LITTLE FOOTPRINTS ON THE OLD CHURCH PATH, A MEMOIR OF A CHRISTIAN CHILD

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Little footprints on the old church path, a memoir of a Christian child by Anonymous

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WHATEVER claim the following memoir may have to the distinction of publication, or whatever interest for the members of the Church in general, the responsibility of bringing it so prominently forward does not rest upon her who wrote it.

The manuscript fell into the hands of a friend who suggested its publication, and his opinion was supported by that of another Clergyman[•] much interested in education, and who was enabled to confirm its practical truthfulness and reality by ob-

 The Rev. William Sewell, B.D., Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford, who has kindly permitted this use of his name.

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servations of his own. The memoir was written whilst the mother's heart, wounded but not broken, cast down yet full of comfort, was pondering on the ways of God towards herself and all around her, as well as towards that little sainted one whom He had called so early home. With a spirit thus impressed that God's immediate presence was in all those hallowed scenes, that His voice might be heard, speaking with no ordinary emphasis, by all who had been privileged to witness love so pure, hope so stedfast, and faith so triumphant, this little record was penned-to meet no eyes but those of her own immediate family, or of such friends as could sympathize with her chastened joys and hopeful sorrows.

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She would gladly have refrained from bringing into prominence subjects so interwoven with her heart's deepest affections; and have adhered to her original intention of confining the little narrative to those who so well knew the truth of every circumstance it records, and would love to trace in it the features of one, whom, though taken from them for a season, they cannot look upon as lost to them for ever.

But when it was represented that such an example might be blest to others also; that it was a striking testimony to the excellent wisdom and practical utility of the Church's system; above all, that it might point out to some *Christian Mother*, how she might lead her children along the same

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good path of Church teaching, in which she had been so happily permitted to guide her little one; she felt it her duty to forego her own feelings, if, by so doing, she might benefit others, and bear witness to the truth.

Whitmuntide, 1853.

LITTLE FOOTPRINTS ON THE OLD CHURCH PATH.

SEVERAL of my friends, who witnessed or heard of my dear George's last illness, have remarked that I must have trained his mind wonderfully, to have effected so much at the age of five years and four months.

But, indeed, it is not *I* that have trained him, but the Church. I did nothing but what every mother may, if she can only bring herself to obey, as well as to teach. God's grace was given, and He blessed the humble spirit seeking to be guided by the means of His own appointment.

LITTLE FOOTPRINTS

Some chapters in Sewell's "Christian Morals," which I read about three years ago, gave me the most definite idea of the way in which the doctrine of Baptismal Regeneration gives the tone to the whole Christian training from the first infancy that it is not only to be *believed* as a matter of faith, but *acted* upon through our whole earthly struggle.

"We must keep our early promise, We must guard what He has given, Till the Lord who loved and saved us, Take us to His home in heaven." HYMNS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN.

It may seem a strange confession; but, I am sure, my dear children have educated me fully as much as I have them. They

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