

**CHRISTABELLE; OR,
ANGEL-FOOTSTEPS; IN
THREE VOLUMES; VOL. I**

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Christabelle; or, Angel-footsteps; in three volumes; Vol. I by Mrs. Robert Cartwright

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MRS. ROBERT CARTWRIGHT

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CHRISTABELLE;

OR,

ANGEL-FOOTSTEPS.

BY

MRS. ROBERT CARTWRIGHT,

AUTHOR OF "LAMIA, A CONFESSION."

"Ascend, I follow thee, safe guide, the path
Then lead'st me! and to the hand of Heaven submit,
However chast'ning, to the evil turn
My obvious breast; arming to overcome
By suffering, and earn rest by labour won,
If so, I may attain."

PARADISE LOST, BOOK XI.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

W. SHOBERL, PUBLISHER,

20, GREAT MARLBOROUGH STREET.

MDCCLXII.

P R E F A C E.

THE Author, in submitting this work to the public, takes occasion to remark, that it is written in the same spirit, and with the same views, as her former novel of "Lamia."

As in that work the effects of a want of religious training upon a gifted mind were exemplified in a life exhausted in unsatisfactory purposes, and terminated by a state narrowly rescued from despair; so, in the present story, the results of a sound religious education upon a mind of equal intelligence, are exhibited in a happy reliance upon the promises of religion, and an humble resignation to the trials of this world.

The old Jewish dispensation, the judgment of the sins of the fathers upon the children, is

also shadowed forth in *Christabelle*: the author having observed that in real life the innocent children of erring parents are often mysteriously tried by Divine Justice, apparently as sin-offerings, for transgressions not their own.

She has also endeavoured to enforce the neglected truth, that the gifts of fortune, station, or talent, far from exempting their envied possessors from the ills of life, on the contrary, expose them in a peculiar degree to the cares and sorrows which especially beset the higher and more cultivated portion of society.

In the prosecution of this task, the author hopes that she may have expressed no sentiments that can give umbrage to any class of thinking Christians; and trusts that, having confined herself to the province of a narrator, she may have escaped all imputation of a desire to dictate on religious topics, or even to provoke controversy.

CHRISTABELLE.

CHAPTER I.

Take her up tenderly,
Lift her with care;
Fashion'd so slenderly,
Young and so fair.

* * *

Touch her not scornfully,
Think of her mournfully,
Gently and humanly;
Not of the stains of her,
All that remains of her
Now, is pure womanly.

* * *

Make no deep scrutiny
Into her mutiny,
Rash and undutiful:
Past all dishonour;
Death has left on her
Only the beautiful.

T. HOOD.

It was a wet foggy morning in the middle of March. The streets of London were in that dismal and murky state in which it seems doubtful whether earth or water predominate in the muddy covering that hides the pavement