

**LETTERS TO A
BROTHER, ON
PRACTICAL SUBJECTS**

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Letters to a Brother, on Practical Subjects by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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LETTERS

TO

A BROTHER,

ON PRACTICAL SUBJECTS.

By a Clergyman.

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INTRODUCTION.

The following letters were commenced with the design of explaining some of the simple truths of the Gospel to the mind of a younger brother in the hope that they might be of essential service to him in a *practical* respect.

It has since been a matter of serious inquiry with me, whether the minds of the young have been sufficiently instructed and enlightened on the subjects embraced in the letters. The result of my inquiries is, a firm conviction that, while the world abounds with story books and with

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toys for children, there are very few *religious* works of a thorough, *practical* kind. A knowledge of this fact has induced me to throw these letters, in a printed form, before the public, with the hope that they may influence some youthful minds to embrace cordially the religion of the Saviour.

The *plan* is, in many respects, *new*, and the truths contained in the letters are presented *singly* that the mind may distinctly apprehend one truth before it undertakes to grapple with another. It is believed that, in this way, more vivid impressions of duty will be received than in any other way. The exhibition of several important and fundamental truths in a single letter would confuse the mind so that it would be able to distinguish no one truth clearly. The colors of the solar ray cannot be distinguished when commingled, but when separated by the prism

each can be distinguished from every other.

The *doctrinal* views contained in this little volume, are, I believe, accordant with the views of evangelical Christians generally. I have studied to make my directions and explanations conform to the word of God. The letters were not written for *criticism*, but for *practical use*.

It may be said that many of the illustrations, contained in this work, are too *difficult* to be understood by those for whose *particular* use it has been published. In reply, I have only to say to the individual who thinks so, place these letters in the hands of any intelligent child of twelve years, and when he has finished the reading of it, question him in regard to the meaning of the several parts of it, and you will find that you have mistaken the power of a child's intellect.

Most youths of from ten years old and upwards will understand all in these letters that it is necessary for them to know in order to secure their object.

Let parents give a copy of this work to each of their children with the prayer that it may awaken their attention and be accompanied by the influences of the Holy Spirit and that it may result in their conversion to God.

Hitherto the souls of the young have been too much neglected. It has been too generally thought that efforts for the conversion of children between the ages of six and fourteen years, are useless and hopeless. The times are changed, and the feelings of Christians have changed with them. The importance and success of efforts made in behalf of children of the ages above mentioned, can no longer be doubted.

The influence of the examples of *Nathan W. Dickerman* and *John Mooney Mead*, has been powerfully felt and will be till the end of time. It has excited parents to greater faithfulness and will result, probably, in the future salvation of thousands of children and youth.

That this work may help the efforts of Christians to instruct the young, and to unfold the truths of the gospel to them, is my earnest prayer!

To all impenitent sinners, of whatever age or attainments, this little book may afford instruction. The way of reconciliation with God is, I believe, truly and faithfully traced; and the consequences of a neglect to embrace the religion of Jesus are honestly set forth. If any, who are now delaying to make preparation for heaven, and are "treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath," shall be indu-