

**EMMANUEL: A  
BOOK OF  
CHRISTIAN VERSES**

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Emmanuel: A Book of Christian Verses by Matthew Russell

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**MATTHEW RUSSELL**

**EMMANUEL: A  
BOOK OF  
CHRISTIAN VERSES**



EMMANUEL;  
A Book of Eucharistic Verses.

BY THE  
REV. MATTHEW RUSSELL, S.J.

"They shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is,  
God with us."—*Mat. i. 23.*

DUBLIN :  
M. H. GILL & SON, 50 UPPER SACKVILLE-ST.  
1878.

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TO C. W. RUSSELL, D.D.

*President of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.*

*This is too small a book to offer to you in this manner, yet I am unwilling to miss my first opportunity of thus joining my name with yours. I have not asked your leave, for you would withhold it. But you will, I think, forgive me more readily, if, remembering that one of the meanings of Eucharist is Thanksgiving, I make use of these Eucharistic Verses to express also my gratitude towards two other friends, whose friendship is not the least prized of your gifts to me. The little volume was planned during your sojourn (which I so often shared) at their seaside home last summer; and it is, therefore, linked already with those kind friends and with you by many most grateful and affectionate memories. These associations will make you look on it, even more kindly than you would otherwise be sure to do. I offer it, my dear Uncle, as a very slight but very sincere token of the love, gratitude, and veneration, which, in common with very many who owe you much less, I feel and shall always feel towards you.*

**MATTHEW RUSSELL.**

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Of old was heard the warning sound :  
" Beware ! thou treadest holy ground ."

Like warning in my ear doth ring,  
When I Emmannel's praise would sing.

From out that burning bush the cry  
Smote the young Hebrew : " Draw not nigh !"

But from the tabernacle here  
*Venite!* falleth low and clear.

" Come !" Lo, I come, and on thy shrine  
I lay with love these leaves of mine.

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## PREFACE.

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THESE Eucharistic Verses, which were nearly all written many years ago, are put together in their present shape rather as prayers than as poems. I hope they will be found sufficiently earnest and simple to be sometimes used as practical exercises of devotion towards the Blessed Eucharist—that Sacrament in which our Divine Redeemer, in a sense even more intimate and tender than in the Incarnation, has become indeed our Emmanuel, *Nobiscum Deus*, "God with us."

With my own pieces I have joined in an appendix a few others on the same divine theme. These also may be considered in a certain sense original, for they are not taken from any miscellaneous collections, but have all (except one anonymous piece) been kindly laid at my disposal by the writers. Two or three of these poems are translations, of which it would hardly be an exaggeration to say that "the wine of poetry has been poured from the golden



to the silver cup without scattering one drop of the magic draught."

Side by side with some other translations contained in this book, I have placed the original poems. Readers acquainted with the languages from which they are taken will prefer these exquisite hymns in their more perfect form, and will thus also appreciate better the fidelity which is aimed at in these new versions.

Let me now end with the words which, repeated on its last page, shall bring this little book itself to an end, and which both there and here are meant to be taken, not as a mere form, but as an earnest entreaty:—

If, hiding 'neath these simple rhymes,  
Grace o'er thy soul its influence shed,  
Kind reader, breathe a prayer betimes  
For me, if living—still more, if dead.

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COLOPHON, page 111.

\* This and the six following are translations, of which the originals are given, stanza for stanza, on the opposite pages.