

LIFE IN THE SICK- ROOM: ESSAYS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649007974

Life in the sick-room: essays by Harriet Martineau & Eliza L. Follen

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

HARRIET MARTINEAU & ELIZA L. FOLLEN

**LIFE IN THE SICK-
ROOM: ESSAYS**

LIFE IN THE SICK-ROOM.

LIFE IN THE SICK-ROOM.

ESSAYS,

BY HARRIET MARTINEAU.

WITH AN

INTRODUCTION TO THE AMERICAN EDITION.

BY

ELIZA L. FOLLEN.

"For they breathe truth that breathe their words in pain." — *SHAKESPEARE*.

"The coldest birds a season find to sing." — *ROBERT SOUTHWELL*.

no. 2332

BOSTON:

LEONARD C. BOWLES,

AND WILLIAM CROSBY.

1841.

CONTENTS.

	Page.
To ———,	vii
INTRODUCTION TO THE AMERICAN EDITION, . . .	xvii
THE TRANSIENT AND THE PERMANENT IN THE SICK- ROOM,	25
SYMPATHY TO THE INVALID,	33
NATURE TO THE INVALID,	59
LIFE TO THE INVALID,	76
DEATH TO THE INVALID,	109
TEMPER,	127
BECOMING INURED,	144
POWER OF IDEAS IN THE SICK-ROOM,	151
SOME PERILS AND PAINS OF INVALIDISM,	168
SOME GAINS AND SWEETS OF INVALIDISM,	185

INTRODUCTION

TO THE AMERICAN EDITION

ALTHOUGH this work, which cannot fail to be a blessing to humanity, had no name attached to it, yet every line of it so proclaimed its author, that the effort to be lost in her subject was vain. All those in England who read it, found their thoughts and their hearts visiting, with grateful love, the sick-room of her to whom MILNES addressed these beautiful lines in the 'Liberty Bell' for 1843:

TO HARRIET MARTINEAU.

CHRISTIAN ENDURANCE.

BY RICHARD MONCRIFTON MILNES, M. P. FOR PONTEFRAC.

Mortal! that standest on a point of time,
With an eternity on either hand,
Thou hast one duty above all sublime,
Where thou art placed, serenely there to stand.

To stand, undaunted, by the threatening death,
Or harder circumstance of living doom ;
Nor less untempted by the odorous breath
Of hope, that issues even from the tomb.

For hope will never dull the present pain.
Nor fear will ever keep thee safe from fall,
Unless thou hast in thee a mind, to reign
Over thyself, as God is over all.

'Tis well in deeds of good, though small, to thrive ;
'Tis well some part of ill, though small, to cure ;
'Tis well with onward, upward hope, to strive ;
Yet better and diviner to endure.

What but this virtue's solitary power,
Through all the lusts and dreams of Greece and Rome,
Bore the selected spirits of the hour
Safe to a distant, immaterial home ?

But in that patience was the seed of scorn —
Scorn of the world, and brotherhood of man ;
Not patience, such as in the manger born,
Up to the cross endured its earthly span.

Thou must endure, yet loving all the while ;
Above, yet never separate from thy kind ;
Meet every frailty with a tender smile,
Though to no possible depth of evil blind.

This is the riddle, thou hast life to solve ;
And in the task thou shalt not work alone ;
For while the worlds about the sun revolve
God's heart and mind are ever with his own.

These lines furnish the key-note to the tone that pervades this whole work. Such was Harriet Martineau's earnest desire to do what she could for her fellow-sufferers, by giving them the results of her painful but precious experience through a hopeless illness of five years, that she was irresistibly impelled to utter herself to the world once more ; but her reluctance to the self-exposure, was so great, that she threw what veil she could over her words by withholding her name : not even her nearest and dearest friends knew that she had written such a book, 'till the grateful public declared that no one but her, could have written 'Life in the Sick Room.' I cannot but think that it will form a new era in the history of every invalid that reads it and enters into its wise counsels, its inspiring views.

As it is no longer a secret who is its author, some of her friends in this country have consented that her name should be attached to the book,

trusting that she will forgive them for the liberty they take. She will doubtless be astonished to find it so soon republished here ; but I feel assured that when she hears of it, she will be rejoiced. The wider and farther her words of "lofty cheer" to the sick can be heard, so much the happier will she be : therefore, without consulting her, yet with entire trust in her joyful acquiescence, I dedicate, in her name, this reprint of "Life in the Sick Room," to all the prisoners to disease in America, — the land that she truly loves.

The publisher, Mr. Bowles, has set a worthy example to his brethren of the profession, by proposing to set apart for the author a certain proportion of the sales of this republication. Of course no other publisher will do anything to interfere with his just and generous purpose.

E. L. FOLLEN.

APRIL, 1844.