

**LIGHT FOR DARK
DAYS; OR, SOLACE
IN SADNESS**

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Light for dark days; or, Solace in sadness by Julia Bainbrigge Wightman

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JULIA BAINBRIGGE WIGHTMAN

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OR,

SOLACE IN SADNESS.



The extensive circulation of this little book is desired, as it is hoped, by its sale, to benefit the "Society for Affording Assistance to the Widows and Orphans of British Officers." Established 1855.

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"Who is among you that walketh in darkness and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God." Isaiah I. 10.

LIGHT FOR DARK DAYS.

YES, Dear Reader, there *is* light even for the darkest days, bright light, and sweet comfort; and who can say that he shall need it not? for *some* dark days *must* overcast the path of all who are travelling through this sorrow-stained world. Perhaps you may be just setting out in life, with a fair and hopeful prospect before you, and the world appears to your view as a bright and sunny land, whereon no dark shadow rests, but the clouds of adversity *will* arise, and the "gales of care" *will* blow: and sometimes so suddenly and unlooked for (even when we think that all is peace and

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safety), that we scarcely know how or whence they come, and we feel, for a time, overwhelmed and crushed by them. Oh, happy, then, are those who know where to seek "a refuge from the storm," and who, in those seasons of darkness, can "look unto the Lord and be lightened." The unfailing words of Holy Scripture declare, that "man is born unto trouble." And although sorrow does not press in an *equal* degree upon *all* the children of Adam, still very, *very* few, are the number who advance many years in this "transitory life" without being visited with *some* affliction. Either sickness, losses, bereavements, persecution, or contempt, assail them; and, at last, comes the dark day when the "lamp of life" must be extinguished; and dark, indeed, it

is to those who have not the light of the glorious Gospel to gild their passage through the dark valley of the shadow of death ; who have not the Saviour's presence to make it to them a "lighted valley ;" who have no hope beyond the grave. Oh, then, be persuaded to seek this "light of life" *before* the evil days come, that you may not be like the foolish virgins, groping in darkness, when you *most* need the light. Take the Word of God to be "a lamp unto your feet, and a light unto your paths." Turn to the "Sun of Righteousness and He will arise upon you with healing in His wings."

Especially must the believing Christian *expect* dark days, for has not his Lord forewarned him, "In the world ye shall have tribula-

tion;" but He graciously adds, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." And He who prayed for all those who should "hereafter believe in His name" will give His people strength, that they also may overcome, and may follow Him to that kingdom which is entered "through much tribulation."

If the Christian is endeavouring faithfully to follow the footsteps of his Divine Master, if he is daily denying himself, and taking up his cross to follow the leading of the blessed Lamb of God, he knows full well how many obstacles beset his path, and how often dark clouds will arise to obscure his way, and hide from his eyes the bright and shining light which beams from the celestial city. How often, when he would do good, does

he find that only evil is present with him? How often, when he would possess his soul in peace, does he meet with trials, perhaps small in themselves, which yet vex and irritate his spirit and his temper, and cause him to exclaim, with the Apostle, "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" And instead of growing in grace, he seems, as he knows more of himself, and of inbred corruption, to be becoming more and more unlike the heavenly pattern which he would fain imitate. But let not such an one despair. Let him "*go on*" in the strength of the Lord," who has promised, "My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Let him be more earnest in prayer, asking "*in faith*," and in