THE CHRISTIAN HOUSEHOLD: EMBRACING THE CHRISTIAN HOME, HUSBAND, WIFE, FATHER, MOTHER, CHILD, BROTHER AND SISTER

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GEORGE S. WEAVER

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Trieste

CHRISTIAN HOUSEHOLD.

EMBRACING

THE CHRISTIAN HOME, HUSBAND, WIFE, FATHER, MOTHER, CHILD, BROTHER AND SISTER.

BY

REV. GEORGE S. WEAVER,

AUTHOR OF "LECTURES ON MENTAL SCIENCE," "HOPES AND HELPS FOR THE YOUNG," "MORAL ANTIPODES," ETC. ETC.

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MY MOTHER,

WHOSE CARE WAS THE SHIELD OF MY CHILDHOOD,

WHOSE FAITH WAS THE STRENGTH OF MY YOUTH,

WHOSE LOVE IS THE DELIGHT OF MY MANHOOD,

And whose Christian Teachings

PLANTED EARLY IN MY SOUL THE SEEDS OF WHICH

MY CHRISTIAN LIFE AND LABORS ARE THE FRUITS,

THIS LITTLE VOLUME

IS MOST GRATEFULLY AND AFFECTIONATELY

DEDICATED.

PREFACE.

This little volume is designed as a partial answer to one of the most solicitous wants of Christian families. I have for years seen and sorrowed over the absence of Christ in our households. Among the Christian people of every sect there is a sad deficiency of Christian principle and practice at home. The devotion and the love of the Gospel life are alarmingly absent from these sacred places. Thousands of professedly Christian families are unvisited by a song of praise or a voice of prayer, or anything in spirit or practice that distinguishes them from those who scoff at religion. Why is it so? Is it not because, in the Christian race set before us, our theology has outrun our religion? Have we not preached and practised more theology than Christian principle and life? Christendom has been, and is, a grand arena for theological conflict. What avails doctrine, if it do not produce life? But theology is good, necessary. It is the seed. The culture of that seed to its fruit-bearing is religion. It is as necessary to cultivate as to sow. Christians have not sown too much, but cultivated too little; they have not had too much theology, but too little religion. This little

book is sent out as a cultivator among the long rows of theological plants, so nicely sown and arranged by the Christian sects. The author is as sensible as any one can be of its defects. He timidly consecrates it to its work. In prayerful solicitude for its frailties, he asks the printer to put it into the hands of the world; the men and women of that world, into whose hands it may fall, he asks to read it as it has been written, in a deep and earnest desire for Christian improvement; and the critics who feel a desire to display their wisdom in an exhibition of its weaknesses, he asks to withhold that labor, and devote it to writing a better book for the same good mission. We want more home books, home culture, home religion. Home is the heart of the world, and that heart needs christianising. If it were baptized in the fount of our holy religion, how pure and healthy would be the life-currents it would send out through the whole body! If one home shall be made more Christlike and happy, it will be well that I have given this labor to the public. G. S. W.

St. Louis, Feb. 27, 1854.

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