

**CATHARINE AND CRAUFURD  
TAIT, WIFE AND SON OF  
ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL,  
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: A  
MEMOIR**

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A Memoir by Archibald Campbell Tait & Wm. Benham

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**ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL TAIT & WM. BENHAM**

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# CATHARINE AND CRAUFURD TAIT

WIFE AND SON OF ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL  
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

A Memoir  
By Archibald Campbell Tait

EDITED AT THE REQUEST OF THE ARCHBISHOP

BY

THE REV. WM. BENHAM, B.D.

VICAR OF MARDEN, AND ONE OF THE SIX PREACHERS OF  
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL.

ABRIDGED EDITION

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A-1

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## Preface.

WHEN the mother and son who form the subject of the present Memoir died in 1878, many personal friends asked that it should be written. The Archbishop and his daughters, though they hesitated much, yet felt that it was their duty to yield to the wish, seeing that the lessons which the memorials of such lives were able to convey ought not to be lost, that they are the setting up of a light before men, who may be enabled thereby to glorify their Father who is in heaven.

The publication therefore was, after much consideration, decided upon, and in its original form it consisted of three distinct portions. First, a Memoir of his wife by the Archbishop himself; secondly, a collection of other memories by dear and old friends of Mrs. Tait and Craufurd; and thirdly, a narrative which she herself wrote, of the

terrible blow which fell upon her in 1856, when five of her children died in as many weeks.

The reception of the book proved that the Archbishop had not wrongly judged. Hundreds of letters were received both by himself and by the Editor expressive of thankfulness and sympathy, and to this very day requests have continued to come from high and low asking that the work may be published in a form which shall place it within the reach of humble mourners.

The present edition is the response to these requests. The Archbishop's own Memoir remains unaltered. So does Mrs. Tait's Narrative. But the compilation from other sources has been greatly curtailed. And thus, while the book is made much cheaper, the material which gave it its permanent value remains exactly what it was before. As to its teaching I see nothing to alter in what I said in the Preface to the First Edition. I therefore repeat it now.

The simple lesson of these two lives is one—a bright lesson shining through the darkness of our present sorrow. It shows how the early Christian



training which the mother received from her parents was carried on by her with unwearied patience in the training of her only son—and with a like result, namely, the power of continuance in prayer to sustain and cheer when the character is chastened by that discipline of suffering which a loving Father sends to us all, and which is good for us all, 'if we will but recognise it as coming from His hand.

There was this great difference, indeed, in the application of the truth to the two lives, a difference to be often meditated upon by those who are left. In the one case an extended life of usefulness was granted on the earth; in the other, there was that early and sudden departure to which so many each year are called. But to the faithful such an ending is not less full of hope. They are sure that it is the entrance upon new duties, in a land which is indeed unknown, but which is 'a goodly land and a large,' and lightened by the presence of Christ.

The lesson of these lives has indeed been, and is daily being, repeated in the lives and deaths of hundreds of Christian mothers and earnest-minded

young clergymen. Only few of all these have had such a field or such rare advantages for showing forth their light. Let this volume go forth, then, as an example of the life of many a one, and may God bless it to His glory and the comfort of many!

W. B.

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