

**JOY IN JESUS:
BRIEF MEMORIALS
OF BELLA DARLING**

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Joy in Jesus: Brief Memorials of Bella Darling by Samuel MacNaughton & Andrew Thomson

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SAMUEL MACNAUGHTON & ANDREW THOMSON

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Bella Darwin.

JOY IN JESUS:

Brief Memorials

OF

BELLA DARLING.

BY

SAMUEL MACNAUGHTON, M.A.

AUTHOR OF

"OUR CHILDREN FOR CHRIST," "THE CHRISTIAN A LIGHT," ETC.

WITH PREFATORY NOTE BY

REV. ANDREW THOMSON, D.D.

EDINBURGH.

"The joy of the Lord is your strength."—Neh. viii. 10.
"I live by faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself
for me."—Gal. ii. 20.
"To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."—Phil. i. 21.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS little book will be its own best letter of commendation. No one possessed of holy affections and Christian sympathies will read many pages in it, without wishing to read on.

Christian Biography has too exclusively chosen for its subject the lives of professional men, such as Christian ministers and missionaries, or laymen occupying conspicuous positions of influence. It would be well if our religious literature were more enriched with the lives and Memorials of young believers engaged in their "common round and daily task," and that the world and the church should have opportunity of seeing the might, the beauty, and the beneficence of the religion of Christ in them.

Many will welcome, as an invaluable con-

tribution towards the supply of this want, these Memorials of Bella Darling, written by one who knew her well, and had a heart in full sympathy with her own.

The reader will do well to note the following among the lessons of her singularly earnest and happy life :—

1. *The high advantage of seeking the Lord early.* Those are thrice useful and thrice blessed who offer to Him "the flower in the bud."

2. *The joy that comes out of a simple, unquestioning faith in Christ.* Accepting present salvation as the free gift of God through Jesus Christ our Lord, she walked in an almost constant sunlight, and became herself a "Sunbeam" wherever she was known. Old and young loved, and even venerated, the youthful and earnest believer.

3. *This "joy of the Lord was her strength."* It raised her above the entanglements and enticements of this world's insipid pleasures. The water which Christ had given her made her thirst no more for "streams of false delight;" and it was "in her a well of water springing up into everlasting life." With the roll of Christian assurance in her hand, she felt

Christ's "yoke to be easy, and His burden to be light."

4. *This, again, led to an unreserved and cordial consecration of herself to God.* There was no hankering after what she had renounced. What does he who has received a crown care for the dead leaves beneath his feet! Nor did she wish to hold back anything from Him, who had "bought her with a price." "Lord," said Calvin, "I give Thee all, I keep back nothing." Her rare gift of sweet song was laid on her Redeemer's altar; and in the prayer-meeting, at the Sabbath morning breakfasts in the Drill Hall, in hospitals and infirmaries, at the bedside of the sick and the dying, she was present with her radiant countenance and her Christ-loving heart, often drawing tears from "eyes unwont to weep."

5. *The strength of her Christian faith and love made her bold and faithful in speaking and pleading for Christ.* Her letters to her old school companions and the friends of her childhood, show how intensely she yearned to win souls, and how strongly she felt that her truest act of friendship was to lead those whom she loved to the feet of Jesus.

6. There is one other fact which it may not be unseasonable to hold up to the notice of some. *In her life of singularly active usefulness she never became erratic*, or imagined that she could do good only when engaged in extraordinary services. She attended on her church duties with exemplary regularity and unflinching relish ; and in her minister's class she was not only to the last a most diligent scholar, but by her singing in the class choir did much to make its exercises both edifying and attractive. The planet shed its light from its own orbit.

If we measure the length of her life merely by the number of years that she lived, it was indeed a short life—a very span ; but if we measure it by the amount of good that she did in it, then it was a long life, and to her the early death became the earlier immortality.

ANDREW THOMSON, D.D.