

**CHILDREN IN HEAVEN;
OR, COMFORT FOR
BEREAVED PARENTS**

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Children in Heaven; Or, Comfort for Bereaved Parents by Edwin Davies

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BY THE

REV. EDWIN DAVIES,

AUTHOR OF

"The Hops of the Bereaved; or, Recognition in Heaven."

"Hark! heard ye not a sound
Sweeter than wild bird's note, or minstre's lay?
I know that music well, for night and day
I hear it echoing round.
It is the tuneful chime
Of spirit voices!—the my infant band,
Calling the mourner from this darken'd land
To joy's unclouded clime.
My beautiful, my blest!
I see them there, by the Great Spirit's throne;
With winning words, and fond beseeching tone,
They woo me to my rest!"

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TO
THOMAS N. WHITE, ESQ.,

The Hall, Herden, Surrey.

THIS EARNEST AND AFFECTIONATE ATTEMPT
TO CONSOLE

BEREAVED AND SORROWFUL PARENTS,

WHOSE

"PLEASANT PICTURES" HAVE BEEN OBLITERATED,

AND WHOSE

FAVOURITE LAMBS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY,

BY

THE GREAT SPOILER,

IS, BY HIS KIND PERMISSION, MOST RESPECTFULLY

DEDICATED,

WITH SENTIMENTS OF CHRISTIAN ESTEEM,

BY

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E .

It may, perhaps, be well to apprise the readers of this interesting and consolable manual, that it is intended to be a companion volume to "The Hope of the Bereaved; or, Recognition in Heaven," which was published a short time ago, the first edition of which was sold off in less than three months, and a second has recently been issued, thus affording a strong proof of the needful increase of books of such a class. In the work to which allusion has just been made, the Author attempted to relieve the anxious minds and comfort the sorrow-pierced hearts of those who lamented the loss of beloved Christian friends, with the confident hope of re-union and recognition where there is "no more death," and, consequently, no more separation and mourning. He sought, by holy words and Scriptural arguments, to excite their highest and strongest anticipations concerning the future happy estate of "the whole family in heaven." He now addresses himself specially to bereaved parents, whose choice Spring flowers have been gathered by the

"Reaper, whose name is Death,"

and whose once-blooming infants now moulder in the quiet dust of "God's Acre." Such—*especially mothers*, who feel far more intensely than fathers can—

need the catholic sympathy of every disciple of the Lord Jesus, and all the works that can be written to still and soothe their agonized hearts, and reconcile them to those sorrowful dispensations which, in the Providence of God, so often befall humanity. The world abounds with such mournful calamities. Many a weeping Rachel refuses to be comforted, because her children are not; and many a bereaved Jacob pathetically exclaims — "Joseph is not; and Simeon is not; and ye will take Benjamin away!"

The age in which we are privileged to live is the most prolific which has ever been known in book-making. Works on science, and philosophy, and theology, have issued from the press with amazing rapidity, and have been as eagerly devoured by the reading public: yet, strange to tell, the vast host of Christian mourners have been well nigh forgotten by Christian writers; and had it not been for the pitiful and timely remembrance of Him "who comforteth us in all our tribulations," they must have sunk under the crushing pressure of terrestrial sorrow. It is a notable fact, that until within the last few years, the poor widow was without a work specially devoted to alleviate her sorrowful condition; at least, if one was in existence previously, it had perished under oblivion's wave. At the kind and thoughtful suggestion of his dying partner, who had felt the acute sorrows and deep loneliness of the widowhood state before she became his wife, the Rev. John Angell James wrote a volume, entitled, "The Widow directed to the Widow's

God;" and a precious volume it is! It is also equally strange that, as the sad dispensations of which this little work treats are so rife in the families of men, no author has given his attention to the subject in all its bearings, and made a small and cheap book expressly for the benefit and consolation of bereaved parents. It is true that in many of the works coming under the head of the consolatory, the theme of the Author has been adverted to; but this is all, as far as he could learn. He has, therefore, sought to fill up a vacuum in religious literature which must have been often and severely felt by those whose homes have been desolated by the Great Destroyer. How far he has been successful, he leaves it with the Christian public to decide.

The Author has dwelt only on those great truths concerning which Christians of all denominations are unanimously agreed, and has studiously avoided introducing any and every disputed point in divinity. His design was not to stir up controversy on those things on which Christians agree to differ, but to write a book abounding with heavenly comfort, and which every true believer, of whatever sect or party, might, without the least prejudice, peruse. He has gladly passed by the arena of theological strife, and hastened to "the house of mourning" to "bind up the broken-hearted," and to maintain the character of a "son of consolation." He has written in simple and devout language, with a warm and sympathising heart, and often with a tearful eye: and though