

**LIFE'S PLEASURE GARDEN;
OR, THE CONDITIONS OF
A HAPPY LIFE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649635177

Life's Pleasure Garden; Or, the Conditions of a Happy Life by W. Haig Miller

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W. HAIG MILLER

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OR, THE CONDITIONS OF
A HAPPY LIFE**



THE HAUNTED HOUSE.

See p. 71.

LIFE'S PLEASURE GARDEN;

OR,

The Conditions of a Happy Life.

BY

W. HAIG MILLER,

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"THE MIRAGE OF LIFE," "THE CULTURE OF PLEASURE," ETC.

LONDON:

THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY,

25 PATERNOSTER ROW, 65 ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD,
AND 164 PICCADILLY.

975 2. 536.



LONDON:

R. CLAY, BONS, AND TAYLOR,
BREAD STREET HILL, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET.

PREFACE.

"By multitudes," observes an eloquent writer, "Christianity is mistaken for a minister of terror sent to oppress poor mortals with moping melancholy, and to do a deadly office on the happiness of mankind." In the following pages, which have already appeared in the *Sunday at Home*, an attempt is made to combat this gloomy impression by sketching in a simple and anecdotal manner the leading conditions of a happy life, and the mode in which these conditions are affected by Christian truth. When Mary Queen of Scots mounted the scaffold at Fotheringham, almost her last words were a confession that life had proved to her a thing full of vanity and misery. She had chased the Mirage of Life. But, happily, there is a brighter side of the picture, and we desire in these pages to exhibit that side. Life, it is true, under its best conditions must ever be a chequered scene; still, to use the language of the Rev. Thomas Adam, a pious divine of the last century, "it has its enjoyments, and is not the contemptible thing we make it, but heaven upon earth, when it is conducted on right principles, directed to a right end, and devoted to the will of God."

It is singular that, at a time when so much attention has

been paid to social questions, so little should have been done in the way of classifying for popular use the conditions of what may be called every-day happiness. "I wonder," observes Mr. Greville in his Diary, "that the inductive process has not been more applied to the great philosophical question, What is happiness, and in what it consists? for the purpose of directing the human mind into the right road for reaching the goal of all human wishes. Why are not innumerable instances collected, examined, analysed, and the results expanded, explained, and reasoned upon for the benefit and instruction of mankind?" Meantime, we shall be glad if our little treatise, elementary and cursory as it has been designedly made, should be found to have contributed its modest quota towards supplying the want just indicated. Still more pleased shall we be, if it leads any reader who has found life an unsatisfying thing, to seek happiness at the loving hands of Him who is the controller of the springs of natural and spiritual pleasure, and whose grace can transform our being from a waste where thorns and briars spring up into a true "Pleasure Garden," in which shall flourish the fir tree and the myrtle, and other plants alike beautiful and useful.

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