

**READINGS FOR
THE THOUGHTFUL**

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Readings for the thoughtful by H. S. M. Hubert

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H. S. M. HUBERT

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THE THOUGHTFUL**

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FOR THE
THOUGHTFUL.

BY THE
REV. H. S. M. HUBERT, M. A.

Rector of Santon with Santon Downham.

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PREFACE.

Though innumerable comments on the *political* bearing of modern events appear in the Newspapers; yet few attempts are made to expound the *spiritual* lessons which we should endeavour to learn from the remarkable occurrences of these eventful days.

The clergy often feel the want of little books for distribution written with the view of assisting the reader to derive religious instruction from the peculiar circumstances of our own times.

It is to supply the deficiency thus indicated that the author ventures to put forth the present little publication.

The plan which the author has attempted to carry out in several of these Readings has been to take for his text, as it were, the circumstances of some interesting modern event, and thence to deduce important lessons of practical Christianity.

The author quite feels that it must be for others to decide whether those important lessons are effectively taught by the plan here adopted.

Thetford, January 31st, 1856.

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READING I.

THE THREE SCOURGES.

IN all ages the Almighty has employed the sword, the famine, and the pestilence as the instruments of punishing the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity.

Sometimes the Lord brings war upon a country, and says "Sword, go through the land." *Ezek.* xiv. 17.

At another time the language of the Almighty is, "Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it." *Ibid.*

VERSE 13.