

A HAND-BOOK
OF
RATIONAL PIETY

BY
HENRY W. CROSSKEY, LL.D., F.G.S.

Senior Minister of the Church of the Messiah
Birmingham

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PRELIMINARY NOTE

THIS Hand-Book consists of extracts from printed and MS. discourses delivered during the ordinary course of a lengthened ministry. It has been prepared at the request of a valued friend who has found the passages selected helpful, and is published in the hope that it may prove of some slight service in showing—especially to those who have abandoned the ancient moorings of Faith and are drifting sadly upon a troubled sea of doubt—how the spirit of a cheerful, trustful, and ennobling piety may be cherished; and yet every claim of the intellect to investigate critical, historical, and metaphysical questions be unreservedly granted.

Sentences and paragraphs indicating the directions in which (in the opinion of the writer) the solution of some of the great problems of life and death may hopefully be sought; illustrative metaphors; confessions of personal feelings and experiences;

short statements of guiding principles for the formation of character—such as those which form the contents of this Hand-Book—will perchance serve to arouse serious thought and give practical guidance during a few of those spare minutes in which very often the tone and temper of the life of the whole passing day, are determined.

George Herbert writes,

A verse may find him, who a sermon flies,
And turn delight into a Sacrifice.

It is possible that brief passages from sermons, although lacking the charm of 'verse,' may yet not be quite so unheeded as long sermons themselves often are.

H. W. CROSSKEY.

Birmingham, June, 1893.

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