

**A PEEP INTO
NUMBER NINETY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649302321

A peep into number ninety by Charlotte Elizabeth

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

CHARLOTTE ELIZABETH

**A PEEP INTO
NUMBER NINETY**

A PEEP INTO NUMBER NINETY.

BY CHARLOTTE ELIZABETH.

Charlotte Elizabeth

"From the tyranny of the Bishop of Rome, and all his detestable enormities, good Lord deliver us!"—*Prayer Book of King Edward VI.*

PUBLISHED BY R. D. SEELY AND W. BURNSIDE,
AND SOLD BY L. AND G. SEELY,
FLEET STREET, LONDON.
MDCCLXI.

11/1

A PEEP INTO NUMBER NINETY.

WHEN God first planted his Church in the garden of Eden, the two individuals who composed it were not only of one substance, as regarded the body, but of one heart, one soul, one faith; walking in all the commandments and ordinances blameless—the son and daughter of the Lord God Almighty, perfect in obedience, holy, and without reproach. Unless they had been so, the Lord would not have pronounced his work to be “very good.”

But this state of things did not continue: the Church had an enemy, because God had an enemy; and he, envying the blessedness which he had himself forfeited, and could never regain, set about disturbing the peace of this Church, alienating it from God, and bringing it into subjection to himself. He made choice of the woman; assailed her with subtle temptation, and prevailed.

The Church was now disunited: Eve had sinned, but Adam maintained his integrity. The house, the beautiful house that God had builded for the habitation of His Spirit, was divided against itself, and could not stand. How long this division continued Scripture does not inform us: but we know that Adam, though not deceived as Eve had been, followed her in the transgression. Eve gave to her husband of the forbidden fruit, and he did eat. One moment's yielding to the evil one, and the world was wrecked.

Great but transient was the triumph of the Devil: God dealt wondrously with the first transgressor, subjecting her in lowly subordination to the partner whom she had enticed into sin, inflicting sore pains and penalties upon her through all generations, yet investing her with the high and glorious privilege of exclusive parentage to the human nature in which the Deity should come to overthrow the Satanic device, destroy the works of the Devil, lead captivity captive, and doubly glorify the place of his desecrated sanctuary.

From this period woman has occupied a place in the Church—which is the company of all faithful people—singularly accordant with the

position of Eve under the sentence of mingled judgment and mercy. Generally the most easy to lead, she has been selected as the first victim in all unholy devices ; and when once perverted, her weakness usually proves an overmatch for the superior strength of man. When false teachers fail to darken his reason, or to mislead his judgment, woman will so ensnare him by means of the affections, as to draw him into the net openly spread in his sight : and woman, under the divine influence, will lead the way through trouble, peril, persecution, and death, where man's bold heart would flinch but for her.

How beautifully was this manifested during those three years, the like of which the world never saw, or can see—the three years when earth's glorious Creator publicly traversed her guilty soil, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief ; houseless, suffering hunger and thirst, despised and rejected of man, but followed, and soothed, and ministered unto by women. Surely had there been a woman in the garden of Gethsemane, the Lord had not been forsaken of all ; but she was spared the participation of that night's crimes and woes—we only know that God even deigned to warn the

wretched Pilate by a woman's hand ; that while the sons of Jerusalem were fiercely hostile, or pusillanimously acquiescent, in the deed of blood, the daughters of Jerusalem feared not to enter the public protest of their deep cries and bitter wailings around the holy, majestic Victim, who paused upon his path to a triumphant universal kingdom, to address them in language at once so gracious and so awful. Woman, strong in love, bore to look upon the agonies from which the sun shrouded his face : women pressed around the mangled body with sweet spices for its embalming : and woman, awake with hope, prevented the dawning day, while men yet slept or sullenly despaired : she was the first to look upon the risen Lord ; the first to bear to man the glad tidings that the terrible debt under which she had laid him was cancelled—the fetter that she cast around him was broken ; the Seed of the woman had bruised the Serpent's head ; death was vanquished, and the kingdom of heaven opened to all believers.

All this we know, for our own, our precious Bible declares it ; and through that blessed gift, the oracles of God, we know it so long, so well, and so familiarly, that it is hard to recal the time when we knew it not. Our position in

the Church is a very peculiar one; and the more closely we look into ecclesiastical history, the more striking does it appear. Satan has borne ample testimony to this; showing how he both hates and fears his first victim. In heathen lands, where he reigns supreme, the prince and god of this world, he rivets the penal curse upon her with ferocious malice, filling man's heart with tyrannous cruelty against her. And when he laid the first woof of the great master-piece of iniquity that should envelope the professing Church of Christ in darkness, his earliest care was to collect and immure as many as he could of the dreaded opponents. Monasticism was the selvedge by means of which he evened, and tightened, and prevented the whole web from unravelling: clerical celibacy is to this day the mainstay by which he holds on the most important appendages to his cunning machinery. He wants men to do his bidding in all the breadth and length of his dire hostility against Christ; therefore he puts asunder what God hath joined, he tears the domestic tie, and forces his victims to what God has distinctly said is not good for them; and so, by easy consequences, into what must utterly harden their

consciences, pollute their minds, and destroy their souls.

Let not woman, therefore, be beguiled of her due station in the Church of Christ, let her not, with voluntary humility, take shelter under an assumed insignificance, and deem that her impressions, her private opinions, can weigh little in the doubtful scale of national or ecclesiastical orthodoxy. As mother and as wife pre-eminently, and in all other relationships whereby God has bound her to man respectively, her power is very great ; and at this moment, in this realm of England, Satan is building on that quiet and unobtrusive, but most effectual, power, his best hopes of plunging the country in irretrievable ruin. He calculates on acting over again that horror of horrors that once glutted his diabolical malice, when the torch was forced into the shrinking fingers of the tender daughter, and her feebleness coerced into applying it to the pile of faggots surrounding the stake to which her parents were chained ; and if the Lord interpose not, he will succeed.

Without further preface, then, since the subject so nearly and deeply concerns them and me, I invite, I beseech the most serious, prayerful attention of my Christian Sisters in England,