

**AN OCTAVE OF
CATHOLIC PRAYERS FOR
THE EVENTFUL YEAR 1851**

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An octave of Catholic prayers for the eventful year 1851 by Edward Phillips

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EDWARD PHILLIPS

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FOR THE EVENTFUL YEAR

1851.

By a Protestant Catholic.

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: [England] they shall prosper that love thee."—PSALM CXXXIII. 6.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."—2 CHRIS. vii. 14.

EDITED BY THE REV. EDWARD PHILLIPS,
INCUMBENT OF EAST TYTHERLY, HANTS.



Seeleys.

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AN OCTAVE OF PRAYERS,

FOR THE MORNINGS AND EVENINGS OF EIGHT DAYS.

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PREFACE.

THE following short forms are not intended to supersede any that are already in print ; but are drawn up for the use of those persons who feel that the present times call for more particular notice of the errors of Popery and its imitation, than is to be found in the manuals in common use. The writer would suggest that one or more might well be added to the customary prayer.

The object has been to express in simple language, the thankfulness that ought to be felt by all British Protestants for their peculiar blessings, civil and religious, so long and plentifully rained down upon our land—the humility and repentance that become us, when we consider how little

we have improved our national advantages—and the heartfelt petition that ought to arise from all our fellow-countrymen, that notwithstanding our lukewarmness and backsliding, our gracious Master would condescend still to preserve us as His peculiar people, and continue and increase among us that righteousness which has so exalted our nation—that upon all her glory there may be a defence.

It is felt that there are defects in these pages, as indeed there must be in all things human. But it is hoped that these defects are only in the dress and not in the matter. True prayer depends not upon elegance of diction or fluency of utterance, but is most frequently found when such externals are not deemed important. If the writer has succeeded in giving expression to correct and scriptural sentiments, he is little anxious respecting occasional inaccuracies in style, and confidently relies on the kind indulgence of those who may be disposed to avail themselves of these petitions, although not entirely free from such blemishes.

True worship is essentially spiritual ; but man consisting of body and soul, needs forms and

ordinances to embody his worship ; that he may be enabled to unite with his fellow-Christians in their social and public devotions. We see in the Book of Psalms, the expression of the prayers and praises of the Old Testament Church ; and our fathers have handed down to us many of the forms of the early Christians, which are incorporated in our Liturgy, and are generally considered as the best of uninspired compositions.

It only remains to urge all to make the sentiments conveyed in these pages their own, in such a manner as not to be tied to the mode in which they are expressed ; and especially to remember that the Lord looketh not to the words of the lips, but to the desire of the heart, as a Christian bard beautifully sings ;—

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed ;
The motion of a hidden fire,
That trembles in the breast.

N.B.—*Many of the prayers in our admirable Liturgy are remarkably apposite for the present state of affairs—both as respects Popery and the still worse evil that is so insidiously preying upon the vitals of our beloved Church.*