

**WORDS OF COMFORT FOR
THE AFFLICTED, IN DAILY
PORTIONS. MEDITATIONS,
HYMNS, AND PRAYERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649735815

Words of Comfort for the Afflicted, in Daily Portions. Meditations, Hymns, and Prayers by
Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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WORDS OF COMFORT

FOR THE

AFFLICTED;

In daily portions.

MEDITATIONS, HYMNS, AND PRAYERS.

"THAT WE, THROUGH PATIENCE AND COMFORT OF THE SCRIPTURES, MIGHT
HAVE HOPE."--ROMANS XV. 4.

LONDON:

JOHN F. SHAW, SOUTHAMPTON ROW,
RUSSELL SQUARE,

EDINBURGH: J. JOHNSTONE. DUBLIN: J. ROBERTSON.

—
1849.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

WHEN it is remembered how few of us pass through life without bodily ailments; how large a portion of time is in some cases spent in the chamber of sickness; and how gladly we would all help to alleviate the suffering of some beloved friend; it will be readily conceded that attempts like the present can scarcely be too numerous. Such aids to meditation and prayer, while they furnish a grateful solace to the afflicted themselves, form an important addition to our household treasury, become an almost necessary appendage to the stores of the benevolent, and are an invaluable companion to the visitor of the sick.

The advantage of brevity, so carefully observed in making the following selections, cannot fail to commend them to those who have experienced the lassitude of disease.

The best thanks of the compiler are due for the various helps that have been afforded, and especially to those living authors who have permitted extracts to be made from their valuable works.

February 1, 1849.

INTRODUCTORY LETTER.

DEAR READER,

THIS little book is intended as a companion to relieve the weariness of the sick chamber. It has pleased our heavenly Father to withdraw you from the crowded haunts of business to the scenes of solitude, that he may engage your heart in the contemplation of eternal things. The little volume now before you aims to be the interpreter of his voice, that it may assist you in understanding and doing his will ; let me crave for it, therefore, your candid and prayerful attention.

But let us first inquire in what state does your affliction find you ?—A humble disciple of Christ Jesus, believing his gracious promises, relying upon his finished work, and possessing his Holy Spirit ? or a stranger from the covenants of promise, rebelling against his

authority, neglecting his invitations, abusing his mercies, and despising his threats? Have you already felt the evil of sin; or are you at present without hope, and without God in the world?

In whichever of these characters it has found you, regard it, we pray you, as a visitor of mercy; for God chastises not in anger but in love. Even to the Laodiceans he said, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten:" surely then you may regard your present affliction as a paternal rebuke, not as a judicial visitation.

Although the primary cause of all suffering is sin, yet the more immediate object to be answered by temporal afflictions is either reproof for some actual transgression, qualifying for some superior engagement, or preserving from danger by removing us from temptation. Should you, then, be already a child of God, you will fully acquiesce in the purpose to be accomplished, however irksome may be the process. Let, then, the promises of his word, many of which you will find in this little volume, remind you that your heavenly Father takes no pleasure in chastising his children; but he esteems your spiritual welfare too important to be sacrificed to present ease. Your ailment, therefore, is one of the items in that

catalogue of things which are all to work together for your good. And even if you be not at present one of the disciples of Jesus, you may regard your affliction as gracious and not penal. God is smiting you, as he smote Peter in the prison, that he may awaken you out of sleep before the morning of the judgment day shall come. Be not disobedient to the heavenly visitation; but rise up, and gird yourself, and go forth from the prison house of sin, that you may walk in the liberty wherewith Christ maketh his people free.

We have aimed at edification and comfort in the following pages, which consist of some of the richest of our heavenly Father's precious promises; extracts from esteemed writers, both of past and present times, together with a few original productions from several highly valued friends, and brief passages of Christian biography; some "songs from the valley;" and some prayers suitable to your condition, compiled principally from those petitions which are recorded in God's Word.

Should all or any of these solace but one poor afflicted child of sorrow, or alleviate one half hour of weariness, or—best of all—should they lead one perishing sinner to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, the labour of