

**COELESTIA, THE  
MANUAL OF  
ST. AUGUSTINE**

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Cœlestia, the manual of st. Augustine by Augustine & James Skinner

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**AUGUSTINE & JAMES SKINNER**

**COELESTIA, THE  
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ST. AUGUSTINE**



# CŒLESTIA.

THE MANUAL OF ST AUGUSTINE

THE LATIN TEXT  
SIDE BY SIDE WITH AN ENGLISH INTERPRETATION

IN THIRTY-SIX ODES

WITH NOTES and A PLEA for the STUDY of MYSTICAL THEOLOGY

BY

JAMES SKINNER, M.A.

SOMETIME WARDEN AND VICAR OF NEWLAND, GREAT MALVERN.

*'Tantum lucere vauum; tantum ardere parum; lucere et ardere perfectum.'*  
S. BERNARDI *Serm. in Nat. S. Jo. Bap.*



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1881.

141. L. 478.

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TO  
MY WIFE

THESE ODES  
WRITTEN AT VARIOUS TIMES OF SICKNESS AND DISTRESS  
ARE DEDICATED  
IN GRATEFUL AND LOVING RECOGNITION  
OF HER UNCEASING SELF-SACRIFICE, TENDERNESS, AND CARE.





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A P L E A  
FOR THE  
STUDY OF MYSTICAL THEOLOGY.

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\* Quod si æquum reputatur, sicut revera est, ancillas comere et emollire, id est, scientias quæ intelligentiam illustrant exponere ; quanto æquius erit, pulcherrimam dominam, hoc est, *scientiam voluntatis quæ sanctitatis dicitur* perpolire et regalibus indumentis circumdare ; siquidem sola, sine aliis, Deo gratissima est, et reliquæ, sine ista, neque in celestem thalamum admittuntur, nec pulchræ et decoræ existimantur.\*—ALVAREZ DE PAZ (1560-1620), in *Pref. de Vita Spirituali*.

It has not been without loss to our English Christian life, that so little has been done popularly to explore the rich pasture-field of mystical Theology.

By mystical Theology is meant that branch of 'the queen of sciences' which deals with the spiritual life of each separate soul, and the means of its gradual growth towards perfect union with God. It differs from dogmatic and from scholastic Theology in being wholly practical ; and from moral Theology in being concerned with a higher end than the mere rooting up of sins and shortcomings. For its end is nothing less than *perfection*, through the union of the human will with the Divine