SACRA PRIVATA, THE PRIVATE MEDITATIONS AND PRAYERS

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Sacra Privata, the Private Meditations and Prayers by Thomas Wilson

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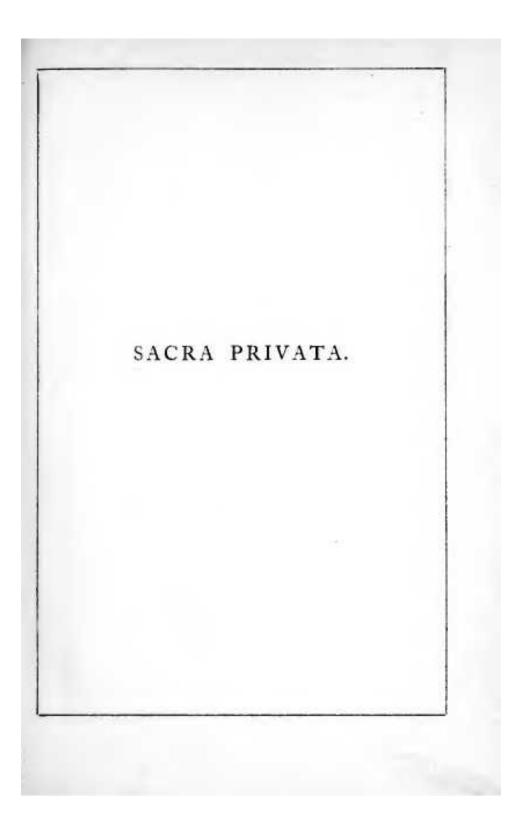
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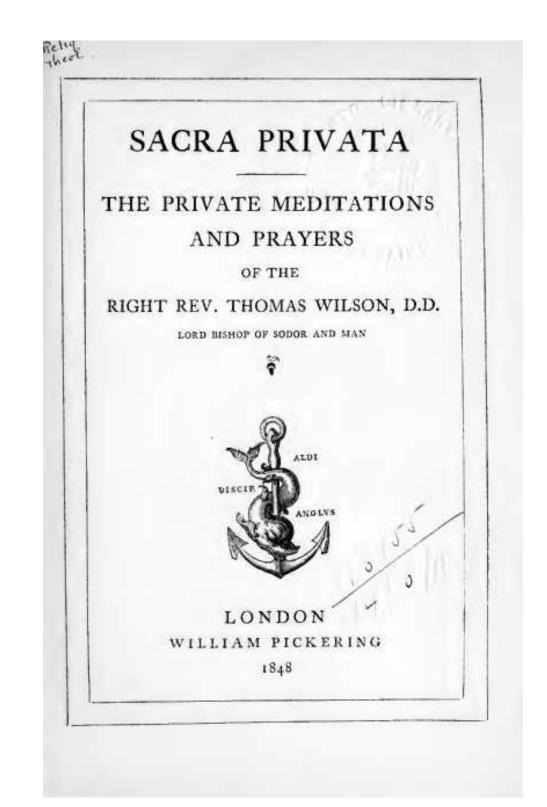
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THOMAS WILSON

SACRA PRIVATA, THE PRIVATE MEDITATIONS AND PRAYERS

Trieste





The Preface.



HE truly Reverend Doctor THOMAS WILSON, fiftyeight years Bishop of Sodor and Man, was bleffed with the fpirit v

of prayer in a very uncommon meafure : of which his Sacra Privata, or Private Meditations and Prayers, are an eminent inftance.

They have hitherto been locked up from the world in an expensive book; and are mixed throughout with fo much meditation and prayer that can come properly from the clergy only, (to whom they are an

The Preface.

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invaluable treafure) as to unfit them for general use.

They are now prefented to the publick in a feparate volume; fo that pious Chriftians may, at a reafonable expence, diftribute them among fuch people as either will not or cannot buy them; and the petitions peculiar to the clergy only are all thrown out.

The pious reader will find these Meditations and Prayers too long, according to the present division of them, which there is no occasion to adhere to. He may take them up, and lay them down, at his own difcretion and convenience. It is recommended to him to go through them regularly, and to continue the use of them his whole life; felecting fuch parts for more frequent medi-

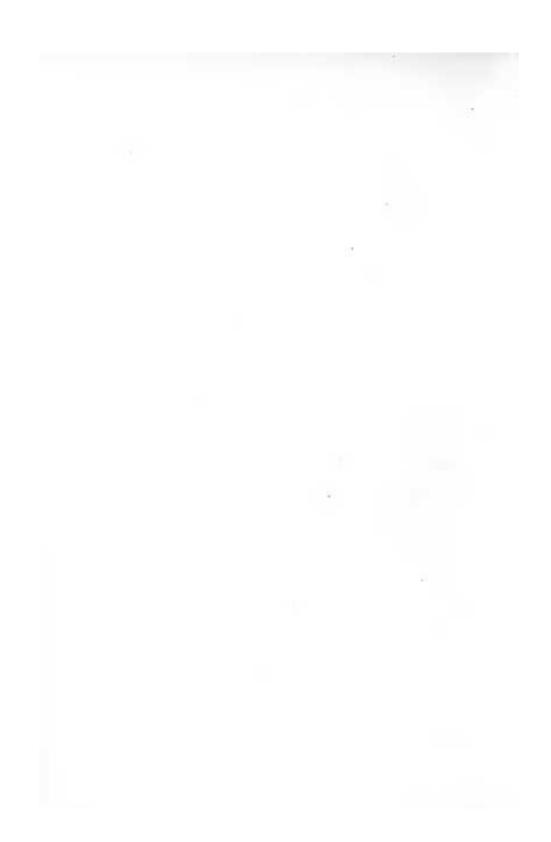
The Preface.

tation as are beft adapted to his neceffity and difpofition.

As prayer is one of the moft important works a man can be engaged in, and few find themfelves able to difcharge it in the manner they wifh to do; it is humbly hoped, that this book, if duly attended to as it deferves, may with God's affiftance teach them to pray; may lead our thoughts to meditate on religious fubjects, and habituate us to clothe our meditations in the language of decent, pious, and fervent prayer.

That this valuable book may have this effect, is the intention and the earnest prayer of

THE EDITOR.





I

On Devotion and Prayer.



RUE Devotion confifts in having our hearts always devoted to God, as the fole Fountain of all Happiness; and who

is ready to hear and help his otherwife helplefs, miferable creatures.

It is to be attained,

1/t. By earnest prayer. HE THAT HUNGERS AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS, WILL CERTAINLY BE FILLED.

2dly. By poffeffing our hearts with a deep fense of our own mifery, our