

**TIMES OF RETIREMENT;
DEVOTIONAL
MEDITATIONS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649722068

Times of Retirement; Devotional Meditations by George Matheson & D. MacMillan

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

GEORGE MATHESON & D. MACMILLAN

**TIMES OF RETIREMENT;
DEVOTIONAL
MEDITATIONS**

TIMES OF RETIREMENT

Devotional Meditations

BY

GEORGE MATHESON, M.A., D.D., F.R.S.E.

AUTHOR OF

"Moments on the Mount," "Voices of the Spirit," Etc.

WITH A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF THE AUTHOR

By the Rev. D. MacMillan



NEW YORK

CHICAGO

TORONTO

FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY

ANDOVER-HARVARD
THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY
APR 30 1913
ANDOVER
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

264,361

COPYRIGHT 1901
BY
FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY

770
M427E
1901

Preface

AT the request of many I have collected these fugitive devotional pieces which at stray moments I have been contributing to an organ of the Church of Scotland—"Saint Andrew." They have been the diversion from sustained work, and in no other light do I offer them. Yet there are some who cannot study sustained work; they have not leisure enough or they have not health enough. For such, truth must come "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." Any one of these meditations can be read in three minutes; yet three minutes may influence a whole day. Accordingly, I have consented to give them collective form. They will not all appeal equally to every mood of mind. Where one does not appeal, lay it aside, but do not throw it away; what is not your message to-day may be your message to-morrow. It is often said that devotion is a thing of the heart. I do not think it is either

merely or mainly so. I hold that all emotion is based upon intellectual conviction. Even your sense of natural beauty is so based. Whence comes that joy with which you gaze on a bit of landscape you call "a picture-scene"? Precisely from your intellectual conviction that it is *not* a picture; if you believed it to be a painting, your emotion would die altogether. A man may have *faith* in what he does not understand, but he cannot have *emotion* in what he does not understand. The heart must have a theory for its own music. Therefore the devotional writer must have a message as much as the expositor. Devotion must be the child of reflection; it may rise on wings, but they must be the wings of thought. The meditations of this little book will appeal to the instinct of prayer just in proportion as they appeal to the teachings of experience; therefore, before all things, I have endeavoured to base the feelings of the heart on the conclusions of the mind.

G. M.

EDINBURGH, 1901.

Rev. George Matheson, D.D.

*A Biographical Sketch by the Rev. D. MacMILLAN,
M.A., Editor of "SAINT ANDREW."

GEORGE MATHESON was born just a year before the great Disruption took place in that Church which he was afterwards destined to adorn; and though the period from then till now is as historians measure time comparatively brief, a change has come over the face of ecclesiastical Scotland which is as striking as it is hopeful. 1843 saw the formation of the Free Church through secession from the Church of Scotland, and 1900 saw the creation of the United Free Church by a union of the Free and United Presbyterian Churches. The larger visible union which some dream of, may be in the distant future; still, a kindlier spirit prevails, and

* Prepared at the special request of the publishers.

a recognition of the invisible bonds which make all Christians one, may be declared to be the chief religious feature of the time. So far Dr. Matheson has not lived in vain, for though seldom if ever taking part in the proceedings of Church courts, or enacting in any way the rôle of the ecclesiastic, he has ever striven to discover those deeper springs of religious thought and feeling which are common to all and which explain and reconcile the outward differences. It is the Christian *thinker* who sows the seeds of those movements which in due time take visible shape in the Church; and within recent years no one by voice or pen has done more than has the subject of the present memoir to discover those elements of the spiritual life which lie beneath creeds and forms of church government, and which make all believing hearts one.

Dr. Matheson was born in Glasgow on March 27, 1842. He was fortunate in his place of birth. There is no city in the United Kingdom, probably no city in the Empire, which during the Victorian era made such rapid strides as Glasgow. The enterprise of

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH 9

its merchants and the energy of its municipal rulers have become a proverb. In population, size and wealth its progress for a European city has been almost phenomenal. It has its feet, however, firmly planted on the historic past. Its Cathedral dates from the dawn of the middle ages, and its University from before the Reformation. Hence it possesses the two elements which are conducive to true development—love of the past and hope for the future, a freedom which is restrained from running into license, and a conservatism which is saved from obscurantism. One can readily understand the influence which such a city would have upon the mental growth of a young man of Matheson's temperament. Keenly susceptible to outward impressions and intellectually alive to the spirit of the times, he must in the earlier period of his life have been greatly moulded by his environment. It cannot accordingly be accounted an accident that we find in his writings the same boldness of thought and eager breaking of fresh ground, which characterise his native city in its commercial and municipal enterprises, along with