

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This bouquet of family prayers needs no bush; its spiritual fragrance gives it all the recommendation it needs. Dr. Dickie's workmanship requires no introduction. But I seize the opportunity, given me by his invitation to write an introductory note, to say, as convener of the General Assembly's committee on "Public Worship and Aids to Devotion," that this little collection of family devotions is not intended to take the place of the "Book of Family Devotion" which has come from that committee.

It is issued under the auspices of the Church Worship Society, which seeks, by the publication of Occasional Papers and otherwise, to promote the cultivation of worship.

This booklet, moreover, is unique; it has a place of its own to fill. It is intended for use at the family board in homes where a more extended form of worship seems, under the pressure of time and circumstances, to be impracticable. For this purpose it is brief, direct, simple. Its prayers, I may add, are richly woven in Scriptural phrases, reminding one in this respect of Matthew Henry's "Method of Prayer," which some of us long ago employed for our aid in leading in prayer. It has the instinctive sense of fitting prayer-expressions, a healthy tone, a quiet, devotional spirit, with singularly apt and happy combinations and turns of hallowed phraseology. Nothing of the kind can be produced without long training, however easily it may read.

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(President of the Church Worship Society.)