

**MAXIMS AND GLEANINGS  
FROM THE WRITINGS OF JOHN  
KEBLE, M.A. SELECTED AND  
ARRANGED FOR DAILY USE**

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Maxims and Gleanings from the Writings of John Keble, M.A. Selected and Arranged for Daily Use by John Keble & C. M. S.

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# Maxims and Gleanings

FROM THE WRITINGS OF

JOHN KEBLE, M.A.

*SELECTED AND ARRANGED FOR DAILY USE*

BY

C. M. S.

COMPILER OF "DAILY GLEANINGS OF THE SAINTLY LIFE"  
"UNDER THE CROSS," ETC.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY THE

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WATERLOO PLACE, LONDON

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## INTRODUCTION.

THE present volume is a collection of short extracts of a similar character to those which the compiler has lately selected and published from the writings of Dr. Pusey.

It has been given to few servants of God to make such a mark on the religious life of the Church in their day as Keble has been permitted to do by his *Christian Year*, and yet it is a question whether in a short time his *Sermons for the Christian Year* will not be held to be an equal boon. They are a store-house of evangelical thoughts, brought home to the heart and conscience in a manner that few writers have been able to approach. Their fertility and aptness of illustration are remarkable, but their chief characteristic seems to me to be their extraordinary directness of appeal.

In this I think they are only equalled by the writings of William Law. The reader has only to open any one volume and he will scarcely fail to come upon some instance of this. To this we may add the plainness and simplicity of the style. They were preached to villagers, and the poorest of the flock could scarcely fail to take in almost every word.

I hope I am not presumptuous in saying that in the publication of these sermons we find the key to understand a great mystery in God's providential dealings with this gifted servant of His. How was it that the author of the *Christian Year* was confined all his life to ministrations in a country village. Dr. Pusey, in his short notice to *Sermons on the Baptismal Services*, writes, "Through human mismanagement it was arranged that the writer of the *Christian Year* should, for the chief part of his life, preach to a peasant flock of average mental capacity." But it now appears that it was ordered by the special providence of God that

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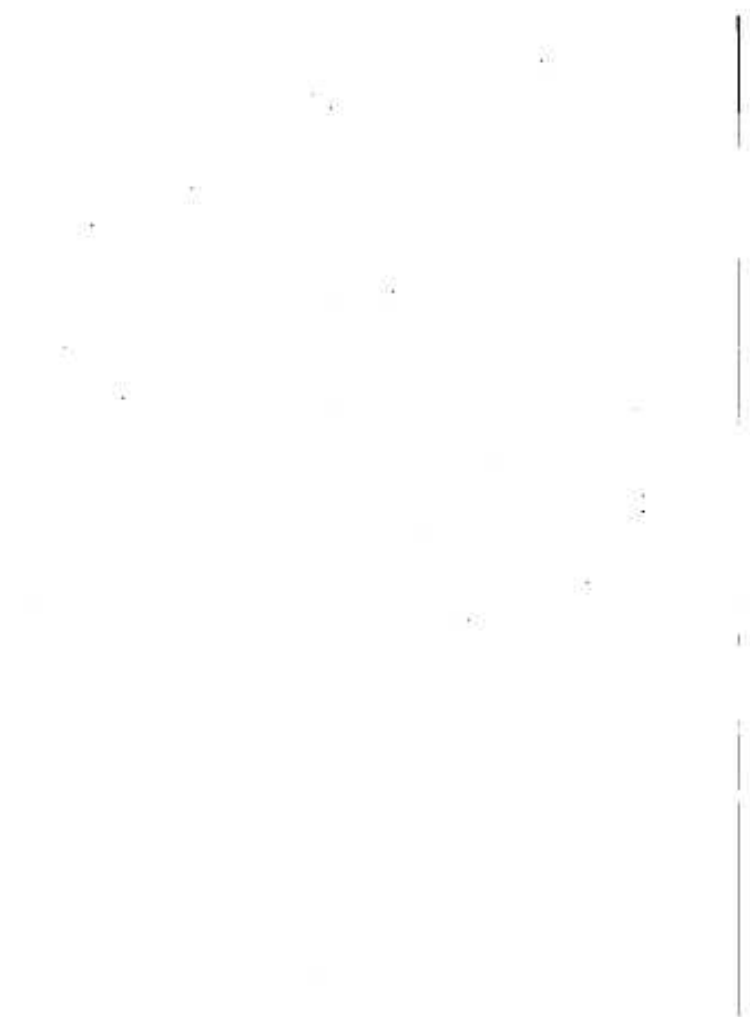
one so highly gifted should have to submit to teach definite Church principles to the agricultural poor, and be so successful in this that the highest truths of the Prayer Book are brought within their reach, and commended to them in words very plain and simple and familiar, but well-chosen, dignified, and reverent. This teaching has, thank God, not passed away, but is now in the possession of the Church, and the compiler of these extracts will be amply repaid if some of the sons and daughters of the Church are led by them to read for themselves and to make known to others the *Sermons for the Christian Year*.

M. F. S.

HONINGTON,

July 14, 1887.





## MAXIMS AND GLEANINGS

FROM

JOHN KEBLE'S WRITINGS.

*JANUARY 1.*

*Circumcision.*

As the Baptismal Cross is in the Christian life, such was circumcision among God's ancient people. It was His mark, made for life, in the very flesh, of those who belonged to Him, setting them apart, in a manner, for suffering and self-denial. It was a foretaste of the Cross; and, as such, our Saviour Himself received it. By permitting Himself, as on this day, to be brought and placed in the priest's arms, and His Sacred Flesh to be pierced, and Blood shed, by the pain which His tender infant Body now suffered, He did, as it were, offer unto His Father the first-fruits of that full harvest of suffering, which was finally to be gathered in upon the Cross. He

sanctified our lesser sorrows, mortifications, and vexations, as He was afterwards to sanctify in His Agony and Passion our more grievous and heart-searching trials: our great disappointments, our shame, want, sickness, and death.

*JANUARY 2.*

WHEN we look at His course in this His lower world, beginning with endurance of the sharp circumcising knife, and ending with *My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?* it does seem strange that we should, any of us, expect to pass through life in ease and quietness, or think it hard if we have not our own way in all things.

*JANUARY 3.*

THERE is no end, in short, of the many little crosses, which, if quietly borne in a Christian way, will, by God's grace, do the work of affliction, and help to tame our proud wills by little and little.

*JANUARY 4.*

OUR self-denial we must practise in little matters.