

**A METHOD OF PRAYER, AN
ANALYSIS OF THE WORK
SO ENTITLED BY MADAME
DE LA MOTHE GUYON**

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A method of prayer, an analysis of the work so entitled by madame de La Mothe Guyon by
Thomas C. Upham

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THOMAS C. UPHAM

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AN ANALYSIS OF THE WORK

SO ENTITLED BY

MADAME DE LA MOTHE GUYON.

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EXPERIENCE OF MADAME GUYON," ETC.



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PREFACE.

THE Method of Prayer is a work remarkable in the age that Madame Guyon lived in, as coming from a *woman*, and still more remarkable when contrasted with the prevalent views and practices of her church. Its doctrines are essentially Protestant, making Faith, in distinction from the merits of works, the foundation of the Religious Life, and even carrying the power of Faith, in the renovation of our inward nature, beyond what is commonly found in Protestant writers of the time. Madam Guyon, however, always insisted that the doctrines which she advanced were the true Catholic doctrines.

The following analysis of the work is printed from the "Life and Experience of Madame Guyon."* Its separate publication in the present form having been recommended by friends who possess the work, as likely to be useful to a greater number of persons than can ever be expected to read a larger book.

The language of the original "Method of Prayer" has not been followed precisely; but, with some slight variation of arrangement, the idea is given scrupulously, and it is hoped the object aimed at by its separate publication will be attained.

Books are God's instruments of good, as well as sermons. He who cannot preach may talk; and he who cannot do either may, perhaps, write. A good book laid conscientiously upon God's altar is no small thing. How abundant is the evidence of this. Doddridge's "Rise and Progress of Religion;" Baxter's "Saints' Rest;" "The Imitation of Christ;" and many

* Post 8vo. Fourth Edition, London, 1838.

other works which might be mentioned, have exerted a wide influence of the most salutary kind, felt in every part of the world, and perpetuated from generation to generation.*

* The "Method of Prayer" was first published in 1684; in reference to it Madame Guyon says: "Among my intimate friends was a civilian, a counsellor of the Parliament of Grenoble, who might be described as a model of piety. Seeing on my table my manuscript treatise on Prayer, he desired me to lend it to him. Being much pleased with it, he lent it to some of his friends. Others wanted copies of it. He resolved, therefore, to have it printed. The proper ecclesiastical permissions and approbations were obtained. I was requested to write a Preface, which I did.

"Under these circumstances this book, which, within a few years, passed through five or six editions, was given to the world. The Lord has given a great blessing to this little treatise; but it has caused great excitement among those who did not accede to its principles, and has been the pretence of various trials and persecutions which I have endured."—*Life and Experience of MADAME DE LA MOTHE GUYON.*

Jan. 1, 1859.

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