

**SUNSHINE
IN SICKNESS**

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Sunshine in sickness by Various

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VARIOUS

**SUNSHINE
IN SICKNESS**

SUNSHINE IN SICKNESS.

"Now men see not the bright light that is in the
clouds."—*Jos xxxvii. 21.*

First American, from the Second London Edition.

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL BOOK SOCIETY

IN

PHILADELPHIA:

1224 CHESTNUT STREET.

1860.

PREFACE.

THE following work is reprinted, with but few alterations, from the second London edition, where we find it without the Author's name. Its chief value, and which we believe to be a great one, consists in the clear and tender setting forth of the DUTIES of the sick.

They are generally addressed exclusively in the language of sympathy, but this alone is not always the most profitable for them, because, like persons in health, they are neglecting duties which are as obligatory upon them as upon others. Some duties they are relieved from by their situation, as they are impossible; others, which are still binding, they are under peculiar temptations to excuse themselves from, so that sickness is often the means of increasing rather than of diminishing their spiritual dangers, and what God meant for good the sufferer may turn to evil.

"Persons have their various tests of Christian character," says Mr. Cecil. "Mine is the effect of affliction. I mark how a man comes out of the furnace." Some are softened, and some are hardened. The grand concern of all who are arrested by sickness is to hear the Lord God when he speaketh, and to obey, and the truest charity in ministers, friends, and books, is to assist them both to hear and to obey.

Without faith and the exercise of the graces of the Spirit in sickness, as well as in health, none can have "peace;" nor is the endurance of pain necessarily "suffering the will of God" in any Christian sense. But, believers doing the will of God as well as suffering it, in sickness, may have peace, great peace, sometimes perfect peace.

It is the peculiar excellence of the book that it is a *wise* and *faithful*, as well as a sympathizing friend.

AMERICAN EDITOR.

SEPTEMBER, 1860.

SUNSHINE IN SICKNESS.

MANY books have been written for the sick; much has been said about their trials and duties, but I think few writers, except the author of "Sickness, its Trials and *Blessings*," have touched upon the latter. There are some blessings which would occur to every one as self-evident consequences of sickness: such as freedom from the snares of pleasure, and the temptations of the world; having more leisure to devote to religious subjects than when immersed in the active duties of our vocation; being allowed to bear a portion, however slight, of the Cross of

our Divine Master; and although only those who are habitually ill, know how greatly these blessings are often marred by the self-reproach that worldliness, impatience, and distaste to, and neglect of, holy things, follow us even into our sick-room; yet they are real blessings which all must recognize, however partially overclouded. It is not difficult after a short and severe illness to feel deeply grateful to our Heavenly Father for our temporary withdrawal from the world, for the time given to us to look into ourselves, and for the greater understanding which sickness has given us of the blessings of health, of which we should never have felt the fulness, but for our late experience of its withdrawal. Many have borne testimony to the good that a casual fit of illness has worked in them, and with a better appreciation of the love of

God, has come also a greater experience of the love of our fellow-creatures; we have felt their affection, forbearance, unselfishness, as we should never have done but for this visitation. All the beauties of creation, too, have come upon us with fresh admiration, after we have been for a time confined to the house; and we realize as we have never done before, how full this world is of beauty and of enjoyment: the grass in its freshness and glory, the flowers in their fragrance and beauty, revive us, and we long to lift up our hearts in joy and thankfulness with the "little birds" that "so sweetly and solemnly sing out their praises to Almighty God." The joy of such a return to health, and of seeing the faces we love best lit up with the delight of our recovery, one can fancy cheaply purchased by the sufferings of a few weeks.

It is more difficult to realize the sunshine shed upon a *life* of sickness, when hope is gone by, and there is no expectation of any outlet but death; and yet much sunshine there undoubtedly is in every lot; and we should not be told so often as we are in Scripture to rejoice, "rejoice in the Lord alway," "and again I say rejoice," if joy and sunshine were denied to any. But the "light is in the clouds" for a time, "*now* men see it not." Why? Because we will not look for it; we shut our eyes or turn away from it, or veil it with a cloud of discontent and impatience, and so we do not see it; yet there it is, one day to shine out in all its brightness, if we do not render ourselves unable to see it then, by refusing to let its faintest beams rest upon us now.

As every physical power, every muscle of our bodies, becomes strengthened by