

HOBARTS
CHRISTIAN
MANUAL

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THE
CHRISTIAN'S MANUAL
OF
FAITH AND DEVOTION:
CONTAINING
DIALOGUES AND PRAYERS
SUITED TO THE VARIOUS EXERCISES OF THE
CHRISTIAN LIFE,
AND AN
EXHORTATION TO EJACULATORY PRAYER,
WITH
FORMS OF EJACULATORY AND OTHER
PRAYERS.

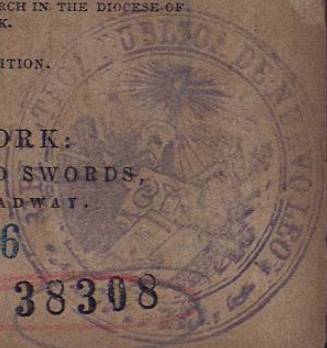
BY JOHN HENRY HOBART, D. D.,
BISHOP OF THE PROT. EPIS. CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF
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TWELFTH EDITION.

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TO THE

FIRST EDITION.

THE dialogues in this volume are selected and altered from a work, entitled "The Village Manual." In the revision of them, the Editor has made considerable alterations in the style, and has occasionally amplified the sentiments. It is the object of these dialogues to exhibit and enforce the various exercises, duties, and privileges of the Christian life; to awaken the careless; to excite the lukewarm; and to instruct and comfort the penitent believer.

The exhortation to ejaculatory prayer, with suitable forms of ejaculatory devotion, has been altered from an original treatise on this subject, recommended by Bishop Horne, and the Rev. William Jones, of Nayland; and their names are pledged for the soundness and the fervour of its devotional exercises.

The Editor thought that the various articles in this volume were admirably calculated to excite and cherish evangelical and fervent piety; and he has, therefore, felt himself gratified in the humble office of compiling this Manual of Christian Faith and Devotion, and presenting it to the public.

J. H. HOBART.

New-York, May 28, 1814.

P R E F A C E .

THE circulation of two editions of the "Christian's Manual" having obtained for it a character, which places it among the standard books of devotion, and a new edition being called for, the publishers, in order to afford it at the lowest price, have caused it to be stereotyped, and now present to the public an impression which they trust will be found both acceptable in form and correct in typography.

It seems proper, now that the great and good man who performed the office of compiler has been removed to a better state, that something should be said in relation to the origin of the "Christian's Manual." On the first appearance in this country of the "Village Manual," the publishers were so much gratified in the perusal of it, that they determined to give a reprint. This determination was made known to their greatly lamented friend Bishop Hobart. Though delighted with the work, his active mind perceived at once its susceptibility of improvement and enlargement. He tendered his services, and the advertisement to the first edition shows what was effected.

In the second edition some alterations and improvements were made, and a number of Prayers added, which were taken from a British work then just published, entitled, "A Century of Christian Prayers on Faith, Hope, and Charity; with a Morning and Evening Devotion."

To the present edition the publishers have thought it expedient to add the Litany and Commendatory Prayers for a sick person, from the "Clergyman's Companion;" a favourite office with Bishop Hobart, and used by himself in his last sickness. Other emendation or addition than this, which no doubt would have been approved by the Bishop, the publishers think it would be presumption to attempt: indeed, were it susceptible of improvement, still, with the exception just noted, it would seem desirable that the work should remain as left by him whose memory will long be held dear by the pious of every communion.
May, 1831.

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DIALOGUE I.

THE SELF-DECEIVER MADE ACQUAINTED WITH
HIMSELF; in a Dialogue between a Minister
and his Parishioner.

Minister. WHEN I saw you last, my friend and neighbour, I told you that love and duty oblige me, besides my public preaching, to watch over my flock, and to instruct them, separately, as far as I am able. We cannot, you know, speak so familiarly in a common sermon, as in private conference; and therefore I entreated you to allow me, now and then, to have a little sober talk with you, when all other matters might for a time be laid aside; and I am now come to claim your promise to give me a patient hearing.

Parishioner. You are welcome, Sir; though, being ignorant and unlearned, I am loth to talk with such a man as you about matters of religion, which I do not well understand; but because you desired it, I could not refuse you.

M. You shall see that I come not to dispute with you, nor to propose to you any needless questions, but merely to help you so to live that you may inherit everlasting life.

P. I have sense enough to know that Christ's ministers must suit their instructions to their hearers. But to tell you the truth, Sir, there are