

**THE LIGHT OF THE
CONSCIENCE. WITH
AN INTRODUCTION**

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The Light of the Conscience. With an Introduction by Jean Grou & T. T. Carter

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JEAN GROU & T. T. CARTER

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CONSCIENCE. WITH
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THE LIGHT OF THE CONSCIENCE

HALF-A-CROWN EDITIONS

OF

*DEVOTIONAL WORKS, edited by the Author of
"The Life of S. Francis de Sales."*

- The Spiritual Letters of Archbishop Fénelon.—
Letters to Men.
- The Spiritual Letters of Archbishop Fénelon.—
Letters to Women.
- The Spiritual Letters of S. Francis de Sales.
- The Spirit of S. Francis de Sales.
- The Hidden Life of the Soul.
- The Light of the Conscience.
- Self-Renunciation.

RIVINGTONS: LONDON, OXFORD, AND CAMBRIDGE

THE
LIGHT OF THE CONSCIENCE

BY THE AUTHOR OF

"LIFE OF S. FRANCIS DE SALES;" "LIFE OF FÉNELON;"
"THE HIDDEN LIFE OF THE SOUL;"
ETC., ETC.

With an Introduction

BY

THE REV. T. T. CARTER, M.A.

RECTOR OF CLEWER, BERKS
AND HONORARY CANON OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, OXFORD



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TO THE
REV. T. T. CARTER, M.A.,

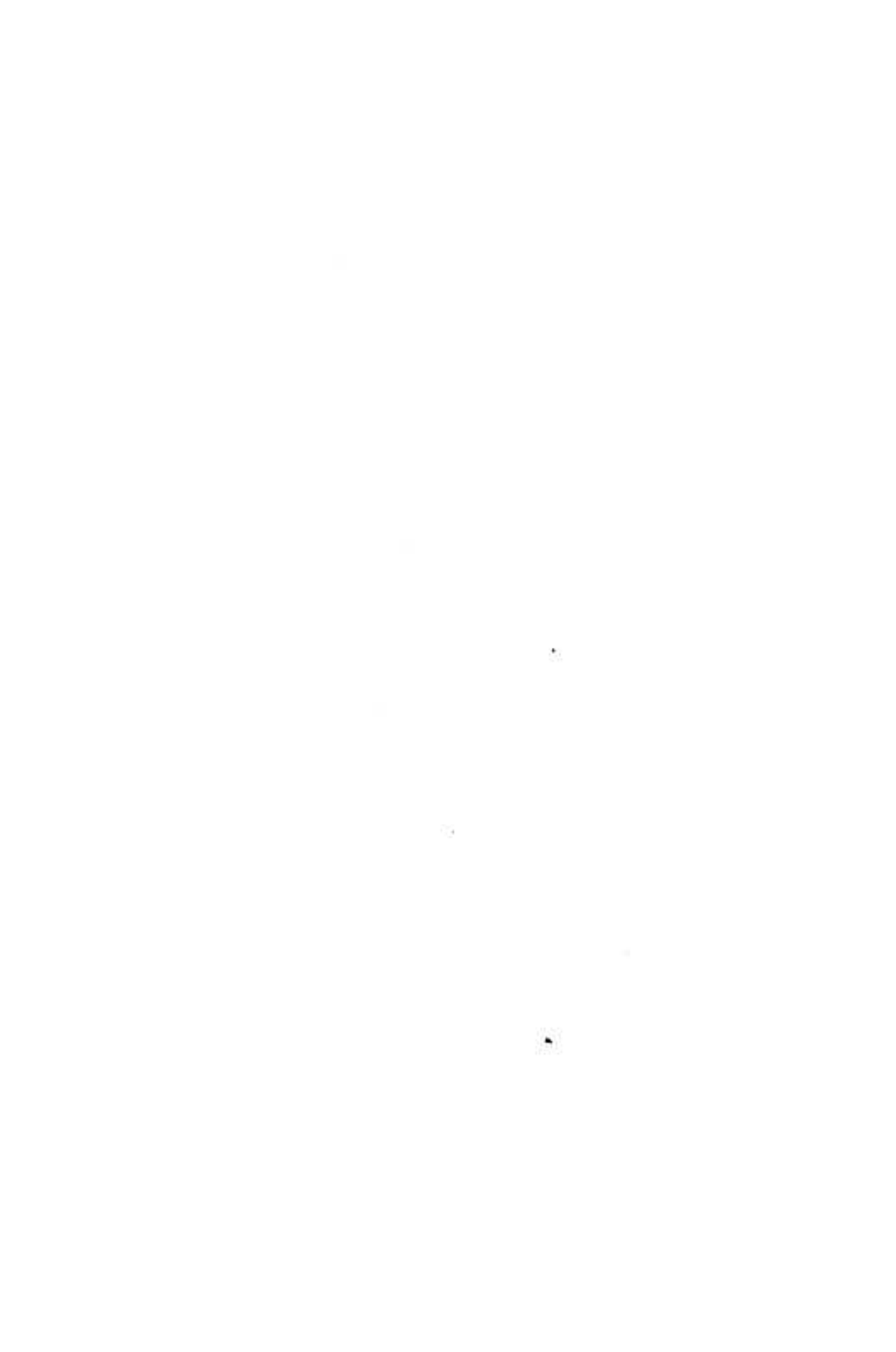
Honorary Canon of Christ Church,

AT WHOSE SUGGESTION IT WAS WRITTEN,

This Little Book

IS AFFECTIONATELY AND GRATEFULLY

DEDICATED.



PREFACE.

AMONG the many aids to the spiritual life issuing from the press, this little book has an aim and purpose peculiarly its own. It is not a regular treatise, nor does it profess to exhaust the subjects it proposes for consideration, nor enter into the principles underlying them. It does not touch on questions of a novel kind, nor will it gratify mere intellectual curiosity; but it supplies valuable advice on common topics, and is eminently practical in the very best sense of the term, as giving only what acknowledged spiritual guides have recommended of their own experience, and what personal use has tested and approved.

Moreover, it is not intended to deal with cases of grave fault, or touch the springs of lives wholly disordered and abandoned. It assumes the existence of a real honest purpose, a true faith, and purity of intention. It seeks to raise those who are well disposed, and sincere in desiring to lead a higher life, and advance more and more unto perfection. To such persons the book will suggest matters of real practical import in the way of self-discipline.

and patient effort, with the view of making life, in "its trivial round, its common task," disciplined, devout, and conformed to the orderings of God's Providence and the expressions of His overruling Will in the love of our ever-blessed Lord.

It is not unfrequently observed, how in proportion to the grace of spiritual discernment the value of little things is the more highly appreciated; how the momentous issues depending on a faithful use of common events, of ordinary duties and uneventful trials, is increasingly felt. As we are taught that "he that contemns small things shall fall by little and little," even so the truest saintly experience shows, that whoever diligently employs earnest thought and prayer in sanctifying small things in the quiet order of daily life, with a deepening sense of their importance, ever trying to live in recollection and patient self-discipline under the Eye of God—most surely advances, as "the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." The reason of this is evident. A spiritual life depends, under the grace of God, on matured habits and regulated impulses. But such a chastened state can be attained only by constant exercise in matters of detail, a succession of *acts and endeavours* continually, though it may *be silently, renewed*. Striking events occur but