

## DIRECTIONS TO THE FRIENDS OF SICK AND AFFLICTED PERSONS.

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VISITING of the sick is the duty not only of the ministers of Christ, but likewise of all the members of Christ; for we are all enjoined to remember them that are in adversity, and to sympathize with the afflicted, as being ourselves also in the body. "To him that is afflicted pity should be shown by his friends," saith Job. And our Lord gives it as a character of those whom he will own and acquit at the last day—"I was sick and ye visited me." And as it is our duty, so it is our interest and advantage to visit the sick. The wise man tells us, "It is better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting." We may hereby be instructed to prize health; to mind our own frailty; to see what a bitter thing sin is, *the cause of suffering*; and to observe how happy the man is that has an interest in Christ, the peace of a good conscience, and a well grounded hope of heaven.

Let the friends of the sick, and those who visit them, deal faithfully with them about their souls; and in order thereto let them observe the following advices.