

**PEACE WITH GOD:
A MANUAL FOR
THE SICK**

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Peace with God: A Manual for the Sick by Edward Burbidge

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EDWARD BURBIDGE

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THE SICK**

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PREFACE.

WE are all subject to sickness, and we all need to prepare for our departure.

What we want is to gain such "Peace with God" as will give us confidence to meet the unknown future. And this Peace is within our reach, because our Saviour Jesus Christ came to make Peace for us. And He left His Peace as His legacy with His Church.

Now Sickness comes as a great opportunity for gaining definite teaching about our Lord's work, because of the enforced leisure which it brings to people, whose lives are generally too fully occupied with the affairs of this world for them to find time for careful study of holy things. And experience proves that at no time is the value of such teaching more apparent than in sickness, because it is found to be the true

antidote to religious depression, as well as to spiritual pride and undue assurance.

By the old paths of Repentance and Faith the Saints of every age have found this Peace. And we may follow them if we set ourselves, by God's help, to make our Repentance real, and to gain that simple Faith which rests on the Words of God as being literally and exactly true.

We cannot do these things by ourselves. But God works if we work. God gives grace if we seek it. Wherefore S. Paul says, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

May God bless the words of this little book to all those who are seeking Peace with Him; and help them to avoid the self-deception which cries "Peace, peace," when there is no peace; and lead them to that true Peace "which passeth all understanding."

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¶ *When any person is sick, notice shall be given thereof to the Minister of the Parish; who, coming into the sick person's house, shall say,*

PEA**C**E be to this house, and to all that dwell in it. (*From the Visitation of the Sick.*)

For Jesus said, "Into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house. And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again." (S. LUKE x. 5, 6.)

"Peace I leave with you, My Peace I give unto you." (S. JOHN xiv. 27.)

"The Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (PHIL. iv. 7.)

CHAPTER I.

THE USE OF SICKNESS.

"Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth." HEB. xii. 6.

SICKNESS is in some way the result of sin. It is an evil, brought into the world through the Fall of man, and not properly belonging to the nature of man as he was created. And so, when our Blessed Lord came, He spent His days on earth chiefly in "healing all manner of sickness and disease amongst the people," being moved with compassion at the sight of suffering.

Yet God is the supreme Ruler of all things. Without Him not a sparrow falleth on the ground. And sickness can only happen to any one of us by His permission.

Therefore, we may well ask, If sickness is an evil why does God permit it to come to us?

The heathen have generally looked upon God as cruel and loving to punish and inflict pain. But the Bible reveals God only as the Author of good. For instance, S. James says that from Him cometh "every good gift and every perfect gift," and that His goodness never varies or