

**ILLUSTRATIVE SCRIPTURE
READINGS. A POCKET
COMPANION
FOR THE VISITATION OF THE
POOR AND PRIVATE MEDITATION**

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Illustrative scripture readings. A pocket companion for the visitation of the poor and private meditation by Various

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VARIOUS

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A Pocket Companion

FOR THE

VISITATION OF THE POOR

AND

PRIVATE MEDITATION.

“SEEK YE OUT OF THE BOOK OF THE LORD AND READ.”
Is. xxxiv, 16.

THIRD EDITION.

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Extracts from Reviews and Testimonials.

"A little work which will prove extremely useful to district visitors. Passages of Scripture suitable to persons in different states of mind have been selected, classified under various headings, and woven together so as to form connected Bible readings on a number of subjects. The book is cheap, and well printed and bound."—*Church Review*.

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"I like the book exceedingly, it supplies the very want I used to feel so painfully when I was a district visitor. . . . besides being very suitable for private devotion."—*M. D.*

"Gems of Scripture reading strung and classified together. A very suitable book for district visitors. . . . so arranged that they can easily turn to the words most needed. We can indeed recommend it."—*Gospel Magazine*.

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PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

THE Author, in presenting his Christian brethren with a Second Edition of "ILLUSTRATIVE SCRIPTURE READINGS," has only to express his gratitude for the encouragement which his little volume has received from Christians of all denominations, and to invite them, most heartily, while praising God that His gracious blessing has not been withheld in the past, to earnestly pray that these selections from the Holy Scriptures may be made interestingly useful in the future.



PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

THE principal object of the Author in compiling the following ILLUSTRATIVE SCRIPTURE READINGS, has been to aid the Christian Visitor in his important work, by endeavoring to supply the long-felt want of a concise, correct, and interesting arrangement of the Scriptures, adapted for reading to the poor.

For this purpose the whole word of God has been carefully examined, and with the aid of Concordances, &c., all the most important passages have been selected, and separately classified with repeated revision under the various headings of the forty chapters of which the work is composed. These chapters have been again separated into two hundred and eleven minor divisions, and the passages themselves woven together so as to form connected Bible Readings, suitable for the various states of mind which are daily met with, in house to house visitation.

The mission of the Christian Visitor is one of great importance and responsibility. He goes forth as the representative of his Master to carry the 'Gospel' into the homes of 'the poor,'—to make known to the unconverted 'the acceptable year of the Lord,' and to warn them of 'the day of vengeance of our God;' to 'precisely deliverance to the captives' of sin and Satan,—'recovering of sight to the blind' in heart; to direct them to the Friend of Sinners, who alone can 'heal the broken-hearted,'—'set at liberty them that are bruised,' and comfort all that mourn in Zion' by

giving them 'beauty for ashes,' the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.'

To enable the Christian faithfully to fulfil these solemn duties, God has placed in his hands his own word, and commanded him to 'seek out of the book of the Lord and read;' declaring that, that 'word shall not return unto Him void, but shall prosper in the thing whereto He sent it.' But how many Visitors there are, who from a want of a thorough knowledge of the contents of the Bible, experience the greatest difficulty in knowing where to find the words which are specially addressed, and therefore specially adapted, to the various states of mind they meet with in their visits! The consequence is, unsuitable words are chosen; that which applies to the Christian only, is read to the unconverted; and still more often, the message sent by God in his own words to the individual, is not faithfully delivered by the messenger, because the 'sword of the Spirit' is allowed to remain in the scabbard, and the words of a man are substituted for 'the true sayings of God.'

The Author ventures to hope, that many who can sympathize with him in this painful experience, will find "ILLUSTRATIVE SCRIPTURE HEADINGS" for the Visitation of the Poor, a friend in need. He trusts also, that this combination of Scripture truth will be found useful as a pocket companion for private meditation, and as a book of reference to many, who are often engaged in the study of God's word, but have no time to consult the pages of more elaborate volumes.

In conclusion, the Author would add, that the whole work has been compiled in humble dependence upon the Holy Spirit for the wisdom required; and it is now sent forth to the world, accompanied with earnest prayer, and confident hope, that the blessing of God may attend its use to the salvation of sinners, and the sanctification of saints, and thus to the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

If these objects are realized, even in a humble measure, the Compiler will rejoice in knowing his labours have not been in vain, and to the Divine Author of the sacred words of which this book is composed, shall be all the glory. Amen.

PART FIRST

Illustrative Scripture Readings.

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Chapter First.

THE CHRISTIAN AFFLICTED.

Divine sympathy.

¹“ALTHOUGH affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground; yet man is born unto trouble as the sparks fly upward. ²But like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. ³He maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole: ⁴he heareth the cry of the afflicted, ⁵and the Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing, and will make all his bed in his sickness; ⁶for the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

¹Job v, 6, 7. ²Ps. ciii, 13, 14. ³Job v, 18. ⁴Job xxxiv, 28.
⁵Ps. xli, 3. ⁶Jas. v, 16.

Prayer for restoration to health.

¹“Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears. Make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is: that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an hand-breadth; and my age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. ²Wearisome nights are appointed to me. When I lie down, I say,

'When shall I arise, and the night be gone?' and I am full of tossings to and fro unto the dawning of the day. ²Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me. ⁴Make me glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted me. ⁵O Lord, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction; ⁶be merciful unto me and raise me up; ⁷O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more.'

¹ Ps. xxxix, 12, 4, 5. ² Job vii, 3, 4. ³ Ps. cxix, 49, 50.

⁴ Ps. xc, 15. ⁵ Jer. xvi, 19. ⁶ Ps. xli, 10. ⁷ Ps. xxxix, 13.

ILLUSTRATION. *Hezekiah raised up from sickness.*

¹ Hezekiah, king of Judah, ² was sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah came to him, and said unto him; ³ Thus saith the Lord: Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.' ⁴ Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore, and said; ⁵ Remember now, O Lord, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. In the cutting off of my days, I shall go to the gates of the grave: I am deprived of the residue of my years. I shall not see the Lord, even the Lord, in the land of the living: I shall behold man no more with the inhabitants of the world. Mine age is departed, and is removed from me as a shepherd's tent: he will cut me off with pining sickness: from day even to night wilt