HEART-BREATHINGS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649451258

Heart-Breathings by Agnes M'Neile Malden

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

AGNES M'NEILE MALDEN

HEART-BREATHINGS





Ballantyne and Hanson, Edinburgh Chandos Street, London

66

HEART-BREATHINGS

Short Comments

ON

A PORTION OF PSALM CXIX

BY

AGNES M'NEILE MALDEN



J. NISBET & CO., 21, BERNERS STREET, W.C.

101 i. 606.

8X W 68 (2) - 8

PREFACE.

REQUESTED to prepare the following pages for the press, as one who had known the writer of them almost from her infancy until her death, I have found the task of doing so to be abundantly its own reward. No doubt the fact that I had thus known her has for me added force and interest to the short comments which make up this small volume; and it will increase the reader's profit and pleasure in the perusal of them if I trace, in few words, some points in the life and character of their author.

Mary Agnes M'Neile Malden was born on the 9th February, 1834. The child of parents remarkable for the simplicity of their Christian faith, she enjoyed from infancy the advantages and privileges of a truly Christian home. She was named after her godfather, the late venerable Hugh M'Neile, at the time of her birth Rector of Albury, in Surrey, where her father had lived, Lieut. Malden, R.N.—afterwards for many years a well-known resident at Brighton.

It was at Brighton I first knew her in her early childhood, and from that time, until her death in 1866, enjoyed more or less frequently the opportunity of witnessing the quiet and even course of cheerful godliness by which she was enabled to adorn the doctrine of God her Saviour. Her health was always uncertain and delicate. Verses addressed to her on her ninth birthday were a true history of her life up to that time:—

Dear child of many a prayer! Frail nursling of fond love; How oft 'mid fear and care Thy name hath risen above.

Still was the prayer preferred— Health for thy wasting frame; And still the prayer was heard, And the healing angel came.

Nine years later, in 1852, she was spending the winter under sheltering downs at Bonchurch, in the Isle of Wight; and through her remaining years, until she died at Brighton, at the age of thirty-one, her life was more or less a struggle with the disease to which finally she succumbed.

During all these years, in the forced retirement of sickness, her Christian character was ripening.

A marked feature in her character was her healthy tone of feeling, her cheerfulness and joyfulness even in her hours of greatest weakness and suffering. The secret of the happy equanimity which was her prevailing characteristic lay in the habit of constant meditation and prayer. Truly it might be said of Agnes Malden that her "delight" was "in the law of the Lord," and that "in His law" did she "meditate day and night." The "fruit" was visible here to those who knew her well; but only the Great Day will declare the extent of the blessing which followed her secret work of intercession for those for whom, as Epaphras for his brethren at Colosse (Col. iv. 12), she was "always labouring fervently in prayers," that they might "stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."

Some tangible fruits of her love and sympathy are known to many. Her little work, "The Invalid's Text Book, or Gathered Crumbs of Hours of Weakness," has passed through four editions, and has been much prized. To the