HELP TO ZION'S TRAVELLERS: BEING AN ATTEMPT TO REMOVE VARIOUS STUMBLING BLOCKS OUT OF THE WAY, RELATING TO DOCTRINAL, EXPERIMENTAL, AND PRACTICAL RELIGION

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Help to Zion's travellers: being an attempt to remove various stumbling blocks out of the way, relating to doctrinal, experimental, and practical religion by Robert Hall

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ROBERT HALL

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Publication Society here presents the christian public with a most important work. Its republication will, it is hoped, avail much in keeping up old landmarks and removing the obscurity which embarrasses so many, in relation to cardinal doctrines.

No work on practical piety is superior to Hall's Help, as a brief, intelligible, devout, and scriptural elucidation of the topics on which it treats.

The book has been carefully edited by Rev. Howard Malcom, D. D., at the request of the Society. A comparison with old editions will at once show the extent of the changes, which consist chiefly in modernizing the style in some places, correcting numerous errors in the references, and arranging chapters, paragraphs, quotations, &c. No sentiment is added or omitted, or any change made in the general style of the author. Some notes from a former edition, by Rev. Jos. A. Warne, are inserted, and marked with his initials.

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PREFACE

TO THE

SECOND LONDON EDITION.

BY REV. DR. RYLAND.

TWENTY-EIGHT years have elapsed since that Sermon was delivered, in my father's pulpit, at Northampton, before the Baptist Association, which Mr. Hall afterwards enlarged into the following Treatise. As I then united with many others in earnestly soliciting its publication, so I have since repeatedly perused it with much satisfaction. When, therefore, the publisher of the present edition applied to me for a recommendatory preface, I felt no hesitation but what arose from the early impressions of veneration for one of the wisest and best of men, to whom I was habituated to look up with such respect, as made this office feel to me assuming and arrogant. when I reflect that he has been removed from our world for more than sixteen years, (and verily I miss no man more!) and consider that, since his decease, many have joined our churches, who never had opportunity duly to appreciate his worth; it seems not to be taking too much upon me, to testify in what high estimation he was justly held by those who had the pleasure of his

acquaintance. Strong natural powers, ardent piety, deep exercises of mind, a series of singular and sanctified trials, with a special unction from the Holy One, rendered him a man of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord.

Deeply convinced of human guilt and depravity, and very zealous for the honor of sovereign grace; but no less concerned for internal holiness and practical religion; he was careful to walk in the midst of the paths of judgment, and to beware of turning aside to the right hand or the left.

He called no man upon earth master, in respect of his religious sentiments, but he took a peculiar delight in the writings of President Edwards; and two Sermons by Mr. Smalley, (which I borrowed of our venerable friend Mr. Newton, of Olney, and after transcribing them, lent them to Mr. Hall,) contributed much to strengthen his conviction, that the moral impotence of sinners is no more an excuse for their slighting the call of the gospel, than it is for their violating the commands of the law. As the greatest disinclination to regard Divine authority cannot release a rational creature from an obligation to obey God's precepts; so the utter aversion of a sinner to regard the kindness of God our Saviour, cannot release him from an obligation thankfully to comply with his invitations.

At the same time, Mr. Hall remained as strenuous an advocate as ever for the necessity and efficacy of divine influence, to induce sinners or saints to comply cordially with their indispensable duty; and he was more abundantly confirmed in a belief of the sovereign freeness of grace, by