

**OVER THE RIVER; OR, PLEASANT  
WALKS INTO THE VALLEY OF  
SHADOWS, AND BEYOND: A BOOK  
OF CONSOLATIONS FOR THE SICK,  
THE DYING, AND THE BEREAVED**

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Over the river; or, pleasant walks into the valley of shadows, and beyond: a book of consolations for the sick, the dying, and the bereaved by Thomas Baldwin Thayer

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**THOMAS BALDWIN THAYER**

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*Milton H. Olden*  
*Sumner*

OVER THE RIVER;

OR,

Pleasant Walks into the Valley of Shadows,

AND BEYOND:

A BOOK OF CONSOLATIONS FOR THE SICK, THE  
DYING, AND THE BEREAVED.

BY THOMAS BALDWIN THAYER.



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THE MEMORY OF  
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AT WHOSE REQUEST IT WAS UNDERTAKEN,  
THIS VOLUME  
IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED.

## P R E F A C E .

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BESIDE those named in the title-page, this little volume has two objects specially in view —

*First:* To present the subject of death in its true light; to show that the Scriptures speak of it cheerfully, and in pleasant phrase; to establish the fact that, as a rule, it is not attended either with the mental terror, or the extreme physical suffering, commonly ascribed to it — and thus to remove that dread of dying which oppresses the minds and hearts of so many truly good persons, and is the cause of no little unhappiness to all who are passing down to the banks of the river of death.

*Second:* To offer for the consideration of the thoughtful believer, more elevated and satisfactory views of the future state than prevail generally among Christians. When we consider the extent, the grandeur and variety of the material universe, the countless worlds which throng the abysses of space; it is surely reasonable to suppose that, since we



cannot, while in the body, behold the wonders of God's creative power as displayed in these, we shall be permitted to visit them out of the body. It is difficult to believe that with all these glories of God's creation calling to us from afar, we shall remain in any one place, singing hymns and playing on golden harps through eternal ages, and think this heaven—whatever the meaning we attach to these expressions.

The book is sent forth as a Comforter, in these times when so many need comfort and courage and faith, with a prayer that the blessing of God may attend it on its mission of mercy.

*Boston, May, 1864.*

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