

THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

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The Mount of Olives by Henry Vaughan

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HENRY VAUGHAN

**THE MOUNT
OF OLIVES**

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OF OLIVES
BY HENRY
VAUGHAN

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BN 245

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AND IN THE DAY TIME HE WAS
TEACHING IN THE TEMPLE, AND AT
NIGHT HE WENT OUT, AND ABODE IN
THE MOUNT THAT IS CALLED THE
MOUNT OF OLIVES.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Henry Vaughan, as a poet, has been well treated by posterity. The verse collected under the title of "Silex Scintillans" has appeared in numerous and varied editions. His prose works, however, have suffered from unmerited disregard; and "The Mount of Olives," the fruits of his retirement, filled like his poetry with the cloistered peace and devout spirit of the true Christian, has been reprinted but twice since the publication, in 1652, of the original volume from which the present text is derived.

Vaughan is a companion for the meek, the gentle, the humble in heart—he affects no aggressive mission, counsels no hard dis-

cipline of his fellow-men. A recluse for the greater part of his life, he had in his youth tasted the bitterness and sounded the vanity of the world; and out of his experience came, in all their calm and abstinence, the prayers now reprinted. He advocates the internal life, whose sweets he himself had found good.

The literary value of "The Mount of Olives" may not be of the highest, although it would be difficult to surpass in its own kind such a passage, for instance, as the "Meditation at the Setting of the Sun." But the purity, the devout quietude, the beauty of his thought entitles Vaughan to a place among the religious classics.

B. H. W.

ADMONITIONS FOR MORNING PRAYER



THE Night
—saith St
Chrysos-
tome—was
not there-
fore made,
that either
we should
sleep it
out, or passe it away idly; and
chiefly because we see many
worldly persons to watch out
whole nights for the commodi-
ties of this life. In the primitive
Church also, the saints of God
used to rise at midnight to praise
the Rock of their salvation with
hymns and spiritual songs. In
the same manner shouldst thou
do now, and contemplate the
order of the stars, and how they
all in their several stations praise
their Creator. When all the

world is asleep, thou shouldst watch, weep and pray, and propose unto thy self that practise of the Psalmist "I am weary of my groaning, every night wash I my bed, and water my couch with my tears;" for as the dew which falls by night is most fructifying, and tempers the heat of the sun; so the tears we shed in the night, make the soul fruitful, quench all concupiscence, and supple the hardnesse we got in the day. Christ Himself in the day time taught and preach'd, but continued all night in prayer, sometimes in a mountain apart, sometimes amongst the wild beasts, and sometimes in solitary places.

They whose age or infirmity will not give them way to do thus, should use all convenient means to be up before the sun-rising; for we must prevent the sunne to give God thanks, and at