

PRIVATE PRAYERS

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Private Prayers by E. B. Pusey & H. P. Liddon

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E. B. PUSEY & H. P. LIDDON

**PRIVATE
PRAYERS**

Private Prayers

BY THE REV.

E. B. PUSEY, D.D.

EDITED, WITH A PREFACE BY

H. P. LIDDON, D.D.

*"Having loved His own which were
in the world, He loved them unto the
end."*—S. JOHN xiii. 2

RIVINGTONS
WATERLOO PLACE, LONDON

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Preface.

THE Prayers contained in this volume were composed, chiefly, in or about the year 1853-5, at the instance and for the use of a person who had the happiness to be advised by Dr. Pusey in spiritual matters. They were written at intervals, as they were wanted, and without any intention of making them into a book. The owner of the precious manuscript is still living, but desires to remain unknown, while thus placing within the reach of English Churchmen an aid to devotion, the value of

which has been tested by constant use during more than a quarter of a century.

To this collection some other Prayers are added, which were written for another person who was also advised by Dr. Pusey, and who did not survive him for more than a few weeks.

In editing these Prayers, some few changes of expression have been deliberately adopted, which there is reason to think the revered Author would himself have made had he ever revised them with a view to publication. But it is confidently hoped that no such change has obscured or modified the sense of the original.

It will be seen that Bishop Andrewes, the "Paradise of the Chris-

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tian Soul," and older sources have been drawn upon by Dr. Pusey. But the larger part of the book is his own; and probably represents the substance of his own daily prayers.

It may be right to add a caution respecting the use of prayers which, like those in this volume, have been composed or compiled expressly for the use of single souls.

As no two faces, so no two characters, are exactly alike. Each has, with its own mysterious history, its own hopes, and fears, and gifts, and needs.

*"Each in his hidden sphere of joy or woe
Our hermit spirits dwell."*

Differences of temperament, and differences of experience, teach us

severally to employ a different spiritual language before the Throne of Our Lord and Saviour. When private prayer is absolutely sincere, and is based upon something like real self-knowledge, each soul will pray some prayers which no other soul needs, and will omit some prayers with which many others could not safely dispense. The accuracy with which a collection of devotions is adapted to the exact case of a single soul, may thus be the measure of its unsuitableness for any other. And, therefore, a book of private prayers, written, by a master of spiritual wisdom, for the use of an individual Christian, must, if used by others, be used with discretion and freedom. There must be both omissions and addi-

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tions. Thus in the present volume great stress is laid on certain sins against charity. No one need have just reason for anxiety if he should find that some of the prayers in a book like this do not suit or are not needed by him: no one can safely take it for granted that nothing more is required by him in the way of private devotion than is here supplied.

It is of course otherwise with the Common and Public Prayers of the Church, with the venerable Liturgies of the early ages, and, above all, with that Prayer of prayers which Our Divine Lord has taught us. These do express either in terms or by implication all the needs of the soul; and there is much ground for anxiety if we

cannot bring ourselves to feel at home with them. In particular, the Lord's Prayer is a rule to shape, as well as an instrument to express, devotion; and no variety of experience or eccentricity of temperament can excuse its neglect or palliate a secret distaste for it.

Those who know Dr. Pusey in his sermons and other devotional publications, will recognize in this little work the characteristics with which they are already familiar. He is always consistent with himself; always intense, real, vivid, searching, tender, profoundly reverent. Here he is surprised, as it were, while engaged in one of those many ministries to single souls which, far more than his great literary and theological efforts,