

PRAYERS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN

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Prayers for little children by Mrs. Goodwin Hatchard

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MRS. GOODWIN HATCHARD

**PRAYERS FOR
LITTLE CHILDREN**

TO
MY GOD-CHILDREN,
AND
TO OUR OWN LITTLE ONES,
LANCELOT AND LILIAN,

This simple Book

IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED BY

THE AUTHOR.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
PREFACE	v
ADDRESS	8
THE LORD'S PRAYER	19
SUNDAY MORNING. PRAYER FOR A CHILD UNABLE TO READ .	20
SUNDAY EVENING	21
WEEK-DAY MORNING. A PRAYER FOR A CHILD TOO YOUNG TO READ	22
WEEK-DAY EVENING	23
MORNING PRAYER. FOR A VERY YOUNG CHILD	24
EVENING PRAYER. FOR A VERY YOUNG CHILD	26
SUNDAY MORNING. PRAYER FOR A CHILD WHO CAN READ .	28
SUNDAY EVENING	30
MONDAY MORNING	32
MONDAY EVENING	34
TUESDAY MORNING	36
TUESDAY EVENING	38
WEDNESDAY MORNING	40
WEDNESDAY EVENING	42
THURSDAY MORNING	44
THURSDAY EVENING	46
FRIDAY MORNING	48
FRIDAY EVENING	50
SATURDAY MORNING	52
SATURDAY EVENING	54
EVENING PRAYER. FOR A SICK CHILD	56
A BIRTHDAY PRAYER	58
NEW-YEAR'S DAY	60

PREFACE.

THOSE among us who enjoy the holy and solemn privilege of being 'Mothers,' cannot but experience deep anxiety as to the best mode of instilling into the minds of those little ones entrusted to us, such religious principles, as shall make them 'wise unto Salvation.'

Having dedicated our babes to God in Baptism at their earliest infancy, and earnestly prayed that they 'may be received into Christ's Holy Church, and be made lively members of the same,' we have only begun our work for them.

We must see 'that they lead the rest of their lives according to this beginning.'

Our next duty, as soon as they can utter

words at all, will be to teach them, on their knees, to lisp their little wants and wishes, in Daily Prayer, to Him who 'out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hath ordained praise.'

In how many a Christian nursery have the little ones, each in turn, repeated as their first prayer, that sweet little Hymn, commencing thus :

'Gentle Jesus, meek and mild,
Look upon a little child ;
Pity my simplicity,
Suffer me to come to Thee.'

We should teach them at so early an age to pray to their heavenly Father, that in after life, they may never be able to remember the time, when their daily supplications did not form a habit, and a duty.

As years pass on, and our children grow in intelligence, a more copious form of prayer is needed ; and we must then either prepare this for them ourselves, or procure one of the many manuals of devotion, to be found for their use and guidance.

My present simple effort claims a notice, only as an addition to the store, from which the young mother makes her selection ; and as being printed in so clear and bold a type, that as soon as the child can read, it can itself commit to memory these few short supplications.

For this purpose most of them were written for my own little ones, who very quickly learnt to repeat them, and at five years of age found them easy to remember.

My desire was to embody, in as few plain words, and short sentences as possible, their necessary wants, including Confession of Sins, Thanksgiving for Mercies, and Petitions for God's Holy Spirit; together with prayers for blessings on themselves and on all around them.

May our Blessed Saviour graciously hear, and favourably answer, the petitions of the little suppliants, who pray these prayers at His Mercy-seat day by day ; and shower down upon them, and upon all dear to them, the abundance of His grace, for His own Name's sake. Amen.

ADDRESS.

DEAR LITTLE CHILDREN,

I hope that you all love to pray to your kind Father in Heaven, and that you kneel down every night and every morning to confess your sins to Him, to thank Him for your many and great mercies, to tell Him what you have done wrong, to ask His forgiveness, to beg Him to give you His Holy Spirit, and to help you to serve Him better for the time to come.

As I know that all little Children are fond of hearing a true story, I will tell you of a dear little child, whom Jesus taught, when very young, to love praying to Him ; and how her simple prayers were heard and answered by the Saviour, who said, when He was on earth, ' Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.'

In the parish of St. Nicholas, Guildford, where we lived for many years, there was a very pretty Infant School, to which a great many little girls and boys loved to go.

Some were so young, that they could not walk from their homes, and they had not all of them an older brother or sister to