"NOT YOUR OWN"; OR, COUNSELS TO YOUNG CHRISTIANS

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"Not Your Own"; Or, Counsels to Young Christians by George Everard

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GEORGE EVERARD

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BY THE

REV. GEORGE EVERARD, M.A.,



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I AM THINE!

Nor henceforth my own, not the world's, but Thine,—Thine alone, Thine for ever.

I am Thine by right of creation. "Thy hands have made me and fashioned me." Thy word hath called me into being; Thy goodness hath given me life, and all that pertains to it; Thou hast made me in Thine own image, capable by Thy grace of knowing Thee, of enjoying Thee for ever.

I am Thine, for Thy care hath preserved me.
"By Thee have I been holden up ever since
I was born." All the days of my infancy Thou
wert nigh to guard me from danger. But for
Thine upholding arm, again and again had life
been forfeited.

I am Thins by purchase. When Joseph, to save the lives of the Egyptians, had given them corn in exchange for their possessions, he said, —"Behold I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh." Jesus, to save our souls from death, has given His life, His most precious blood. Now He says,—"Behold I

have bought you this day for God. Ye are no longer your own property: ye are bought with a price."

I would ever recollect therefore this claim of purchase, by which I am afresh bound by every tie of holy gratitude to live for God. The prisoner of war, redeemed by a costly ransom sent by his prince, would feel more than ever constrained faithfully, bravely to fight beneath his standard. Shall not I, redeemed by blood from the curse of the law, and the captivity of sin, spend my life to honour Him who hath set me free?

I am Thins, for Thy Spirit hath taken up His abode with me. When a man has made a house his dwelling place, he says,—"This is my dwelling: this is my house." Even so is it with me, if I be verily and indeed a Christian. My heart is no longer common property, it is no longer left for any guest who will to enter, it is the temple of the Holy Ghost. On this account, therefore, I belong to Thee, and not to myself. I own the truth Thou hast set before me by Thine Apostle: "What! know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

I am Thine by a solemn dedication to Thee in

holy baptism. Either when an infant, or during the time that has since elapsed, I have been thus set apart for Thy service. I have been signed with the sign of the cross, in token that hereafter I should not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified. Even as Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord, so have I been given up to serve Thee as long as I live.

I am Thins by my own deliberate choice. Have I not upon my knees, under a sense of my deep necessity, and Thine abounding grace, yielded myself into Thy hands? Still more am I pledged to be Thine if I have been confirmed. In the presence of many witnesses I have uttered those solemn words "I DO." I have thus openly declared that I believe Thy promises made to me in Christ, that I lean only upon the hope of Thy heavenly grace, that in the strength of this I give myself for ever to be Thine.

Thus I cannot hesitate to avow that I belong to Thee. I could not if I would. I would not if I could, for all my hope, all my happiness is bound up in my relation to Thee.

What shall this relationship to Thee teach me? What guiding shall it give me as to my daily life?

I am Thine: then I must give Thee no divided