

**ECHOES OF HOLY  
THOUGHTS; PRIVATE  
MEDITATIONS BEFORE  
A FIRST COMMUNION**

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Echoes of holy thoughts; private meditations before a first communion by John Hamilton Thom

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**JOHN HAMILTON THOM**

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THOUGHTS; PRIVATE  
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A FIRST COMMUNION**



# Echoes of Holy Thoughts :

ARRANGED AS

PRIVATE MEDITATIONS

BEFORE A

FIRST COMMUNION.

**Second Edition.**

WITH A PREFACE BY THE

REV. JOHN HAMILTON THOM.

"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."  
HEBREWS xii. 2.

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## P R E F A C E .

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**T**HE Publishers desire a name; the Author, professing only to give "Echoes," will not speak in her own voice; and so I am asked to write some words of Preface to a second edition of this little book. Perhaps without being out of harmony with the simple freshness of these Meditations, or losing sight of the tenderness of their application to the feelings and the wants of a first Communion, I may attempt briefly to answer the deep question—How is it possible for material symbolism to have permanent

connection with a spiritual Religion, and to be a help, not an injury, to the "spirit and truth" which are its notes of universality?

"This is my Body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me."—"This cup is the new testament in my Blood, which is shed for you."—The words broke suddenly out of the moved heart of Christ; the grandest of those unpremeditated inspirations which enable the deepest natures to connect the intense life of the spirit with whatever representative things the scene and the hour supply. To suppose that there was aught else in our Lord's thoughts than to make the most of the emergencies of the time, to communicate through a symbol sure to grow in expressiveness something of the fellowship of His own life with God, something of its meaning, something of its power, to the feeble, unspiritual men who on the morrow were to be

left without their Leader, with His Gospel in their keeping,—is not only to impair the naturalness of this monumental Act, but also gravely to mistake the whole genius of Christianity. It is of the essence of the religion of the Son of God, that it fills the soul with the spirit of our Father, and trusts that spirit to make or find its own occasions. The water of Baptism, the bread and wine of the Eucharist, of the Communion, of the Sacramental vow of discipleship, are *inexhaustible* symbols, because, like the spiritual emblems and parables of Nature, of the mountains or of the seasons, they transcend all limitations of present feeling, and cannot be reduced to any final form of words. They are for ever new, and suggestive of what is new, to kindled souls that are brought within the currents of inspiration. We lose the wonderful power of the Lord's Supper if we do not enter into the emo-