

**SCRIPTURE BREVIATES,  
ARRANGED FOR USE BY  
THE BED OF SICKNESS**

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Scripture Breviates, Arranged for Use by the Bed of Sickness by G. Arden

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BY THE

REV. G. ARDEN, M.A.,

RECTOR OF WINTERBORNE-CAMS;

DOMESTIC CHAPLAIN TO THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DEVON;

AUTHOR OF "A MANUAL OF CATECHETICAL INSTRUCTION."

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"Πρὸς διδασκαλίαν, πρὸς ἐλεγχον, πρὸς ἐπιτιμίαν, πρὸς παιδείαν  
τῆς ἐν δικαιοσύνῃ."—2 Τίμ. iii. 16.

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TO THE RIGHT REVEREND  
THE LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY,  
THE FATHER OF HIS DIOCESE,  
FROM HIS  
AFFECTIONATE SON IN THE FAITH,  
THE COMPILER.





## PREFACE.

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THE following pages were drawn up by the compiler in the hope of giving greater definiteness to his own teaching by the bedside of the sick, especially during protracted cases. With this view he has endeavoured so to arrange some of the most striking passages of Holy Scripture, that they may throw their bright rays upon the path of the penitent sinner, while he is being led, step by step, out of darkness into the glorious light of the Gospel of Christ.

Any part may be used by itself, at the discretion of the minister; but the train of thought which is intended to connect the whole is as follows. It is often desirable to commence a course of instruction by reminding the patient that we come to him as the ambassadors of Christ, praying him, in Christ's stead, to be reconciled to God. Then it is commonly necessary to set forth the terrors of the Lord; the death of the body, to which we silently draw nearer day by day; the judgment-seat of Christ, before which we must all stand; and the utter destruction of the un-

godly and impenitent. This leads us to consider, on the one hand, the sinfulness of man, which

“Brought death into the world, and all our woe ;”

and on the other hand, the tender mercy of God, which has provided a remedy. And since this mercy began to take effect, in our own case, when we were each made “a member of Christ, a child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven,” we are here naturally led to refer to holy baptism and all its blessings, especially that great privilege of drawing near to God with filial confidence when any prodigal son has come to himself. Yet, lest any poor sinner should doubt, there follows a selection of God’s own gracious invitations to His wilful and rebellious children to return to Him. And since “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,” and “before honour is humility,” our attention is next directed to these two graces ; which are also necessary to prepare us for self-examination, that we may see the particular charge against our own souls. As some little help in performing this great duty, certain special precepts have been selected, bearing on various points of our duty towards God and man. From hence we pass on to the doctrines of repentance and the confession of sin,—in some cases to those whom God has commissioned to pronounce pardon in His Name, but at all events to God Himself. Then follows the good tidings of

salvation through the blood of Jesus to those who have repented, confessed, and forsaken their sins : and this seemed a fitting place for the introduction of passages which may help us in meditating on the most holy life and precious death of our Saviour.

Next we proceed to the consideration of that Divine Comforter whose temples we have been made, and are still, if we belong to Christ ; of the prayer and watchfulness which are necessary on our part to secure His aid ; and of the graces of faith, hope, and charity, which it is His especial office to implant and cherish in the Christian's heart. And then follows a section on the Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of Christ, the highest privilege of the faithful, the best provision for the sick man's last journey, the foretaste of heaven itself—to prepare for a devout reception of which, especially if neglected in times past, has been one great object of the foregoing instructions.

After this we come to the more special duties of the sick room—patience and submission under God's afflicting hand ; leading on to the further grace of thankfulness, even for the pain and suffering which He sees necessary for us ; and all tending to promote our growth in holiness, which consists in our being gradually changed into the image of our Lord.

And now, if ever, at the close of his earthly