

**LEAVES FOR QUIET
HOURS. [NEW
YORK-1905]**

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Leaves for Quiet Hours. [New York-1905] by George Matheson

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GEORGE MATHESON

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By **GEORGE MATHESON**

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LEAVES
FOR
QUIET HOURS



BY

GEORGE MATHESON, F.R.S.E., D.D., LL.D.

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AUTHOR OF "THE REPRESENTATIVE MEN OF THE BIBLE"

"STUDIES OF THE PORTRAIT OF CHRIST"

"MOMENTS ON THE MOUNT," ETC.

NEW YORK: EATON & MAINS

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PREFACE.

AT the request of the Editor of "The Christian World" I have embraced in a volume some of the short devotional pieces which from time to time I have been contributing to that paper. I have been induced to do so by the fact that so many have found them helpful and have made me aware of the benefit they have received. A few minutes will suffice to read any one of these. Each consists of two parts. The first is the suggestion of a thought; the second is the expression of a feeling—either in the form of a

prayer or of an invocation. But I hope that these two parts will never be divided in holy wedlock—that every fresh thought will be tinged with the heart's emotion, and that every emotion of the heart will be winged by the inspiration of a thought. A devotional book is believed to be a very simple thing. It ought to be the most difficult composition in the world, for it should aim at the marriage of qualities which are commonly supposed to be antagonistic—the insight of the thinker and the fervour of the worshipper. My own conviction has increasingly been that the hours of our deepest devotion are precisely in those moments when we catch fresh glimpses of hidden things.

G. M.

EDINBURGH, 1904.

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LEAVES FOR QUIET HOURS

THE MAIN USE OF THE CHRISTIAN ARMOUR.

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”—EPHESIANS VI. 13.

WHAT a strange conclusion to so martial a war-cry! The soldier is generally told to put on his armour for the sake of the battle; here it is for the sake of the camp. To the common view the arduous thing in a Christian's life is the hour of conflict; to Paul it is the hour after conflict. If you or I had written this verse we should have put it thus: “Take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand awaiting the foe, and finally to withstand when the foe has come.” But Paul reverses the process. To him the withstanding is the less difficult of the two.