

GATES & DOORS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649476831

Gates & Doors by Mrs. A. Russell Simpson

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MRS. A. RUSSELL SIMPSON

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CONTENTS.



CHAP.	PAGE
Introduction,	7
I. Wisdom's Gates,	11
II. Suffering without the Gate,	20
III. The Door of the Sepulchre,	28
IV. Doors Shut,	33
V. A Little Doorkeeper,	36
VI. Redemption at the Gate,	41
VII. Thy Stranger within thy Gates,	47
VIII. Life at the Gate,	51
IX. The Gate of Heaven,	56
X. Noah's Door,	61
XI. Door-posts,	65
XII. The Chamber over the Gate,	71
XIII. Crossing the Threshold,	75

CHAP.	PAGE
XIV. Prison Doors,	79
XV. Jesus the Door,	85
XVI. Strive to enter,	91
XVII. Leaves from a Workman's Journal,	98
XVIII. Outside the Door,	103
XIX. Gates—Praise,	108
XX. Old Gateways,	113



INTRODUCTION.



THE study of 'Gates and Doors' has had a solemn sacredness since we heard how an honoured servant of Christ—the Rev. Robert Ireland of Portobello—lay at the gate of heaven speaking and thinking of these gates, and wishing, if he got well, to write a sermon on the subject. The day before his death he asked for the ninth Psalm, where the words occur, 'Thou that liftest me up from the gates of death : that I may show forth all Thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion.' And here are his words : 'As the gate of the city was the place of meeting and of converse, and

much talk and business went on at the gate, so at the gates of death the Lord speaks much to those whom He takes there, and teaches them things that they can learn nowhere else. I have been there, and the Lord has spoken much to me. Perhaps I shall be raised up to speak of Him here, in the gates of the daughter of Zion, but at any rate I shall in the gates of the heavenly city.' A few hours later he said, 'Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors, that a poor sinner saved by grace may enter in!'

'The golden gates were opening
For another welcome guest ;
For a ransomed heir of glory
Was entering into rest.'

We have tried to lift the pen which fell from his hand, and surely the subject gains new interest as his voice seems to reach us through the half open gate of the city.

We are again indebted to Miss Hunter of Hafton for the attractive design on the outside of

our little book, and to Mr. Tatham Thompson for the frontispiece and title-page.

The study of gates seems naturally to follow 'Wells of Water' when we think of David's words, 'the Well that is at the gate.'

Old gates sometimes need new hinges. We mean this little book to be something like this for the Bibles of our young people ; to help to open these gates more easily and more widely on the land of light to which they lead.

'The distant landscape draws not nigh
For all our gazing ; but the soul
That upward looks may still descry
Nearer each day the brightening goal.'

M. S. S.

52 QUEEN STREET, EDINBURGH,
October. 1884.