

FAMILY PRAYERS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649030231

Family Prayers by Henry Thornton

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

HENRY THORNTON

**FAMILY
PRAYERS**

FAMILY PRAYERS.

LONDON:
GILBERT & RIVINGTON, PRINTERS,
St. John's Square.

FAMILY PRAYERS,



HENRY THORNTON, Esq^r. M.P.

LONDON:
J. HATCHARD & SON, PICCADILLY.

1834.

653.

P R E F A C E.

THE following Prayers were prepared by the late Mr. Henry Thornton for the use of his own family only. Many of those, who heard them in his life time, and many of those, who have heard them since, have often expressed a wish, that they might not be confined to that circle. Copies were, therefore, sometimes given: and from one of these, carried to a distant dependency of the empire, an imperfect edition was printed. From that time, perhaps, all delicacy with respect to the publication of an authorized edition was removed.

Those who are familiar with other manuals of devotion may here occasionally find passages which are not new to them; and may, indeed, recognise two ¹ entire prayers, which, as specimens of family

¹ The first draughts of two or three others were contributed in the same manner to another work.

devotion, have already been published in another work to which they were contributed anonymously by Mr. Henry Thornton. His object was not human praise : giving thus to the work of another ; or borrowing, here and there, a phrase or a sentence from elder divines to enrich his own collection of prayers, his single aim was to promote the glory of God in the edification of His people ; providing, by these prayers, in the first place, for the household which Providence had united round him ; and endeavouring, in the second place, by the family prayers which have been already mentioned, to excite in others a taste for domestic worship, and to furnish some aid to them in its exercise.

The world will be wiser and better, and therefore happier, in proportion as it shall imbibe the spirit of the life and of the prayers of Mr. Henry Thornton. Admirable as have been the examples of excellence which the present generation has been permitted to witness, there has not been perhaps one individual in the whole number who exhibited in a more striking manner that combination of qualities which constitutes Christian consistency. His piety was fervent, and yet sober ; his liberality

was magnificent, and yet discriminating ; his charity was large, and yet not latitudinarian ; his self-denial was rigorous, yet unobtrusive. At one time, there was some hope, that these principles—as embodied, by the grace of God, in his habitual conduct—might have been exhibited to the world by the hand of his dearest and most intimate friend : a life of HENRY THORNTON, by WILLIAM WILBERFORCE would, indeed, have been a legacy of wisdom and piety, which would have enriched many generations. This hope, long cherished, is now finally lost : and the character of Mr. Henry Thornton must perhaps be left to be collected from his works ; his original and intellectual powers, from his *Essay on Paper Credit*, (the publication of which, as Dr. Miller observed, in his *Philosophy of History*, forms an epoch in the history of the science to which it belongs ;)—his views of religion from the Prayers now published ; and from some practical commentaries on the Old and New Testament, portions of which, complete for publication, are now in the press. These, like the present work, he drew up for the use of his own family : but it is hoped, that, like these Prayers, they may be rendered not only illustrative of his own cha-

racter (an object which he certainly never contemplated), but, by the Divine blessing, may promote, after his death, the great designs of his life, the good of his fellow-creatures and the glory of **GOD.**

R. H. I.

BATTERSEA RIDGE,
June 6, 1834.