

**COUNSELS OF AN  
INVALID; LETTERS ON  
RELIGIOUS SUBJECTS**

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Counsels of an invalid; letters on religious subjects by George Wilson

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COUNSELS OF AN INVALID.



I

# COUNSELS OF AN INVALID

LETTERS ON RELIGIOUS SUBJECTS

By GEORGE WILSON M.D.

*Late Regius Professor of Technology in the University of Edinburgh*



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1862

TO  
MY SISTER JEANIE,  
THESE LETTERS OF OUR BROTHER  
G E O R G E  
ARE LOVINGLY INSCRIBED.

---

*Jesus loved Martha and her sister, and Lazarus.*





## P R E F A C E.

THE Letters of George Wilson were among the most characteristic effusions of his genius. His intimate friends, with one consent, pronounced him the most delightful letter-writer of their circle; and it has been justly felt by the public, that of the great and varied merits of his biography, perhaps the chief is the skill and taste with which these memorials have been made to tell the tale of his life, and to paint the full picture of his character. After a selection of correspondence so copious and diversified, it may be thought by some that anything more is superfluous. This objection will disappear when it is known how small a proportion the published letters

bear to the mass, not less interesting and attractive, which remains untouched. Probably many have hoped, with the writer of this Prefatory Note, that additional selections would be issued, and some, perhaps, have wished that, in such a case, these should be less miscellaneous and fragmentary than was demanded by the laws of biography, and should rather revolve around some one topic of central interest; while of all such topics, there can have been little difference of opinion that religion deserved the preference, both from its own paramount importance, and from the qualifications, in all respects high, in some singular, of the writer for treating it with success in the form of letters.

It must be gratifying to all in whose minds these wishes and expectations have, more or less, articulately taken shape, that they have been anticipated by the Editor of this deeply interesting volume. It is fortunate that various series of religious letters existed, addressed to correspondents of very different ages, necessities, and capacities, and embracing almost every variety of style, from