

**A MANUAL OF PRAYERS  
FOR THE USE OF  
THE SCHOLARS OF  
WINCHESTER COLLEGE**

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A Manual of Prayers for the Use of the Scholars of Winchester College by Thomas Ken

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**MANUAL OF PRAYERS.**





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MANUAL OF PRAYERS

FOR THE  
USE OF THE SCHOLARS  
OF  
WINCHESTER COLLEGE,

BY THE  
RIGHT REV. THOMAS KEN, D. D.  
LATE LORD BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS.

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MEMOIR  
OF  
BISHOP KEN.

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**T**HOMAS KEN, the admirable Author of this little book, was born at Berkhamstead in Hertfordshire, in July 1637. In his fifteenth year he was sent to Winchester College, where he was admitted, as appears by the register of the College, on the 30th of January 1651. It would seem, however, from various circumstances, that there is a clerical error in this entry, and that he was admitted in Jan. 1652. His name is still to be seen, cut in the stone, on a buttress in the south east corner of the college cloisters, THO. KEN, 1656. Among his school-fellows was Francis Turner, afterwards Bishop of Ely, to whom he was most warmly attached. The friendship of these two excellent men lasted all their lives, who were in many remarkable re-

spects united together. They were both raised to the episcopal dignity, and nearly at the same time. They both attended the death-bed of King Charles II. and the scaffold of his unfortunate son the Duke of Monmouth. They were both of the number of the seven Bishops whose famous resistance of the dispensing power claimed by James II. was one of the main and immediate causes of the Revolution; and they both submitted to "the loss of all which they could not keep with a good conscience," being deprived of the honours and emoluments of their Bishoprics because they refused to take the new oaths of allegiance. In the later correspondence of Bishop Ken there are several affectionate references to the memory of his old schoolfellow and "deare friend the Bishop of Ely, now with God." It is a pleasing reflection, that the friendship of these admirable men, thus begun when boys, when doubtless "they took sweet counsel together, and walked in the house of God as friends," lasted on through all the vicissitudes of earthly fortune, till by the grace of God it strengthened them for their great duty of confessors of God's truth, and champions of His Church, to which they were called together.

Of Ken's life and behaviour during his boyish

years we have no account. But if we may suppose him to have endeavoured to serve God himself, as by this little book he desires to bring others to serve Him, (a supposition which the grace and goodness of his after-life make highly reasonable,) we may believe him to have given a lovely specimen of an early piety. An early piety! "than which" (he says, addressing a Winchester scholar, p. 4.) "nothing will make you a greater comfort to all your friends, or a greater blessing to the very College where you are bred: nothing will make you more universally esteemed and beloved by all men, or more successful in your studies." We have good reason to think, from his subsequent character, that such an early piety was exhibited in himself, and that the comfort and blessing here spoken of, did indeed, by God's mercy, abound to all those who were happy enough to be so connected with him.

From Winchester College Ken was removed to Hart Hall in Oxford, and from thence, after a few months, he became scholar, and then fellow, of New College. After nine years spent at Oxford, during which he took the degree of Master of Arts, and entered into Holy Orders, he returned to the place of his early education, being chosen