

**THE YOUNG LADIES' FAITHFUL
REMEMBRANCER OF
OBLIGATIONS,
RESPONSIBILITIES, AND DUTIES**

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The young ladies' faithful remembrancer of obligations, responsibilities, and duties by S. Reeve

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ADDRESS.

To the Young Ladies of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland who, either at School or at Home, are now under Instruction.

MY YOUNG FRIENDS,

The following chapters have been written for your use and benefit. To you they are respectfully dedicated. That their perusal may afford you some salutary entertainment and practical advice has been my aim and solicitude. At a time when the public mind is so much agitated by recent political changes in neighbouring countries, and when monarchy and republicanism are the burden of conversation in almost every circle in British society, it is refreshing to retire from a world of bustle and noise for the purpose of addressing a community of joyous youthful spirits upon subjects of quiet importance. While the nations of Europe are convulsed to their centre—while monarchs and statesmen are forced to seek refuge on our hospitable shores until the political storm be overpast—you, my young friends, sit in undisturbed repose in those peaceful retreats, where you have assembled under the guardianship of kind and competent instructors, to prepare for future usefulness and respectability. The rise and fall of empires, farther than the preparation of your history lessons is concerned, give you very little uneasiness. And while your own seats at the table and at the desk are in a state of security, and while you retain the favourable opinion of your governess

and your parents, the fearful rocking and shaking of thrones, and the deposition of kings and queens that have been occurring during the last few months, produce in your minds no anxious disquietude nor dismal forebodings. Oh happy girls! But while I notice your enviable indifference to passing events, I am deeply sensible of your faithful adherence to the queen and constitution of these realms. I wish all her majesty's subjects were actuated by feelings of such loyal and devoted attachment as are cherished and retained by you. For then we should have no insurrectionary movements, no seditious meetings, no out-burstings of disaffection and disloyalty. It is matter of gratitude and exultation that the people of this country are ruled by a sovereign who is an ornament to our sex, the pride of her subjects, and the admiration of neighbouring princes. And I trust there are no young ladies in any part of her majesty's vast dominions that value the honour and the benefit of living under the gentle sway of her government more sincerely and thankfully than those whom I am now addressing. But although I have nothing to fear from political excitement as an obstacle to the perusal of these chapters, there are other causes which may render my counsels unacceptable. Perhaps the style or phraseology may not suit the taste of lively animated girls. I knew before I commenced that the duty I undertook was very formidable. For if I communicated my advice in a strain of stern philosophy or melancholy dulness, I was conscious that it would be laid aside for examination until some more convenient season, which is tantamount to an utter condemnation of its contents. If on the other hand, I pandered too much to the yet unformed and undirected taste of my juvenile readers, by presenting my instructions in a garb of superficial levity or childish sprightliness, I should defeat

the very purpose I am eager to effect. Whether I have succeeded in steering my way judiciously between these two extremes, and rendering my remarks readable both by the lighthearted and the serious of my young friends, I must leave you to judge. Whenever amusement can be legitimately blended with instruction I should be the last in the world to pronounce it inadmissible. Innocent playfulness and youthful vivacity ought to be encouraged rather than impeded in their natural flow. They are essential to health and existence. But in treating of subjects connected with the culture of the intellectual powers and the inculcation of moral duties, it would be impossible at times to avoid a sober and didactic tone of expression. Except, however, where it is indispensable, I have been careful not to introduce one sentence calculated to check the play of those joyous emotions and lively sentiments in which the merriest among you are accustomed to indulge. I do not forget that I am addressing many young ladies who, "live and move and feel that they are happier than they know." You will discover that my great object has been to aid in directing your youthful feelings into a proper current, and to furnish such suggestions as will enable you to co-operate more effectually with your parents and teachers in giving a salutary discipline to the faculties of the understanding and the affections of the heart. Hoping that, under the blessing of providence, this humble attempt may contribute to your future improvement and happiness,

I am, my dear young friends

Yours, with best wishes,

August, 1848.

THE AUTHOR.

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CHAP. I.

RELIGION.

This subject naturally comes first. Our responsibilities to the Great Ruler over all should be constantly kept before our notice. It is a reflection, no less wonderful than true, that every one that is born into the world is destined to live for ever. This we should not have discovered by our own unassisted reason. It has been revealed to us by a direct communication from heaven. The Bible, which is the word of God, contains every truth and precept necessary for immortal beings like ourselves. It is a book full of majesty and authority. It bears the impress of a God upon every page, and it is handed down to us authenticated by a brightness of testimony that is unparalleled. This book represents God as possessing all power. He had only to say, "let there be light" and the whole universe was illuminated. He created all worlds and upholds them by the word of his power. He controls all events, and minutely observes every circumstance. Not a sparrow falls to the ground without His notice. He knows all the workings in the innermost recesses of our hearts. Not a thought