

**SINCERE DEVOTION:
EXEMPLIFIED IN THE
LIFE OF MRS. C. E.
MARTIN, OF SEVENOAKS**

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Sincere Devotion: Exemplified in the Life of Mrs. C. E. Martin, of Sevenoaks by Benjamin Field

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BENJAMIN FIELD

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EXEMPLIFIED IN THE

LIFE OF MRS. C. E. MARTIN,

OF SEVENOAKS.

BY HER BROTHER,

REV. BENJAMIN FIELD.

LONDON:

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1862.

100. c . 242.

“ As one by one our friends depart,
So long endear'd unto the heart,
In joy and sorrow too:
Thou, who didst weep—forgive the tear—
Who didst console, now deign to cheer—
Who criest, ‘Fear not!’ bid us not fear,
And peace of mind renew.

“ At best, but a few years can glide,
Ere each shall join the loved one's side,—
Soul-cheering promise given!
They are ‘not lost, but gone before,’—
Have cross'd the river, reach'd the shore,
And from the' eternal heights look o'er,
And beckon us to heaven.”



PREFACE.

It is not without vivid and impassioned feeling that I have undertaken to give to the world this brief memorial of one of the best of sisters. From earliest childhood, we lived in mutual and undivided affection. We were brought, about the same time, in humble penitence to the Friend of sinners. It was our wont, through every successive stage of life, to pour into each other's ears the sorrows and joys, the hopes, and fears, and wishes of our hearts. No tongue can tell the debt of affection I owe to her memory for her prudent counsels, her sisterly sympathies, and her undying love. Through all the years of separation, our correspondence with each other was regular and free; and a precious legacy are those letters of piety and affection.

which she never failed to write. It was my privilege, at her own request, to perform the rite which made her the wife of a now bereaved and sorrowing husband. And, after ten short years, it was my lot to follow her to the tomb, and, in the town of our birth, to preach her funeral sermon before a large and sympathizing audience. I felt, at that time, that her death had awakened attention, and excited an interest, which ought to be improved for the purpose of impressing the mind with lessons of wisdom and piety. And now, in the fear of God, the following pages are placed before the public eye with the humble hope that others may be stimulated to follow her example of humble piety and zealous toil.

My aim in this book is not to eulogize the dead; it is to benefit the living. Had I been able to consult my sainted sister on the subject of presenting a record of her life to the world, it may be that her humble mind would have been startled at the thought, and permission positively withheld. But sure I am that, if,

from her throne in light, she could view this record as a means of bringing glory to her exalted Lord, it would heighten the joy of her glorified spirit, and this would be her reverent exclamation, "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to Thy name give glory, for Thy mercy, and for Thy truth's sake."

To the hands of God my labour is now committed. And if it should be instrumental in advancing the highest interests of any soul,—either of saint or sinner,—my highest ambition will be reached, and all the praise shall be reverently laid at the Saviour's feet.

B. F.

NORTHAMPTON-SQUARE,
London, Oct., 1861.

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