

THE LAW OF KINDNESS

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The Law of Kindness by Thomas Pyne

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THOMAS PYNE

**THE LAW
OF KINDNESS**

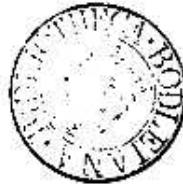
THE

LAW OF KINDNESS.

BY THE

REV. THOMAS PYNE, A. M.,

INCUMBENT OF HOOK, SURREY.



"Pure Charity, that comes not in a shower,
Sudden and loud, oppressing what it feeds ;
But like the dew, with gradual, silent power,
Felt in the bloom it leaves along the meads.

LONDON :

CHARLES GILPIN, 5, BISHOPSGATE STREET WITHOUT ;

EDINBURGH : A. & C. BLACK ;

DUBLIN : J. B. GILPIN.

1850.

TO

JAMES WATSON, Esq.,

AND

Mrs. SHEDDEN WATSON,

AT WHOSE SUGGESTION THIS LITTLE WORK WAS UNDERTAKEN,

AND

BY WHOSE MUNIFICENCE THE PUBLICATION
HAS BEEN AIDED :

AND WHO THEMSELVES EXEMPLIFY THE SUBJECT OF WHICH IT TREATS
MORE ABUNDANTLY THAN MODesty TO THE LIVING
ALLOWS TO BE REPEATED,

The following Pages

ARE

WITH EVERY RESPECT AND REGARD,

BY THE AUTHOR,

AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED.

PREFACE.

THE Author of the present unpretending volume found, after its completion, that an interesting book had been published in America, under the name "Illustrations of the Law of Kindness;" fearing, therefore, lest his own should be mistaken for that of a fellow-worker in the same field, and thus do an injury to both, he thinks it desirable to acquaint the reader that he retains the simple title of his choice, "The Law of Kindness," that of the other being as he trusts sufficiently different not to create confusion. It is scarcely needful to add, that the American book not having been seen by the Author of the accompanying one, the latter is quite distinct from it in argument and arrangement.

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THE LAW OF KINDNESS.

CHAPTER I.

THE LAW OF KINDNESS.

IN the ancient Scriptures, the records of God are spoken of under the threefold term, of the Statutes, the Judgments, and the Testimonies of the Lord. The Statutes are the written commands of Jehovah, the Judgments are his dealings in providence with mankind, and the Testimonies those sweet and holy declarations in which the way of redemption is set forth, and all the winning teaching of the Spirit whereby men are made wise unto salvation. And this Trinity of the word has its Unity in the single name of Law, which comprehends all, enjoining, enforcing, predicting, guiding; so that in life's journey like the aged Patriarch, we may worship leaning on the top of this staff. But yet the word law in its scriptural use, has a force and beauty intrinsic beyond what is here said. It is not exoteric only; it is esoteric. It entereth within the veil of God's mind of glory, and it penetrates too, the human spirit,

filling it with joy and love. It is in something of this meaning that the thoughtful Hooker uses the word, when the old man eloquent—the Nestor of the church says—“ Wherefore of law there can be no less considered than that her seat is the bosom of God, her voice the harmony of the worlds, all things in heaven and earth do her homage, the least as feeling her care, the greatest as subject to her power, both men and angels, and all things of whatsoever form and order, acknowledging her as the mother of their peace and joy.” In the same sense does the apostle apply the word, teaching that the better heathen “ not having a law, are a law unto themselves ;” the law, that is, the rule of order and obedient love, being read by them, by the light of conscience in all nature—in the sun-lit and the starry heavens, in the deep sea, in each stone or herb around ; for to the meditative heart

“ The simplest flower that blooms, will move
Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.”

Whenever then we think of law in reference to the Divine word, it is in such a connection that we should contemplate it. It is not enough to regard it as a dry code of obligations, nor as simply a correct system of morals. It is something better than all this—not neglecting the least part of them, but rising above them all. It is the inward speaking of God to the soul by his grace, the witness of his Spirit with our spirits, that we are his children, the receiving a new principle and following it forth with our expanding intellect,