DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES: CONSISTING OF REFLECTIONS AND PRAYERS, FOR THE USE OF YOUNG PERSONS, TO WHICH IS ADDED A GUIDE TO THE STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649482252

Devotional Exercises: Consisting of Reflections and Prayers, for the Use of Young Persons, to Which Is Added a Guide to the Study of the Scriptures by Harriet Martineau

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

www.triestepublishing.com

HARRIET MARTINEAU

DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES: CONSISTING OF REFLECTIONS AND PRAYERS, FOR THE USE OF YOUNG PERSONS, TO WHICH IS ADDED A GUIDE TO THE STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES

Trieste

H. Martineau.

BOSTON.
LEONARD C. BOWLES.

DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES:

CONSISTING OF

REFLECTIONS AND PRAYERS,

FOR THE USE OF

YOUNG PERSONS.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

A GUIDE TO THE STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES.

BY HARRIET MARTINEAU.

From the third London Edition.

BOSTON:
LEONARD C. BOWLES.

1833.

ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE AMERICAN EDITION.

Few books are more needed, yet few are more difficult of composition, than such as exhibit the devotional sentiment in its various exercises of faith, gratitude, penitence, confidence, love, and hope. The feelings through which the soul converses with God, may lose their simplicity and fervor when spread out on the written page. This common fault has been avoided in the Reflections and Prayers contained in this little volume. It has also the singular merit of presenting religious thoughts, in which the young may discover not only truth and propriety, but a sympathy with their own views of life, and with the experience of that season when the heart "is glad in the Lord." The "Guide to the Study of the Scriptures," contains many valuable remarks, though, in one or two instances, the writer may be thought to have expressed herself incautiously.

Boston, *December* 1, 1833.

PREFACE

TO THE THIRD EDITION.

In the Preface to the first edition of this work, dated 1823, the following words occur:—"Being yet young, I have a vivid remembrance of the ideas and feelings on devotional subjects, which, in early youth, I found to be the most impressive, and to excite the most powerful emotions, and which are by no means the same ideas and feelings which produce these effects at a more advanced age. Possessing these remembrances, I must believe that the young are best fitted to write for the young, in most cases where the feelings and affections are concerned; and therefore I have written down the thoughts which used to present themselves in a natural train of reflection, and the prayers which I have been accustomed to form, under the guidance of able teachers, for my own use."

After the lapse of nine years, I find myself no longer in the number of those "best fitted to write for the young" on the subjects of this volume. I find that I have lost much of my interest in the ideas and feelings which were penned, nine years ago, with fervency and truth. Coupling this fact with that of the favorable reception of this work among the class for whom it is

intended, I am convinced that my youthful opinion had so much of soundness in it as to render it unadvisable that the Reflections and Prayers should be altered to suit my present views and feelings. I have not dared to improve their value as compositions, at the risk of impairing their congeniality with youthful emotions of piety. A few verbal corrections, and the occasional omission of a few lines, are the only improvements I have introduced into the Exercises.

The Essay at the end is new, being designed to replace with advantage the Treatise contained in the former editions; which Treatise I could not re-issue with satisfaction to myself, or, as I now think, with advantage to my readers. I can only hope that the possessors of the third edition will not think themselves losers by the exchange.

It will be evident to many, that, in sending forth again this my first work, I can have no other satisfaction in view than that of obeying the call of the public, whose word I am ready to take respecting the usefulness of the book. To render my acquiescence complete, it is necessary to place my name in the title-page. This I have resolved upon with the hope that my old readers will excuse me for not having done it before, and that my new readers will understand why I do it now.

H. M.

NORWICH, *August*, 1832.

SUBJECTS OF THE REFLECTIONS.