

THE
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AND
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MEMOIR OF SARAH TOYNBEE.

Sarah Toynbee was born in the hamlet of Coleby, November 17th, 1827. She enjoyed the inestimable privilege of a pious mother, who trained her from her earliest days to fear God. Before she could read the letters of the alphabet, she had committed many hymns to memory. It pleased God to afflict her whilst very young with a disease in her eyes. This was a matter of much grief to her, as it prevented her from indulging her love of reading. But though debarred from one source of pleasure, she knew how to value and to improve those which remained, and was often found upon her knees, pleading with God in the most solemn and affecting manner.

When she or any of her little brothers had gone wrong, she was not satisfied with obtaining her mother's forgiveness merely; but, being taught that every offence was against God, and that she needed his pardon, Sarah would kneel down with her brothers, and implore the divine mercy in the most penitent language and humble posture. Sarah was often heavily afflicted; yet she bore all with much resignation, having learned from her mother that "whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth:" and her sufferings were greatly alleviated by the delight which she took in learning and singing hymns. When five years of age, she entered the Sabbath-school under the care of Mrs. Penrose, the Vicar's wife. Here she learned to read, and was remarkable for her regularity and diligence.

When unable to attend the school, she was much grieved, and in order to improve the time, would earnestly request her mother to sit down, and "talk about the Lord;" for to converse on the Lord's mercy and goodness was her delight. Every morning, before leaving her room, she was accustomed with childlike simplicity and confidence to commit both body and soul to God's keeping, during the day. If family worship were delayed a little, she speedily reminded her mother