

**JAMES MARTINEAU AND
HIS GREATEST BOOK. A
CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE**

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James Martineau and His Greatest Book. A Centennial Tribute by Jabez T. Sunderland & Eliza R. Sunderland

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JABEZ T. SUNDERLAND & ELIZA R. SUNDERLAND

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BY

JABEZ T. ^{*James*} SUNDERLAND

AND

ELIZA R. SUNDERLAND

A Centennial Tribute

TORONTO, CANADA:
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1905

"High hearts are never long without hearing some new call, some distant clarion of God, even in their dreams; and soon they are observed to break up the camp of ease and start on some fresh march of faithful service. And, looking higher still, we find those who never wait till their moral work accumulates, and who reward resolution with no rest; who do the good only to see the better and see the better only to achieve it; who are too meek for transport, too faithful for remorse, too earnest for repose; whose worship is action, and whose action ceaseless aspiration."—Martineau's "Endeavours."

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JAMES MARTINEAU:

A BRIEF SKETCH
OF HIS LIFE AND WORK.

BY

JABEZ T. SUNDERLAND, M.A.

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"That God is a Spirit, has not hindered him from shaping the vault of night, and hanging it with stars; or from tinting the tender blue of day; or from spreading the sheet of sea, and streaking it with green and gold; or from poisoning the summer clouds, to sling the chase of purple shadows on the hills; or from shining through the cool lights of the spring woods; or from dwelling in our humanity, to touch it with many a grace and repeat in it the image of his piety and his truth; or from resting with the Man of Sorrows as the symbol of his piety and holy love. These are the works of his Creativeness,—the appeal of his Beauty to our hearts,—the mighty Poem he improvises through all the rhythm of the Universe."—Martineau's "Hours of Thought."

James Martineau

HIS LIFE AND WORK.

James Martineau was born April 21, 1805, in Norwich, England, and died January 11, 1900, in London, at the age of almost ninety-five years,—his life's long day having reached its natural evening; his life's full year having rounded to its late autumn, with extraordinarily rich harvests reaped and garnered.

GREAT MEN.

God's most precious gifts to the world are great men. But the value of great men varies according to the quality of their greatness. Mere intellectual greatness, unaccompanied with moral, is of comparatively low value. Indeed, a man of intellectual brilliancy may even be a curse to the world, if he uses his intellectual powers for evil ends. But great men who are not only great in intellect, but great also in moral character—who possess not only brilliant mental powers, but the will to use them for highest purposes—such men are blessings to the world whose value cannot be overestimated.

We speak of "Alexander the Great." Such greatness as the famous Greek conqueror represents, stands for mingled good and evil. In like manner, the greatness of a Cæsar or a Napoleon, or even of a Wellington and a Grant, represent some influences that conserve and benefit, and some that hurt and destroy. But there is a class of great men whom we may look upon as representing good, and only good, to the race. In this class we find such historic names as Socrates, Plato, Isaiah, Paul, Luther, Milton, Wesley, Channing, and, above all, Jesus. In this company Martineau belongs, because in him, as in them, splendid intellectual gifts were allied with moral endowments equally splendid, and his brilliant powers were employed, not for destructive or selfish ends, but to advance truth, righteousness, peace, love, and whatsoever makes for the permanent betterment of the world.

MARTINEAU'S ENDOWMENTS.

Martineau was a member of the famous London Metaphysical Society, which contained many of the most eminent thinkers, literary men, scientists, and public leaders of England, such as Gladstone, Ruskin, Huxley, Tyndall, Tennyson, the Archbishop of York, Professors Sidgwick and Mivart, Dr. W. B. Carpenter, Mr.

R. H. Hutton, Lord Selborne, and Archbishop Manning. Tennyson has left it on record that he regarded Martineau as the master mind of all that remarkable company; and Gladstone said to Frances Power Cobbe, "Martineau is beyond question the greatest of living thinkers." This was high praise. But best of all, Martineau was as great morally as he was intellectually. He always used his splendid powers for worthiest ends—to discover and give to the world the highest kind of truth—moral truth, spiritual truth, religious truth, such truth as would feed the best that was in men, and therefore most benefit mankind.

Dr. Martineau's endowments were both many and rich. His was a subtle, keen, and penetrating intellect. He was a trained logician. He was a profound philosophic thinker. He was a spiritual seer. He had a vivid and powerful imagination, which was forever at play, and which cast the fascinating lights and shadows of poetry and symbol upon all he said and wrote. He was gifted with a rich and stately eloquence. As Dr. Forsyth says: 'His style alone would have given him influence,—so lucid, jewelled, over-polished at times, perhaps, but never metallic; full of fancy—sometimes too full—and of imagery now scientific, now poetic; full