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PREFACE.

As it is impossible for any one to know the usefulness of this Treatise, till he has read it in such a manner as it deserves; instead of heaping up commendations of it, which those who have so read it do not want, and those who have not will not believe, I have transcribed a few plain directions how to read this, or indeed any other religious book, with improvement.

1. Assign some stated time every day for this pious employment. If any indispensable business unexpectedly robs you of your hour of retirement, take the next hour for it: when such large portions of each day are so willingly bestowed on bodily refreshments can you scruple allotting some little time daily for the improvement of your immortal soul?

2. Prepare yourself for reading by purity of intention, whereby you singly aim at your soul's benefit; and then, in a short ejaculation, beg God's grace to enlighten your understanding, and dispose your heart for receiving what you read; and that you may both know what he requires of you, and seriously resolve to execute his will when known.

3. Be sure to read, not curiously and hastily, but leisurely, and with great attention; and with proper intervals and pauses, that you may allow time for the enlightenings of divine grace. Stop every now and then, to recollect what you have read, and consider how to

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