

**SHORT READINGS  
FOR MOTHERS'  
MEETINGS**

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Short Readings for Mothers' Meetings by Caroline M. Pilkington

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**CAROLINE M. PILKINGTON**

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BY

CAROLINE M. PILKINGTON.



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## PREFACE.

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A FEW years ago, MOTHERS' MEETINGS were comparative novelties; now in many large towns they form no unimportant part of parochial work.

But I would gladly see them still more widely established both in town and country, for they supply a formerly uncared-for want, in giving to the busy Mother a time for quiet leisure and refreshment of mind, which she with her many cares so greatly needs.

No elaborate or expensive machinery is requisite to set a Mothers' Meeting on foot. A neat (not necessarily large) cottage room with a fire and a few chairs may be hired for a few pence weekly, and there is scarcely a parish or district so poor as to be unable to furnish both a suitable room and the small funds required. It is a great secret of success to *begin*, at any rate, in a very simple way.

Materials for needlework are often distributed among the members of a Mothers' Meeting, but this though a good and useful plan is not absolutely essential, especially in small gatherings: for it is well

to remember that to the working woman, a quiet hour spent in listening *only* is no evil; but on the contrary a rest and rare luxury to both body and mind.

And as "the one thing needful" should ever stand first, it has been my endeavour in the following readings to point out in simple language the exceeding comfort and power of Christ's Religion, and that in Him alone can all who toil and strive find true rest and joy.

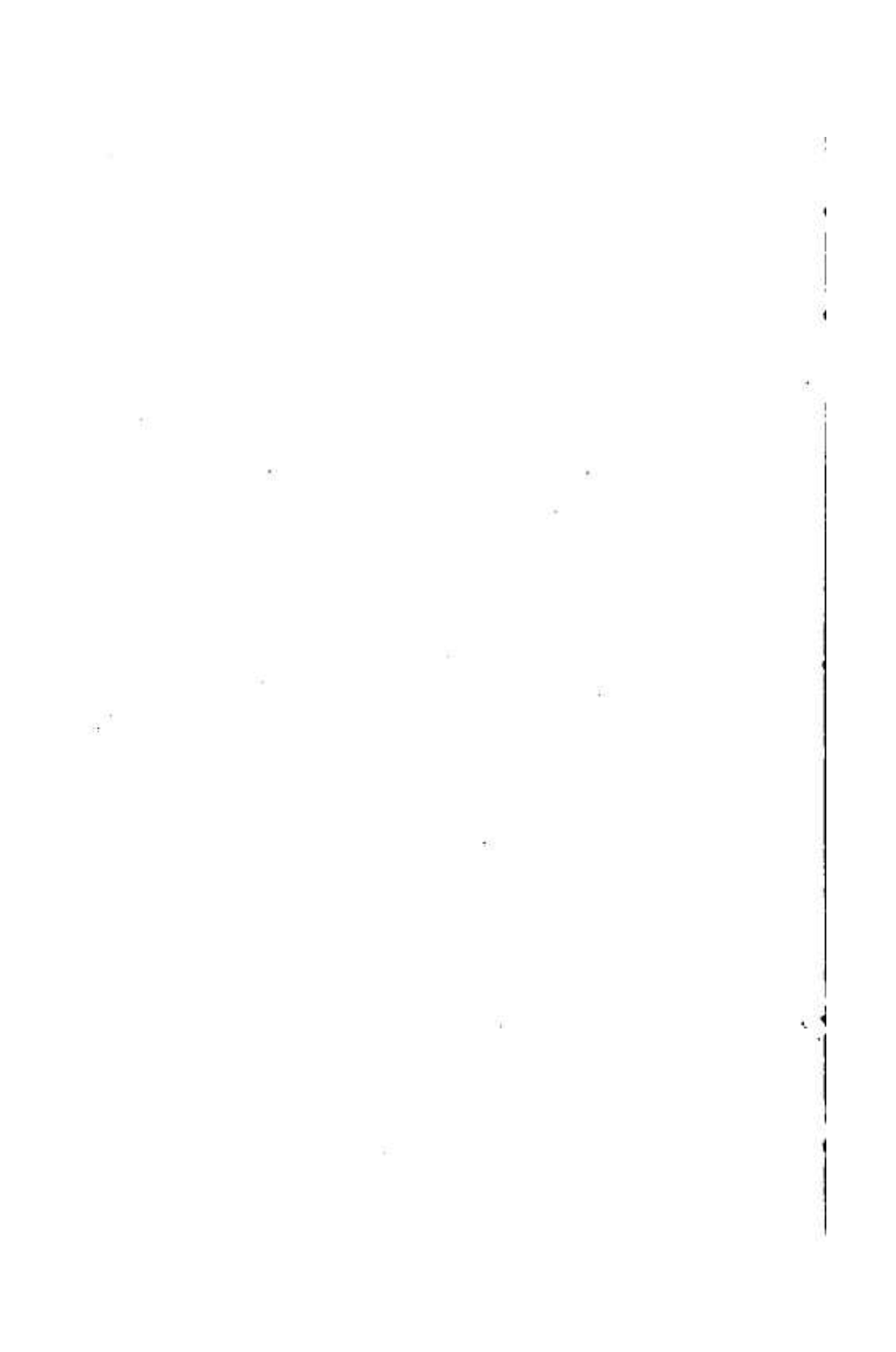
His tenderest words when He was upon earth were for those who labour, for He was, and is, the Light of the world, the busy work-a-day world, of which not perfected saints, but homely men and women, form so large a part. These may find that household cares and noblest work may alike be brightened by the thought, that their Lord is not a God afar off, but a Saviour daily and hourly at hand to comfort and bless.



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## RELIGION IN A BUSY LIFE.

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A BUSY LIFE! There is scarcely a mother who will not say without hesitation, "Ah, that kind of life is mine!" And truly it is a rare, and perhaps almost impossible thing for a good mother to be idle. From morning to night her hands, and her head also, are employed in a hundred ways on her husband's and children's behalf. Indeed, there is much truth in the saying, that "Woman's work is never *done*." For in a mother's case, it is often but turning from one sort of work to another, as for instance when her morning of "stirring about" work is finished, and she can sit down quietly, there is still a shirt to mend or a frock to darn, and the children come in from school full of little wants that only "mother" can supply, and thus her busy day slips on, each hour bringing something for her hands to do.

And, then, there is the *head work*, the *thinking work*, of which every mother has so much. She has to consider how she can lay out her husband's wages to the best advantage—how she may manage to pay the rent, and yet provide breakfasts, dinners and