

**THE FOLLOWERS OF THE  
LORD:  
STORIES FOR CHILDREN  
FROM CHURCH HISTORY**

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The Followers of the Lord: Stories for Children from Church History by J. M. Neale

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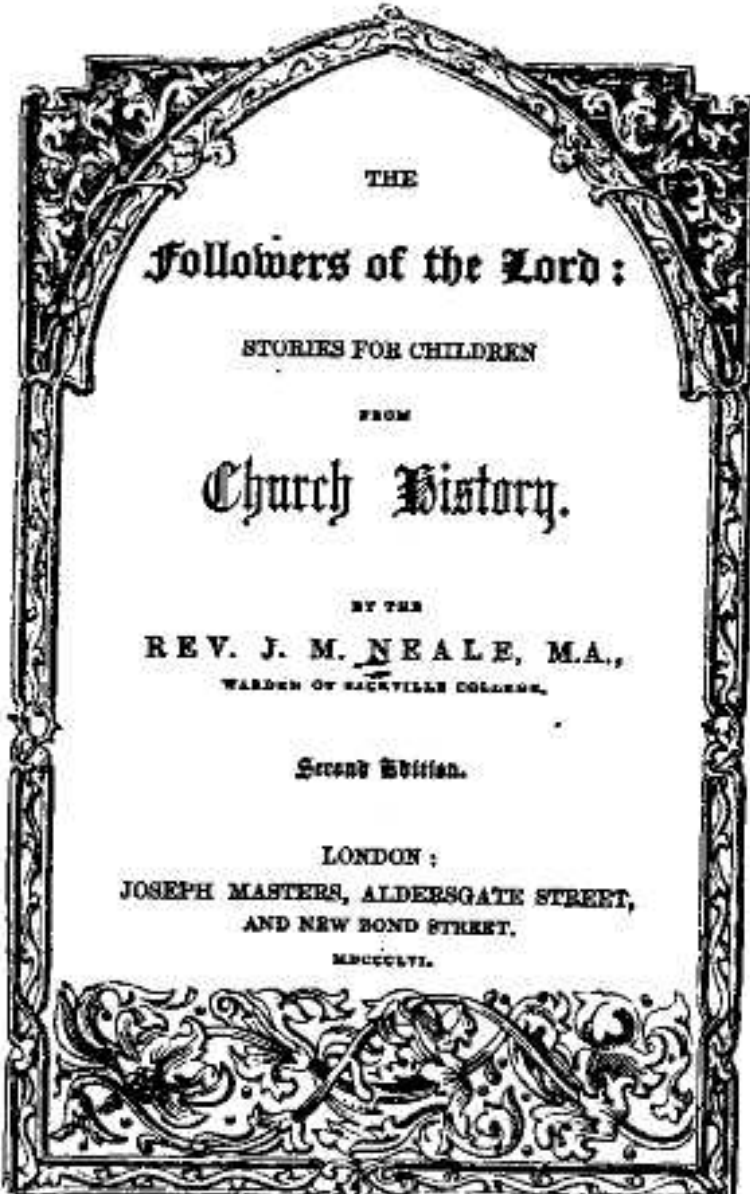
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**J. M. NEALE**

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THE  
**Followers of the Lord :**  
STORIES FOR CHILDREN  
FROM  
**Church History.**

BY THE  
**REV. J. M. NEALE, M.A.,**  
WARDEN OF RACKVILLE COLLEGE.

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TO THE FIRST EDITION.

A

THE design of this little book is to supply a want which must often, I think, have been felt by parents—that of some appropriate reading which they may put into the hands of their children for Holy Week. Such, I mean, as may not weary their minds by dwelling too entirely and exclusively on our Lord's Passion; nor yet, on the other hand, be absolutely unconnected with it. It seemed to me that stories from Church History might answer such a purpose; that the Passions of the servants may recall that of the Master, while yet, in variety of circumstance and interest, they do so without fatiguing, through too long

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meditation on one subject, the mind of a child.

The *Martyrdom of S. Ketevan* has never before been given from the original sources, in English, (nor, I believe, in any European language.) Baronius, indeed, published an inaccurate account from the letters of the Latin Friars who were present; others, as Pietro della Valle, did the same. But my story is from a much more genuine source. M. Brosset, the distinguished Georgian scholar, was kind enough to translate for me, from the original, the history of the Martyrdom of this illustrious Queen, as written by Theimouraz, sixth in descent from her, who had, of course, access to all documents connected with the subject.

The story of the *Priest at the Outpost* is related in some of the Dutch Ecclesiastical Histories. I think, but will not be sure, that a similar account is given of a Protestant preacher in Uytendogaert's *Kerkelücke Historie*.

The *Praefect's Vision* is narrated by Sozomen, H. E. vi. 2.



The *Tunny Fishers* is founded on fact, though where I have read the story I cannot now remember.

The Martyrdom of the *Theban Legion* is from the *Acta Sincera*.

The *Mountain Lights* is one of the many beautiful legends related of S. Majolus by Nalgod, Aldebald, and others.

The *Signals of Rhosilly* was written after a visit to the *Worm's Head*; but the facts related occurred in the wild west of Pembrokeshire.

The *Battle of Aquileia* is from the Ecclesiastical Histories of Sozomen (vii. 28) and Socrates (v. 25.)

The *Dream of Troilus* is related by Leontius in his Life of S. John the Almoner.

SACKVILLE COLLEGE,  
March 17, 1851.

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THE  
**FOLLOWERS OF THE LORD.**

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**Palm Sunday.**

THE MARTYRDOM OF S. KETEVAN, QUEEN  
OF CACHETIA.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1624.



**L**ET us go out into the garden, this fine spring evening, and I will tell you the first of my stories about those happy Saints, who followed our LORD in His Passion, and rest now with Him in His glory. There: the old holly-hedge will shelter us, while we sit down and try for a little while to fancy to ourselves how they followed Him here: for who shall tell us what it is to follow the LAMB whithersoever He goeth, there?