

**THE PHILANTHROPIST
OF THE WORLD; A LIFE
OF JOHN HOWARD**

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The Philanthropist of the World; A Life of John Howard by G. E. Sargent

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G. E. SARGENT

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OF JOHN HOWARD**



JOHN HOWARD.

THE
PHILANTHROPIST
OF
THE WORLD;

A
LIFE OF JOHN HOWARD.

WRITTEN FOR YOUNG CHILDREN.

BY
G. E. SARGENT,

AUTHOR OF

"THE BEDFORDSHIRE TINKER;" "THE WHITE SLAVE;"
"LITTLE GEORGE'S FIRST JOURNEY;" ETC., ETC.



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PREFACE.

The following Biography differs in an important particular from those in the present Series which have preceded it. It is the history of one who never ran with greediness, in the ways of sin; but who, there is every reason to believe, *early* gave himself to God. Like Timothy, "from a child knowing the Holy Scriptures," and like Obadiah, "fearing the Lord from his youth," there is not in the life of John Howard, that evident transition that distinguishes the mature man, when passing from death unto life. It need scarcely be argued which is the preferable condition.—"Well is it when the ungodly and the sinner repent; but innocence is far better than repentance, and early piety than late belief. It is better to be 'trained in the way we should go'—a way from which we need never 'depart'—than to be converted afterwards from early wanderings, or to run the hazard of never being converted at all.—A day may be more

stirring and picturesque that is deformed by clouds, darkness, and thunder; beautiful it may be when the storm passes, and the shadows depart, and resplendent glimpses of sky and sunlight indicate the glory, the calm, and brightness in which it will close: but, in so far as quiet security is really better than deliverance from danger, unruffled peace than tumultuous transitions, and truth and goodness than sentiment and poetry, we greatly prefer that *life*, at least, if likened to a day, should be one whose morning is without clouds, whose sun should calmly climb to its meridian, and decline and set with unsullied effulgence."*

May the young readers of these Biographies think seriously of this very important matter: may their earnest prayers arise to the God of their lives, that He would give them His Holy Spirit, to lead them *at once* into paths of righteousness: and may their paths be as the morning light, "shining more and more unto the perfect day."

* Binney.—Address delivered at the Grammar School, Mill Hill.