possess gene-