

**THE EARNEST
COMMUNICANT, A
COURSE OF PREPARATION
FOR THE LORD'S TABLE**

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The Earnest Communicant, a Course of Preparation for the Lord's Table by Ashton Oxenden

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ASHTON OXENDEN

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THE
EARNEST COMMUNICANT.

A Course of Preparation for the
Lord's Table.

BY THE
RT. REV. ASHTON OXENDEN, D.D.

BISHOP OF MONTREAL,
AND METROPOLITAN OF CANADA.

Two Hundred and Twenty-eight Thousand.

LONDON:
HATCHARDS, PICCADILLY ;
HAMILTON, ADAMS, AND CO. 32 PATERNOSTER ROW.

1871.

Many books have been written to explain the nature of the Lord's Supper, and to exhort persons to partake of it. Such is not the object of this book. It is not intended for one who is seeking information respecting the Holy Communion; but it offers helps to one who is already an 'Earnest Communicant,' or desires to be so; and it is intended, under God, to assist him in rightly preparing himself from time to time for that holy Ordinance.



The Institution of the Lord's Supper.

ST. MATTHEW, xxvi. 26-29.

AS they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat ; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it ; for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'

(See also Mark, xiv. 22-25 ; Luke, xxii. 14-20 ; 1 Cor. x. 16, 17.)

1 COR. xi. 23-29.

FOR I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread : and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat : this is my body, which is broken for you : this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the New Testament in my blood : this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as oft as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to *himself, not discerning the Lord's body.*

Thus did our Lord appoint this heavenly Feast. He invites to it all His believing people. He calls them to it; yea, He bids them come. To each He says, 'Do this in remembrance of me.' God grant that we may come then,

WITH A LOWLY AND CONTRITE HEART;
WITH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST;
WITH LOVE TO THE BRETHREN;
WITH AN EARNEST DESIRE TO LEAD A NEW
AND HOLY LIFE;
WITH A THANKFUL REMEMBRANCE OF THE
SAVIOUR'S DEATH.

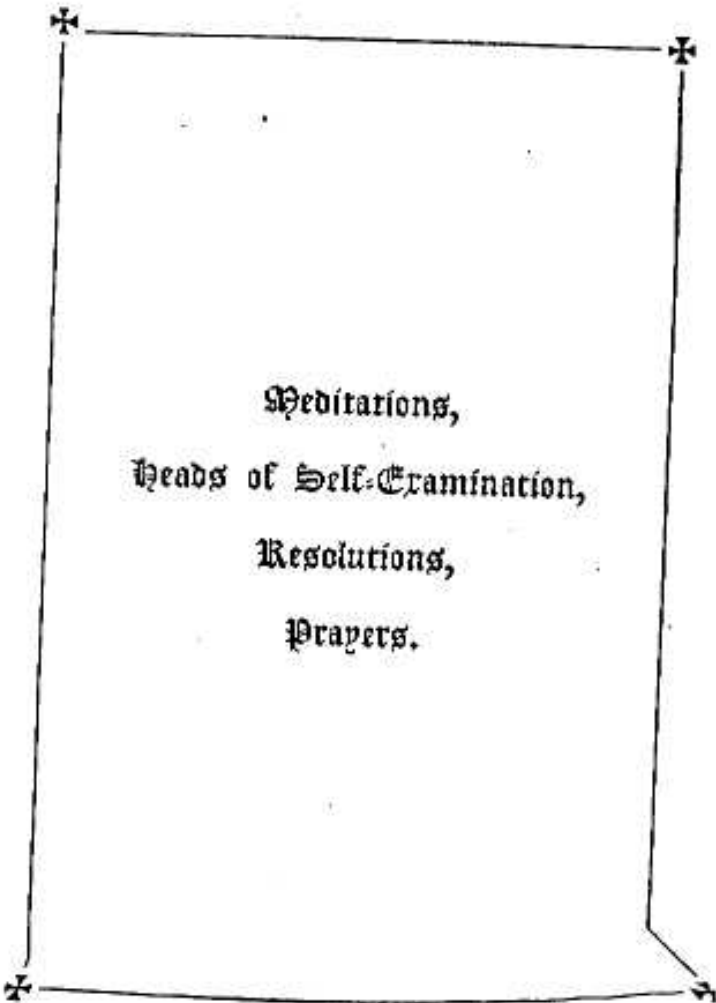
And now, in order to help you towards a right receiving of this holy ordinance, I have drawn up for you a Course of Preparation. But remember that *the mere formal use* of this, or of any other Week's Preparation, will profit you nothing. You may punctually read

each meditation, and repeat every prayer, word for word ; and yet, if your heart is not in the matter, you will derive no profit. For it is God alone who can tune it, and set it in order : the preparation of the heart is from Him.

I earnestly pray that He will so quicken, and prepare, and sanctify you by His Holy Spirit, that your Communion Sabbaths may prove to be seasons of much blessing and comfort to your soul. And I venture to hope, that this Form of Preparation may, by some at least, be found useful in bringing about such a happy result.

May God Himself be with you whilst you use it ; leading you to a deeper knowledge of your own heart, and filling you with a more fervent love to your Saviour !





Meditations,
Heads of Self-Examination,
Resolutions,
Prayers.