

SPIRITUAL COMMUNINGS

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Spiritual Communings by Sir Archibald Edmonstone

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SIR ARCHIBALD EDMONSTONE

**SPIRITUAL
COMMUNINGS**

Spiritual Communings.

RIVINGTONS

London	<i>Waterloo Place</i>
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Cambridge	<i>Trinity Street</i>



SPIRITUAL COMMUNINGS.

BY

SIR ARCHIBALD EDMONSTONE, BART.



RIVINGTONS,
London, Oxford, and Cambridge.

1869.

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PREFACE.

A FEW words may be necessary with reference to the object of this little Book. It is devotional, and in no degree controversial, my design being to adhere closely to the teaching of the Prayer Book; and if in any way I may appear to have gone beyond that teaching, by assuming as truth what is not therein explicitly laid down, this is simply done in accordance, as I believe, with the authority which the Church acknowledges, namely, that of Catholic antiquity¹. As to the colloquial form here adopted, I can only say that I should scarcely have ventured to in-

¹ It was expressly declared in the Convocation held 1571, that the consent of the Catholic Fathers was to be considered as the rule for the exposition of Scripture. This, however, was not new, as it was held by the first Reformers; but it was specially brought forward at this time, when a new edition of the Articles had been printed under the direction of Bishop Jewel.

roduce the Divine Persons as interlocutors, but for the example, however distantly followed, of "The Imitation of Christ." The universal reception that wonderful book has met with seems to attach to it an authority only short of inspiration. And now, towards the close of a long life, I would venture to ask, whether of "the labour and sorrow" allotted to declining years, the one may not be relieved, and the other at least mitigated, by reposing, in child-like confidence, within the arms of everlasting Mercy? Physical infirmity will, of course, increase, strength decline, discomforts and uneasinesses bodily, it may be mental, supervene; beloved ones fall around, and blanks be left, over which the heart mourns,—yet God's face is not hid; hope and trust may produce a tempered cheerfulness, a mild sunshine enlighten our decline; and as we near the haven, the spirit may look forward with something of that complacency the poet describes:—

" And when at length my wearied eyes I close,
Lit up by Thee a purer radiance glows;
And hope and faith beyond the tomb display
The opening glories of eternal day."

(Translated from "L'Immortalité" of La Martine.

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