

**EXTRACTS FROM THE LETTERS  
OF ELIZABETH, LUCY,  
AND JUDITH USSHER: LATE  
OF THE CITY OF WATERFORD**

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Extracts from the Letters of Elizabeth, Lucy, and Judith Ussher: Late of the City of Waterford by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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EXTRACTS

FROM

THE LETTERS

OF

ELIZABETH, LUCY, AND JUDITH USSHER,

LATE OF THE

**City of Waterford.**

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THIRD AMERICAN EDITION.

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## PREFACE.

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THE following pages contain Extracts of Letters written by three sisters, the descendants of two ancient and honourable families, whose rank in life had placed them in the gay world, and furnished them with opportunities of participating in many of its more refined dissipations : but whilst young, and esteemed accomplished, they were strengthened to withdraw from these fascinating pleasures, the love of Christ having touched their hearts, the love of this world was thereby stained in their view : thus yielding obedience to Him who called them to glory and virtue, they had the eyes of their understandings enlightened to behold the superior excellency there is in the Truth, and were at seasons favoured to enjoy its enriching heavenly influence ; and as they became further dedicated, could measurably say with the Psalmist, in the feeling language of the heart, " The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer ; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust ; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high

tower. For who is God, save the Lord; or who is a rock save our God? It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect. He maketh my feet like hind's feet, and setteth me on high places."

Some lines concerning a younger sister are added at the conclusion of this volume.

EXTRACTS

FROM

**LETTERS, &c.**

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ELIZABETH, the eldest sister died of a consumption at Bristol Hot-Wells, in the early part of the year 1796, at about twenty-four years of age.

She was educated in the communion of the Church of England ; but not satisfied with it, she frequented some meetings of other Christian Societies, in the hope of finding that instruction and comfort her soul greatly desired. She was deprived of a very affectionate father at the age of seventeen. A few years after one of her sisters being ill in consequence of a hurt, was ordered to Bath, where her mother and three sisters accompanied her, and staid the winter. During this period Elizabeth went to Bristol Wells to visit an aunt, with whom she afterwards resided, who was a religious person and had withdrawn from gay life, and a conspicuous rank in which she was placed ; as also from the established worship : she attended different Dissenting Meeting-Houses ; to one of these Eliza accompanied her ; when those words reached the witness in her mind, "Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth," &c.



At this time she wrote the first letter to her mother at Bath, and went thither herself after; when the sweetness of her countenance was *remarkable*; she seemed a changed creature, given up and united to Him, who in adorable mercy had not only *convinced*, but *converted* her. She was become, not through John's elementary Baptism of water, but by the one only effectual Baptism, that of the Holy Ghost and of fire; not in words but in truth, a child of God, and an inheritor of the Kingdom of God. When her family returned to ———, she desired she might remain at the Wells with her aunt, which seemed extraordinary, as a short separation was usually trying to her; but she expressed a fear of returning to her gay acquaintance, whilst in the infancy of religious experience, lest through weakness and instability, she might be tried beyond her power of resistance, and so lose an immortal inheritance. As soon as her heart was convinced that her former dress was contrary to Gospel simplicity, she put away all the vain and superfluous parts of it, requesting she might never be pained by seeing them. She remained in England about two years, growing in grace and favour of the Lord.

A neglected cold fell on her lungs; her mother and sister Lucy hastened to her, and, about two months after were witnesses to her close. A few days before her departure, when she appeared to be asleep, her mother remarked to her sister, she considered it a favour that such a covering of peace was granted them under the prospect of losing such a precious and beloved friend, when Elizabeth raising herself, said in a

lively manner, "Peace, O Virtue, Peace is all thy own!"\*

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LETTER I.

*To her Mother.*

1794.

"AND now, my dear mother, I want to unburden my soul to you, if I may so express myself, who know as well as I, that the ways of the world are not right, and will neither make us easy here, nor happy hereafter; but as to this *you* can better teach *me*. What I have to say is, I am determined, (let the world say what it will) to live according to the dictates of my conscience, and as one who knows not the moment of death: do not, my dear mother, by my writing more seriously than usual, think I am one bit better; indeed I am not: I only see how long I have been upon the brink of ruin, and wish for that content and happiness of mind which I now believe can only be found in religion.

\* Just as the spirit quitted its enfeebled tenement, Lucy was sitting by her bed-side, and the curtain being drawn between them, she was not sensible the change was so near, but was impressed with this language which she thought she should then have uttered, but through diffidence withheld it, "Open ye the everlasting gates, and let the righteous enter in."†

† See Isaiah xxvi. 2.

I know if it please God to keep me in the state of mind I am now in, I shall enjoy more real happiness by avoiding every place that will tend to make me forget God. I see now that I have lived to myself; that I have been very wrong; that if I die as I am, I must inevitably perish. May *He, who alone can*, make your Eliza what you would wish her to be, and what she ought to be! &c.

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## LETTER II.

*To her Mother.*

1794.

I AM sorry to hear you are going to ——— where, it grieves me when I think they have so much the form, without any of the power, and inward delight, of which religion gives the soul that resolutely determines to seek the Lord until he is found; as they that seek him will find him. He waits to be gracious—when I think, my dear mother, how long he was calling me before I answered, my heart is all gratitude; I am astonished at his persevering goodness, that he did not leave my heart hard, as he has done others, who would not listen to that still small voice: for you know we read in scripture, that his “Spirit shall not always strive with man.” O my dear mother! that you and I, and all that belong to us, may be