

**BEREAVED PARENTS CONSOLED.
AN AFFECTIONATE ADDRESS TO
THOSE WHO ARE MOURNING THE
LOSS OF CHILDREN ESPECIALLY
SUCH AS HAVE DIED IN INFANCY**

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Bereaved Parents Consoled. An Affectionate Address to Those Who Are Mourning the Loss of Children Especially Such as Have Died in Infancy by John Thornton

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JOHN THORNTON

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**BEREAVED
PARENTS CONSOLED.**

CHAPTER I.

**THE SPRINGS OF COMFORT OPENED IN THE
GOSPEL.**

You who have seen the dearest objects of your affection withered, and swept away by the blast of mortality, may be disposed to cherish a feeling of melancholy and mental depression under the painful stroke.

Permit me, then, to turn your attention to the richest sources of consolation. That God who is the Fountain of life, the Father of spirits, the Author and Bestower of all blessings, has mercifully provided a sovereign balm to bind up and heal the broken heart; "for he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust." The same hand which entwined the ties that connect parents and children, is often put forth to burst them asunder. The fact is of frequent occurrence, and familiar to every observer. In such circumstances, grief is perfectly natural, and while restrained within due limits, cannot be sinful; but though we may mourn, we must not murmur and repine, or cast reproach and contempt on the

dispensations of Providence. The rank atheist and avowed infidel, as we conceive, can hardly look on the wide-wasting ravages of death without perturbation and horror. To him, the present world must seem a barren desert, and all beyond it a blank, a dreary void. Reason can no more instruct itself, because it knows by instruction, than the eye can give light to itself, because it sees by the light. This observation applies peculiarly to religious matters; and you may safely infer from it, to use the words of Bishop Horne, "that a man may as well take a view of things on earth in a dark night, by the light of his own eye, as pretend to discover the things of heaven in the night of nature, by the light of his own