

**THE INNER LIFE: HYMNS
ON THE
"IMITATION OF CHRIST"
BY THOMAS A'KEMPIS**

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The Inner Life: Hymns on the "Imitation of Christ" by Thomas A'Kempis by Lucy Fletcher
Massey

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LUCY FLETCHER MASSEY

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"IMITATION OF CHRIST"
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The Inner Life.

—
HYMNS

ON

THE "IMITATION OF CHRIST" BY
THOMAS A'KEMPIS;

Designed especially for Use at
Holy Communion.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "THOUGHTS FROM A GIRL'S LIFE,"
"LIGHT AT EVENTIDE," &c.

—
Oxford and London:
JAMES PARKER AND CO.

1871.

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C805.109.5

1921
NOV. 22, 1921

“Exponebantque filii quendam sacre historie sive doctrine sermonem, precipientes ei, si posset, hunc in modulationem carminis transferre.”—BEDA, *Eccles. Hist.*, lib. iv.

DEDICATED, BY PERMISSION,
TO THE
VERY REV. THE DEAN OF NORWICH.

“I have been much pleased with the devout spirit and true appreciation of Thomas à Kempis, as well as with the poetical power of several of these pieces, and I think the work likely to approve itself to the minds of earnest and thoughtful Church-people.”

E. MEYRICK GOULBURN.

Deanery, Norwich.

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PREFACE.

IN the silent intervals of Holy Communion we often feel the need of some words by which our hearts may be guided into fuller sympathy and deeper adoration.

Many have found the form of verse for this purpose the most helpful; both as speaking more directly to the heart, and as being with greater ease held in the memory.

These verses are intended as a contribution towards the supply of this need. They do not profess to be a transcript in metre of the words we have all loved so long, nor even a rhythmical paraphrase of separate passages; but rather strains, the keynote of which was struck long ago by the teacher who, in the deep retirement of his saintly life, had learnt to know the hidden things of God and the mysteries of the human heart.

PREFACE.

Apart from the separate use of each passage, the book has a sequence, designed to follow the progressive thought of the work on which it is founded, though the strain with which it opens may be heard throughout the whole.

The passage from the "Imitation" placed before each hymn, is intended as a key to the longer paragraph which has suggested it.

I. F. M.

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