

**MEMOIRS OF MISS
MARY LYON, OF
NEW HAVEN, CONN**

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Memoirs of Miss Mary Lyon, of New Haven, Conn by Mary Lyon

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NEW HAVEN:
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1837.

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PREFACE.

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THESE Memoirs are not offered to the pious, as affording an interesting variety; or those soul-stirring details, which are found in the life of the active, and successful minister of the Gospel; or of the devoted female missionary.

They are merely presented, as the history of an immortal spirit, from its conversion to God, through its progressive course of sanctification, till it appeared prepared by the influences of the Holy Spirit, to join the society of "the just made perfect" in Heaven.

Truth has been the aim of the compiler, and no attempt made to extenuate the imperfections, or give undue prominence, to the virtues of the subject of these Memoirs; or to represent her otherwise, than she appears in her own writings, or in the recollection of friends, who still cherish her memory, as the sweet perfume of a precious ointment.

Miss Lyon thought herself constitutionally inclined to melancholy; and those natural traits of character possessed by individuals before their conversion, generally remain afterwards, and are still prominent features. Divine grace gives them new bias, directs them to different objects, and employs them in different pursuits. St. Paul after his conversion, still retained his distinctive, native characteristics. Some of the Reformers, and modern missionaries, furnish examples of the same kind. From a native sense of propriety, but more espe-

cially, from a desire to adorn her profession, the state of her mind was never unseasonably obtruded on any; and her society for an afternoon, or for a visit of weeks, or months, was considered a *favor*, and often solicited. She did not yield to the melancholy, which at times oppressed her; or ever plead it as an excuse, for the omission of duty; or suffer it to paralyze her efforts to do good; for hers was a life of activity, and usefulness.

Let not the desponding feeling, occasionally expressed in these Memoirs, be ascribed to religion as its cause; for it was the grace of God, shed abroad in her heart, which restrained, rectified, and overruled it for good. If her exemplary, and disinterested life, is compared with one possessing the same constitutional temperament, but unsustained by the supports of religion, and uninfluenced by its precepts, the transforming power of divine grace, will appear conspicuous.

It is true that the sincere believer has sorrows which the world does not experience; but he has seasons of communion with his heavenly Father, which he would not exchange for millions of worlds. At times he feels the dawnings of celestial peace in his soul, arising from scriptural evidence of his union to Christ; and can adopt the language of the apostle: "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

With him, death is disarmed of his sting, and he can look forward undismayed to that tremendous day; "When the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements melt with fervent heat." O! that all those who are feeding on the husks of this world, and who consider the rational confidence and peace of the Christian, as delusions of the imagination, knew by personal experience, "what these things mean."

These pages are now presented to the pious, with the prayers of the compiler, that God would make this humble, but sincere attempt to glorify him, an instrument of their growth in grace. If any should feel an increasing desire to follow this departed saint, wherein she followed Christ, to all the other Christian graces, let them add those for which she was particularly distinguished. Watchfulness, self-denial, and confidence in God.

ADVERTISEMENT.

MISS MARY LYON was daughter of Col. Wm. and Mrs. Lois Lyon, of New Haven, Conn.

Her father was remarkable for precocity of talents, and acquired almost in infancy, habits of strict application to whatever demanded his attention, which remained through life, and were apparent in all the various occupations in which he engaged.

His love of literature was never subdued by the pressure of business. His evenings, and at times, part of the night, were devoted to his favorite pursuit.

Col. Lyon respected and supported the institutions of religion, but never connected himself with the professed church of Christ.

Mrs. Lyon was a member of the first Congregational church in N. H. Her love of prayer, and diligent perusal of the Scriptures, were conspicuous traits in her religious character. Debarred, by ill health, for several years from active pursuits, reading the Bible, and prayer, seemed indeed to constitute the business, as well as the enjoyment of her life. Her paternal ancestors were pious, as far as

known. Her grandfather, and father, after lives of usefulness, and obedience to the precepts of the Gospel, died in the triumphs of faith. The former of these venerable men, was deacon of the first Congregational church in N. H., and obtained from his pastor, the honorable appellation of a Nathaniel "in whom was no guile."

Miss Lyon was the fourth of six children; one son, and five daughters, and was born Oct. 7, 1780.