

**THE STAR OF CHILDHOOD, A  
FIRST BOOK OF PRAYERS AND  
INSTRUCTION FOR CHILDREN,  
COMPILED BY A PRIEST**

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The Star of Childhood, a First Book of Prayers and Instruction for Children, Compiled by a Priest by T. T. Carter

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**T. T. CARTER**

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EDITED BY THE REV. T. T. CARTER, M.A.

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## **The Star of Childhood**



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STAR OF CHILDHOOD

A First Book of Prayers and Instruction  
for Children

COMPILED BY A PRIEST

*"And in their mouth was found no guile"*



EDITED BY THE  
REV. T. T. CARTER, M.A.  
RECTOR OF CLEWER, BERKS

RIVINGTONS  
London, Oxford, and Cambridge

1870  
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## Preface

THIS Manual of prayer for children is founded on the same principles which characterize the "Treasury of Devotion." It has been anxiously desired to preserve as much simplicity in thought and language as is compatible with the allowance necessary to be made for the constant advance of a child's mind, and the ever widening sphere of a child's consciousness. The difficulty of meeting such conditions is pleaded for any defect on this score which may be found in the composition. At the same time it is to be remembered that the development of our mental capacities are among the profoundest secrets of our nature, and that children apprehend ideas far beyond the compass of the language with which they are familiar, their consciousness of unseen things anticipating in a remarkable manner the explanations given. Forms of truth and the ideas of heavenly realities are latent in the minds of children preparatory to our teaching, and often hints

and suggestions only seem needed to expand, to illustrate and quicken what is already lying dormant within, waiting to be elicited by the external aid.

It will be seen that many of the prayers are left as suggestions, to be used or not at discretion. The wish has been to encourage the exercise of the devotional feelings, and provide for variable impulses of religious desire, without attempting to impose too large a measure for regular use, and so making devotion a burden, but rather to leave on the mind the sense of the blessedness of the power of making freewill offerings to God.

A course of catechetical instruction, based through the kind permission of the Lord Bishop of Brechin on his "Catechism to be learnt before the Church Catechism," forms a material part of this manual. It has been felt to be a matter of great importance to combine growth in the knowledge of the truth with habits of devotion, to teach the prayer of the "Spirit" with the prayer of the "understanding also." The rule *lex orandi lex credendi* is true conversely also; for as the subject-matter of prayer is the substance also of faith, so the subject-matter of faith forms the material and support of prayer. This principle