

**SCATTERED SEED:
BEING A RELIGIOUS
THOUGHT BOOK**

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Scattered Seed: Being a Religious Thought Book by James Russell

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A Religious Thought Book.

BY THE

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Woolbridge, Shropshire.*

"HERE A LITTLE, AND THERE A LITTLE."
Isaiah XXVIII. 10.

NEW EDITION.



London:

JAMES NISBET & CO., 21 BERNERS STREET.

1881.

141. m. 942.

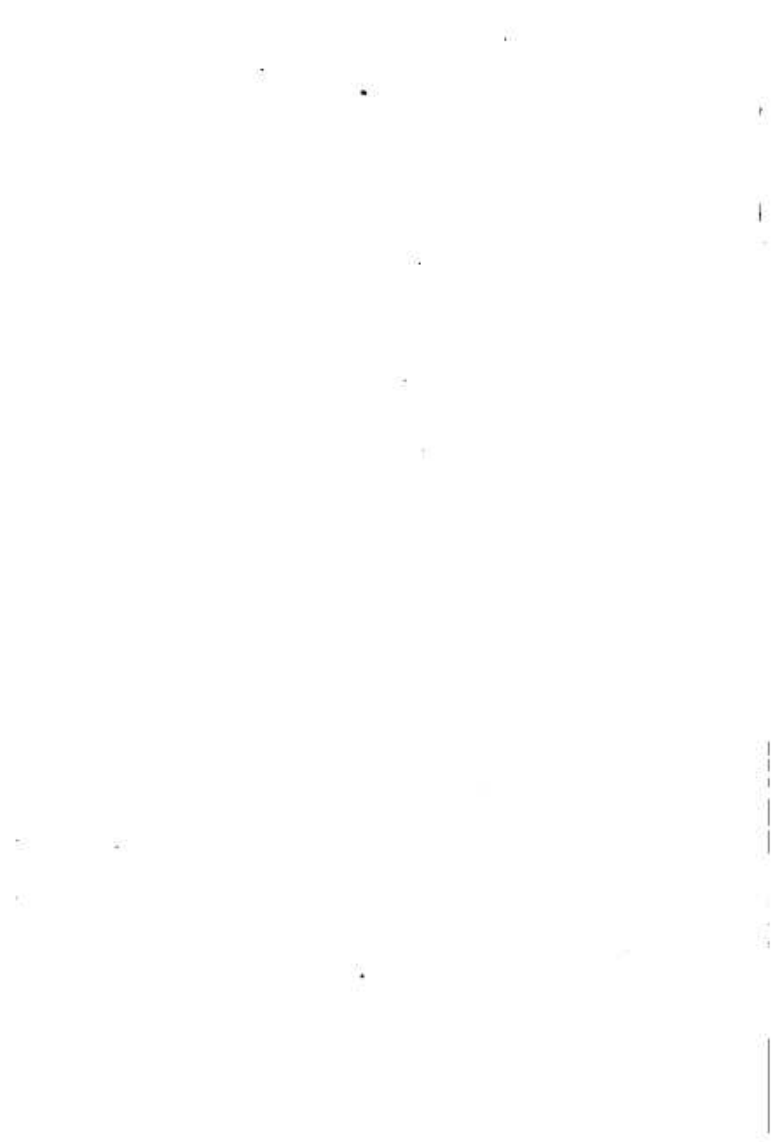


Figure 1. Schematic diagram of a distillation column with a reboiler and a condenser. The reboiler is connected to the bottom of the column, and the condenser is connected to the top. The diagram shows the flow of liquid and vapor between the trays and the external heat exchangers.

PREFACE.

THE following pages are presented to the Christian public, but more especially to my own Parishioners and Congregation, as a small contribution to the already large and varied devotional literature of the present day. I am hopeful that the *special* features of the time—than which there never has been in the Church's history, on the one hand, one more busy and active, and on the other, more harassing and distracting—may render this instalment anything but unacceptable.

I am aware that objections may be taken to the *fragmentary* character of the work. I have, however, designedly made it what it is, intending it to be "*a thought book,*" which may be used as a *travelling companion,*"—a spiritual "vade

* "Thoughts take up no room ; when they are right they afford a portable pleasure, which one may travel with, without any trouble or incumbrance."—JEREMY COLLIER.

mecum," which may supply wholesome food (upon the best themes) for the mind when it would not otherwise be so well occupied; or as a help to the religious devotion of the closet.

I would earnestly make one request of the reader, and that is, that he will not lightly lay aside this unpretending little book, but persevere in the use of it till he has got through it, and obtained a grasp of some of its reflections; and I am not without hope that he may find in it "a word in season,"—"a message from God," which will either build him up in his "most holy faith," or awaken him to a sense of the value of his own soul; and I am the more sanguine of such a blessed result, as I have been permitted, through mercy, to know of more than one instance in which some of these thoughts have been instrumental for good.

The general tendency of the thoughts is to exalt the authority and inspiration of the Bible as a revelation from God,—oppose the Rationalism of this sceptical age,—assert human depravity,—point out the value of the soul,—recommend the person and work of Christ as of surpassing importance,—declare the necessity of the teaching of the Holy Spirit, and of daily repentance and

faith,—enforce practical godliness,—remind of the joys of heaven and the woes of hell! I know these are great themes to treat in so *piecemeal* a way; and no one can be more conscious of the imperfections of these thoughts than I am. Imperfect, however, and fragmentary as they are, they are the result of a very earnest desire to do good in my day and generation, especially among my own flock. I cast them, therefore, on the waters, with many prayers to the great Head of the Church, and in the confident assurance that I shall find them, although it be “after many days.”—*Eccles.* xi. 1.

JAMES RUSSELL.

WOMBRIDGE VICARAGE,
Advent, 1868.

P.S.—It will be observed that there are 365 thoughts,—being one for every day in the year; therefore, although they are not arranged to suit the several months, the book may be used as a *daily companion*.

PREFACE TO NEW EDITION.

IN issuing a New Edition of this little work, the Author has fallen in with the wishes of many valued friends who, having used the former edition *daily*, have suggested that the days of the months should be continuously affixed to the thoughts. He trusts that this may render the book more acceptable to a large class of readers who may be in health; at the same time, he has deemed it well to number each thought as in the first edition, so that the *invalid* may, on referring to the Index, refresh himself by meditating on the various subjects (more than two hundred) which are touched upon in these unpretending pages.

ST. PHILIP'S VICARAGE, SHEFFIELD,
Advent, 1880.