

**THE MODEL
FAMILY; OR, JESUS
AT BETHANY**

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The Model Family; Or, Jesus at Bethany by W. S. Blackwood

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W. S. BLACKWOOD

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OR

JESUS AT BETHANY

BY THE

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MINISTER OF PORTOBELLO

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INTRODUCTION.

THE great lesson taught us by a review of the family of Bethany is, that the spirit of Jesus is the spirit of true happiness. We wish our readers to contemplate grace in the social aspect of it, and to see it hallowing the domestic circle, and sweetening all its enjoyments. Here we have a happy family presented to our view, because it was a holy one. Where Jesus is, there must be a sympathy of pious hearts, and all the peace which this brings along with it.

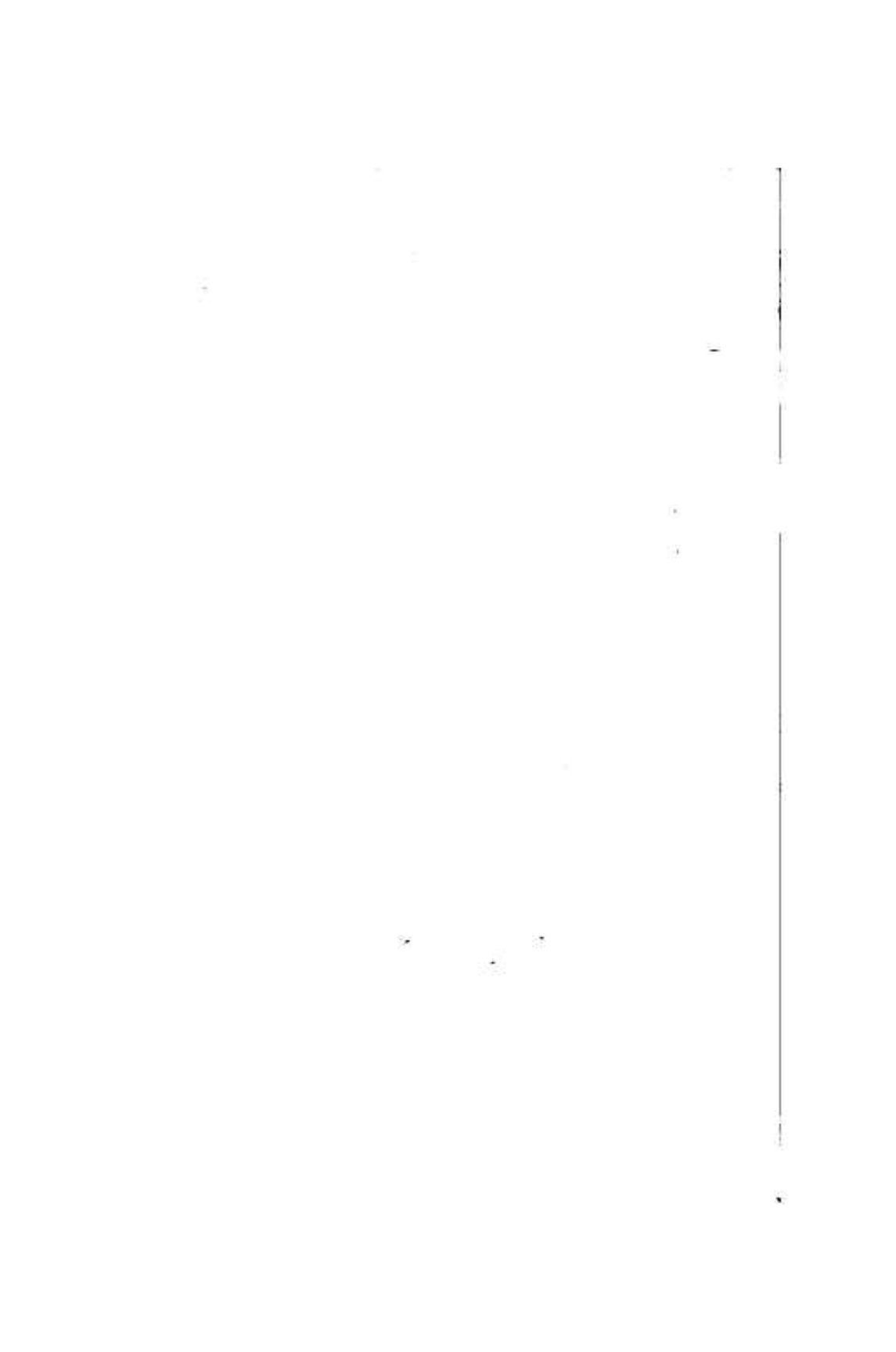
We see here grace extracting good out of evil, and deriving from it improvement to the character. This fulfils the design of a righteous Providence. By means of a salutary discipline, we are now training up to a

meestness for the exercises and enjoyments of a more elevated sphere. The duty incumbent on us is to concur with this gracious arrangement. We are not to be passive spectators of our destiny. We must conspire with the order of Providence in working it out. Holiness is proposed to our choice and pursuit, and is not pressed on us by the mere force of an overbearing necessity.

Looking to this family, who can say that religion is an enemy to social enjoyment? Is the absence of God from our thoughts and employments a condition of happiness? Must we become atheists in heart and practice to taste the sweetness of human life? We point to this family for a refutation of the calumny! We see God constituting the very centre of its system, and all moving in subordination to Him, while the whole aspect of it is brightened with the sunshine of a calm and hallowed peace.

The family of Bethany is the family of heaven in miniature. It is the only happy family! There is but

one set of principles on which this result depends, and here they are exemplified, though on a limited scale. If we have not the whole of heaven, we have at least a part of it. Let us sow the seed, and we will reap the harvest! Let us cultivate the character, and we will share the reward!



THE MODEL FAMILY.

CHAPTER I.

FAMILY OF BETHANY.

INTRODUCTION TO THE FAMILY—ILLUSTRATES THE CHARACTER OF THE SAVIOUR—HIS FRIENDSHIP FOR IT—ITS SEVERAL MEMBERS DESCRIBED—THE VILLAGE OF BETHANY—ADVANTAGES OF VARIETY OF CHARACTER—MEDITATION AND ACTION BOTH NEEDFUL—CHRISTIAN INTERCOURSE.

"Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha."—JOHN xi. 1.

THIS verse introduces us to the family of Bethany, where we have presented to us one of the most interesting groups which ever adorned a domestic circle. There is something so sweet and attractive in the scene which it opens up to us, so much of the depth of a pious sensibility, of the guilelessness and simplicity of unsophisticated nature, of the warmth of honest kindness, with its ready and zealous sympathy with the wants and interests of others, that it seems as if a portion of our original paradise had survived the sentence which consigned it to destruction, and had