THE CHRISTIAN'S JEWELS. A SELECTION OF MEDITATIONS UPON, AND ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN GRACES

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The Christian's Jewels. A Selection of Meditations upon, and Illustrations of the Christian Graces by T. H. L. Leary

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THE CHRISTIAN GRACES.

Translated and Adapted chiefly from the BUritings of the Christian Sathers.

BY

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THE AUTHOR.



INTRODUCTION.

These illustrations of the Christian graces are presented under the title of Jewels, for the following reasons. Firstly, because such a title seems to be in harmony with the symbolical teaching of the Jewels in the Pectoral of the Jewish High Priest, and of the Jewels which in the Apocalypse represent the foundation of the New Jerusalem, as interpreted by the most trustworthy authorities. In the next place, like the Jewels of earth, which borrow their light and their lustre from the sun, these extracts, however beautiful and precious, are but reflections of that Light which came from

Heaven to lead to Heaven, of whom Holy Scripture is the most complete revelation. The compiler trusts that these pages may be of some service in drawing earnest attention to the beauty and power of the Christian graces; and in encouraging their constant cultivation. Revelation furnishes us with no truth more comforting, than the assurance that the same God who has made the Jewels of the earth out of the meanest of materials, as the diamond out of coal, and the ruby out of clay, is abundantly able and willing to transform the meanest of His sinful creatures into His Jewels, by the marvellous working of His Holy Spirit.

THE CHRISTIAN'S JEWELS.

FAITH.

` · 1.

With reason does St. Paul term Faith a large shield; for as the large shield covers the whole body and protects it, as if it were a sort of rampart, just so does Faith shield us against all the attacks of our spiritual enemies.—St. Chrysostom.

2.

Just as the soldier who preserves his shield is preserved by it in his conflict with