

**THE THREEFOLD CORD;
OR, MUSINGS ON
FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE**

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The Threefold Cord; Or, Musings on Faith, Hope, and Love by James Buttfeld

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JAMES BUTTFIELD

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BY

JAMES BUTTFIELD.

"Faith, Hope, Love, these three; but the greatest of these
is Love."—*Paul.*

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J. HEATON & SON, 7, BRIGGATE.

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HOULSTON & STONEMAN, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1854.

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PREFACE.

Were an apology necessary on the appearance of a new volume of Sacred Poems, it might be found in the fact, of the increasing number of works continually issuing from the press, of a character and tendency greatly to be regretted by those who have at heart the social and moral elevation of the community. Thus every effort, however humble, that has for its object the furtherance of those excellent principles which are adapted to improve and bless, at least may be tolerated, if not welcomed, by the christian.

The Author presents the simple effusions of his pen, suggested by "Scripture, observation, and experience," animated, he trusts, by the sacred principles he has chosen as the subjects of meditation; and begs that, especially in the "greatest" of these, his effort may be received; and that amid the multitude of works of higher pretensions that invite the skill of the reviewer and the discrimination of the critic, it may escape the severity of the one and the condemnation of the other, hoping it may afford some edification to "the faithful," and be of service to some who are "ignorant and out of the way."



FAITH.

"How sweet to the soul are the breathings of peace,
When the still voice of pardon bids sorrows to cease,
When the welcome of mercy falls soft on the ear,
'Come hither, ye laden,—ye weary, draw near!'
There is rest for the soul that on Jesus relies,
There's a home for the homeless prepared in the skies,
There's a joy in *believing*, a hope and a stay,
That the world cannot give, nor the world take away!"

M'Comb.

THE COMMAND.

"Have faith in God," is the command
To every creature under heaven,
The message borne to every land,
That sinful man may be forgiven!
Without the exercise of faith
Must every soul, already doomed,
Be lost in everlasting death,
In endless burnings be consumed.

The light is come into the world
That men may see, and in it trust ;
The gospel banner is unfurled,
A beacon to the ruined host.
"Repent !" the voice of Mercy cries,
"Behold the sin-atonng Lamb !"
Trust in his wondrous sacrifice
Who satisfied Jehovah's claim !
Behold the Christ who left the skies
To live below, and die to save ;
See Him from sin's dishonour rise
Triumphant o'er the dismal grave,
Loaded with pardons, to dispense
To humble mortals who before
His footstool bow in penitence,
Believing in his saving power !
Hence is the soul renewed, forgiven,
Through the rich merits of his blood ;
For evermore beloved of heaven,
As it is reconciled to God.
"To Him the prophets witness gave,
That whosoever should believe
In Christ, who came the lost to save,
Should everlasting life receive."

Faith is *commanded*, hence it is
The *duty* of the human race ;
Obedience is the path to bliss,
And all may share the offered grace !

THE OBJECT.

" Have faith in God," the wondrous, great,
Creator Spirit, by whose power
The gorgeous universe was made ;
Whom all the angel-hosts adore ;
By whom all creatures are sustained ;
The great Preserver of the whole,
In wisdom and in love ordained
The subject of his one control :
In whom all excellences meet,
Whose attributes are in his Word
Made known to mortals in such light
That He by them may be adored.
Our *Benefactor*, from whose hand
Each perfect gift is here supplied ;
All things are under his command,
For every need doth He provide.

"He dwells in light," beyond the ken
Of mortal vision; in his own
Impenetrable glory men
Can ne'er behold his holy throne.
Himself is Light, beyond the sun,
The centre of all purity;
Some rays are scattered hither down,
That man his character may see.
"Father of Lights," with whom there is
No mutability, the same
In all his vast infinitics,—
Eternal is his glorious Name!
He dwells in Love, and all the line
Of bright intelligences move
In life and liberty divine,
Affected and impelled by Love!
Himself is Love! its essence, source;
And as He sheds its power abroad,
By its delightful, gentle force
We're brought to know and serve our God!
His love to us commended is,
As in his Son it is made known,—
That wondrous, crowning gift of his,
In which his sovereign mercy's shown.