# LEAVES FROM THE TREE OF LIFE. A VERSE OF SCRIPTURE WITH WORDS OF COMMENT OR ILLUSTRATION, FOR EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR

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Leaves from the tree of life. A verse of Scripture with words of comment or illustration, for every day in the year by Richard Newton

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#### RICHARD NEWTON

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Leabes from the Erre of Life.



"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Ps. cxix., 198

### Renbes from the Tree of Life.

#### A VERSE OF SCRIPTURE

WITH

WORDS OF COMMENT OR ILLUSTRATION,

FOR

Every Day in the Pear.

"Healing leaves Blown from the tree of life." VAUGUAX.

#### PHILADELPHIA: AMERICAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION,

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#### PREFACE.

It was a custom among the Moravians for the elder brethren and sisters to visit daily every house in the settlement, saluting the inhabitants with a passage of Scripture called "the daily word,"—a word of warning or of promise, of comfort or of hope. It was the watch-word for the day; and the soldiers of Christ glowed with new ardour as it fell upon their cars. The theme for meditation came with the morning light, and the flame of devotion was enkindled by the divine message. The manna fell daily for this church in the wilderness.

Subsequently it became their custom to print this daily word in advance for the year. From this we have derived the idea of our daily textbooks. Elizabeth Fry, in the intervals of her public labours, compiled several of these, and found great pleasure in giving them to those whom she casually met in the journey of life, as tokens of her remembrance.

The present volume, in addition to the daily

word of divine truth, gives words of comment from wise and good men, who have fashioned their lives by these heavenly teachings. Our faith is strengthened as the light comes to us from those radiant stars shining in God's moral firmament. We hear their voices murmuring in the dim corridors of the past and

"Descending slow, with something heavenly fraught,"

from the serene heights of immortality. Their mighty faith, their keen apprehension of solemn realities, their high aims and noble utterances, rebuke our faltering steps. Holy thoughts welling up from fountains of religious feeling bathe our care-worn brows with their refreshing waters. The electric chain of sympathy and feeling is struck; and we know that we are linked together in the bonds of a redeemed humanity.

There are leaves in tropical climes so ample that one can sit under their shadow, protected from the fierce beams of the golden day. Even so may we sit under the shadow of these leaves of the Tree of Life, sheltered from the broad glare of this garish world,—each leaf spreading and growing till it becomes a "pavilion" of refuge and delight.

### Lenbes from the Tree of Life.

#### JANUARY.

All my springs are in thee.
 Psalm lxxxvii. 7.

Prayer for grace doth, as it were, set the mouth of the soul to the spring, draws from Jesus Christ, and is replenished out of his fulness, thirsting after it and drawing from it that way.

LEIGHTON.

Life, like a fountain rich and free, Springs from the presence of my Lord; And in thy light our souls shall see The glories promised in thy word.

WATTS

## 2. There is but a step between me and death. 1 Sam. xx. 3.

Death comes, not according to the order of nature, but the decree of God. How many in the

flower of their youth and strength thought themselves at as great distance from death as the east is from the west, when there was not the space of an hour between them and death, between them and hell! The lamp suddenly expires by a blast of wind, when there is plenty of oil to feed it.

BATES.

O shadow'd form! O hidden face! Thou mak'st no haste approaching me, But day by day, with steady pace, Nearer I draw to thee.

 O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed; let not mine enemies triumph over me.

Psalm xxv. 2.

There is no public action which the world is not ready to scan; there is no action so private which the evil spirits are not witnesses of: I will endeavour so to live as knowing that I am ever in the eyes of mine enemies.

HALL.

Though hosts encamp around me, Firm in the fight I stand: What terror can confound me With God at my right hand?

MONTGOMERY.