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

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9781760579548

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

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JAMES BUTTFIELD

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OR,

MUSINGS ON FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE.

JAMES BUTTFIELD.

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

Leeds:

J. HEATON & SON, 7, BRIGGATE.

London:

HOULSTON & STONEMAN, PATERNOSTER ROW.

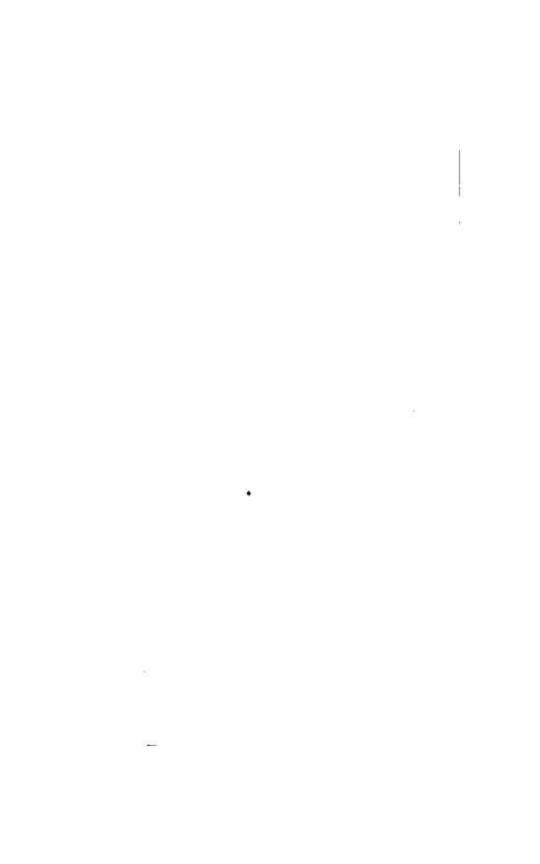
1854.

280. 2. 107.

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 preas, 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 he 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 Jeaus relies,
There's a home for the bouncless 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.

2

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 1" the voice of Mercy cries,

"Behold the sin-atoning 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;

Loaded with pardons, to dispense

See Him from sin's dishonour rise Triumphant o'er the dismal grave,

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 Gop," 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 infinities,-

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.