

**DOING AND SUFFERING:  
MEMORIALS OF ELIZABETH  
AND FRANCES, DAUGHTERS OF  
THE LATE REV. E. BICKERSTETH**

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Doing and Suffering: Memorials of Elizabeth and Frances, Daughters of the Late Rev. E. Bickersteth by Charlotte Bickersteth & R. Ripon

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# Doing and Suffering:

MEMORIALS

OF

ELIZABETH AND FRANCES,

DAUGHTERS OF THE LATE REV. E. BICKERSTETH.

BY THEIR SISTER

WITH A PREFACE BY

THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF RIPON.

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## PREFACE.

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THIS little volume scarcely needs a Preface ; it tells its own tale. It is composed chiefly of letters written by an elder to a younger sister, who was called for many years to endure much suffering of body and mind. These sisters were faithful disciples of Jesus on earth ; both are now with Him in glory.

The dealings of our heavenly Father with them were in some respects widely different. The one to whom these letters were written was afflicted to the eye of sense almost beyond measure. For many months her bodily pain, and sometimes her mental anguish, was severe beyond description. None who knew her well could doubt her union with Christ, so evident were the tokens of her fellowship with Him ; yet often she seemed to walk in darkness and had no light. Her faith was sorely tried ; and at length it was only by slow and painful degrees the earthly tabernacle was taken down, that her immortal spirit might go free. It was not thus with the elder sister. She was ever radiant with joy and peace in believing. She appeared to live in the perpetual sunshine of her Saviour's loving smile. Yet she was eminently

fitted to sympathise with her suffering sister, and to suggest thoughts to the afflicted one which enlivened many an hour of weariness and pain. And when it pleased God to take her to Himself she was spared the distress of a lingering illness; the call to her to pass out of time into eternity came with a suddenness which would have been terrible indeed had it not found her ready at once to arise and depart hence.

We do not think that any who read the following letters will be tempted to ask, "Why have they been published?" Are there not many in the Church militant whom the Lord hath chosen in the furnace of affliction? Are there not numbers of His own children to whom His loving wisdom has appointed days of anguish and nights of weariness? May it not comfort some of these to know how other pilgrims along the way to Zion, who have gone before and reached the everlasting rest, suffered in like manner, and were upheld by the grace which flows from the fulness of Jesus?

Should the publication of these letters contribute in any degree to this result they will not have been published in vain. The comfort which was originally intended for one will overflow for the consolation of many, to the praise of Him who is the comforter of the cast down—"a very present help in trouble."

R. RIPON.

Palace, Ripon, April 3, 1860.

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