

**PEARLS OF THOUGHT,  
RELIGIOUS AND  
PHILOSOPHICAL, GATHERED  
FROM OLD AUTHORS**

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Pearls of thought, religious and philosophical, gathered from old authors by Frederick Saunders

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**FREDERICK SAUNDERS**

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## Apology.

"If these little sparks of holy fire which I have heaped together do not give life to your prepared and already rekindled spirit, yet they will sometimes help to entertain a thought, to instigate a passion, to employ and hallow a fancy."—*JEREMY TAYLOR.*

ONE of the worthies of olden time—Arthur Warwick—possessed and improved many more "spare minutes" in his days of quiet contemplation than it is possible for us to secure, if even we had the disposition, in these stirring times. As an incentive in this direction, the following gleanings from the old fields of sacred literature and learning have been garnered up. Old books, like old wines, have often been found the better for their age; so the lover of good books, when in quest of choice literary aliment, usually consults the

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oracles of yore—the masters of our English prose and poesy. A quiet corner in a library, or some sequestered by-path, free from the turmoil of city life, and the strife of tongues, are the fitting places for the companionship of a volume like the present. Thus to con- over these piquant and quaint passages of patient thought, and pious meditation, one can scarcely fail of deriving pleasure and profit by communing with such philosophic minds.

Of the multitudes who willingly surrender themselves to the sweet enchantment of the “world’s great dramatist,” few, comparatively, delight to pore over the majestic pages of our Shakspeare in theology—to catch the inspiration of his “thought sublime,” or seek to be instructed by his profound and sagacious teaching, or soothed by his divine philosophy. Sacred learning is among the most elevating and pure of

intellectual pursuits,—it qualifies us for both worlds; and these thoughts, maxims, and aphorisms, are among its spoils. Many a suggestive thought, long buried in the dusty folios of the schoolmen, is thus exhumed, and rendered fertile of interest to many appreciative minds. Our “pearls” have been collected from the writings of such authors as Jeremy Collier, Owen Feltham, Bishop Hall, Thomas Fuller, Sir Thomas Browne, John Donne, Francis Quarles, Pascal, Fenelon, Jeremy Taylor, &c.

To meditative minds, these “Pearls of Thought” will supply material for reflection, and all such will reverently and lovingly cherish these relics of the past with grateful regard. Odd intervals of time cannot be devoted to better purpose than to these suggestive passages—while their variety constitutes them an epitome of good things—a library in miniature. Those who can appre-

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ciate the gift, will be inclined to adopt the words of good old Bishop Hall: "Blessed be God, who hath set up so many clear lamps in his church; none but the wilfully blind can plead darkness: and blessed be the memory of those, his faithful servants, who have left their blood, their spirits, their lives in these precious pages, and have willingly wasted themselves into these enduring monuments to give light to others."

F. S.



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## Pearls of Thought.



### MEDITATION.

MEDITATION is a busy search in the store-house of fantasy for some ideas of matters, to be cast in the moulds of resolution into some forms of words or actions; in which search, when I have used my greatest diligence, I find this in the conclusion, that to meditate on the best is the best of meditations; and a resolution to make a good end, is a good end of my resolution.

*Arthur Warwick.*

### THE CHURCH.

WE see in a jeweller's shop, that, as there are pearls, and diamonds, and

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other precious stones, there are files, cutting instruments, and many sharp tools for their polishing; and while they are in the work-house, they are continual neighbors to them, and come often under them. The Church is God's jewel; his work-house, where his jewels are polishing for his palace and house; and those he especially esteems, and means to make most resplendent, he hath oftenest his tools upon.

*Leighton.*

#### HUMILITY.

Nothing procures love, like humility; nothing hate, like pride. The proud man walks among daggers pointed against him; whereas the humble and the affable have the people for their guard, in dangers. To be humble to our superiors, is duty; to our equals, courtesy; to our inferiors, generosity; and these, notwithstanding their lowli-

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ness, carry such a sway as to command men's hearts. *Owen Feltham.*

LOVE AND PRAYER.

HE who loves little, prays little; he who loves much, prays much.

*Austin.*

DIVINE INSPIRATION.

ARE we inspired? Yes, without doubt; but not as the prophets and apostles. Without the actual inspiration of the Spirit of Grace we can neither do, nor will, nor think any good; but we continually stifle the inspiration. God never ceases to speak, but the noise of the creatures without, and of our passions within, deafens us, and hinders us from hearing him.

*Fenelon.*

DIVINE LIFE.

THE secret mysteries of a divine life—of a new nature—of Christ formed in our hearts,—they cannot be written or

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