

**WORKS**

**VOLUME II**

**JAMES HAMILTON**

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OF THE LATE

REV. JAMES HAMILTON, D.D. F.L.S.

*IN SIX VOLUMES.*

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# CONTENTS.

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## THE LIGHT TO THE PATH.

	PAGE
I.—THE BIBLE AND THE INQUIRER, . . . . .	5
II.—THE BIBLE AND THE BELIEVER, . . . . .	21
III.—THE BIBLE AND THE INVALID, . . . . .	34
IV.—LESSONS IN THE CHRISTIAN EVIDENCE—THE CHEQUE AND THE COUNTERFOIL, . . . . .	33
V.—LESSONS IN THE CHRISTIAN EVIDENCE—THE MOULD AND THE MEDALLION, . . . . .	53
VI.—THE MUSTARD SEED ; OR, THE GROWTH OF THE GOSPEL,	64
VII.—LEAVEN ; OR, THE CIVILIZING INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIA- NITY, . . . . .	75
VIII.—THE LITERARY ATTRACTIONS OF THE BIBLE, . . . . .	86
IX.—THE ILLUMINATED BIBLE AND THE LIVING EPISTLE, . . . . .	116
X.—HINTS TO THE BIBLE STUDENT, . . . . .	128

## EMBLEMS FROM EDEN.

I.—THE TREE OF LIFE, . . . . .	147
II.—THE VINE, . . . . .	169
III.—THE CEDAR, . . . . .	192
IV.—THE PALM, . . . . .	211
V.—THE GARDEN ENCLOSED, . . . . .	227
VI.—HARVEST HOME, . . . . .	239
VII.—THE AMARANTH : OR, IMMORTALITY, . . . . .	248

# CONTENTS.

## THE PRODIGAL SON.

	PAGE
I.—THE FATHERLAND, . . . . .	261
II.—LEAVING HOME, . . . . .	274
III.—THE FAR COUNTRY, . . . . .	287
IV.—RIOTOUS LIVING, . . . . .	300
V.—A MIGHTY FAMINE, . . . . .	313
VI.—FEEDING SWINE, . . . . .	325
VII.—A WISE RESOLUTION, . . . . .	333
VIII.—A HAPPY MEETING, . . . . .	351
IX.—THE BEST ROBE, . . . . .	364
X.—THE FESTIVAL, . . . . .	378
XI.—AN ANGRY BROTHER, . . . . .	391
XII.—A RIGHTEOUS FATHER, . . . . .	404

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THE CHURCH IN THE HOUSE, . . . . .	417
THE DEW OF HERMON; OR, THE TRUE SOURCE OF CHRISTIAN UNITY, . . . . .	445
THANKFULNESS, . . . . .	481

# THE LIGHT TO THE PATH:

WHAT THE BIBLE HAS BEEN TO OTHERS, AND WHAT IT  
CAN DO FOR OURSELVES.

## PREFACE.

TWELVE years ago the author published a small volume entitled *The Lamp and the Lantern : or, The Bible a Light to the Tent and the Traveller*. Appearing at the time when the Bible Society was holding its jubilee, it contained many things of which the interest has passed away, and which are omitted in the present edition. Their place is supplied by materials which, it is hoped, may possess more enduring value ; and the writer takes advantage of the present opportunity to substitute for the original name a title less alliterative.

48 EUSTON SQUARE, *June 1 1865.*

## CHAPTER I.

### THE BIBLE AND THE INQUIRER.

A FATHER and a son were on a journey. It was late in the afternoon, but still clear day, when they came to a cottage by the road-side, and the father went in and borrowed a lighted lantern. The young man was exceedingly amused, and perhaps he was a little vexed. If any one should meet them carrying a lamp in the sunshine it would look so absurd; and what in the world was the use of it? But the older traveller took the young man's gibes good-humouredly, and only answered, "The night cometh." And it did come. They passed no more cottages, but they got into a thick forest, where the daylight faded so rapidly that the lantern already shone a welcome companion. Not only was the sun gone down, but the last streak of twilight had vanished. It was dreadfully dark; but the good little lantern spread a cloth of gold before the steps of the travellers, and did not let one shadow or phantom come near them. At last the road divided. "Straight on!" cried the youth. "Not so fast," said the elder; for though the path to the right was less trodden, perhaps it was the one they should take; when fortunately they espied a finger-post, and holding the lamp



as high as they could, they read the direction, and found that they would have gone utterly wrong had they not taken the narrow and neglected footway. Rejoicing at their escape, they pushed on merrily; and by and by with his frisky spirits the youngster went ahead, and was far in advance of the lantern, when the old man heard a splash and a shout, and running up, was just in time to help ashore his impetuous boy, who had soused into a stagnant pool, and who crawled up the bank pale and shivering, with the leeches and duckweed clinging to his garments. "You see the road was not through this pool, but round it. You should walk in the light;" and so they again set out together. As the stillness deepened, they sometimes heard a rustle in the bushy undergrowth, and distant howlings or a sharp snarl near-hand warned them that the beasts of the forest were abroad; and once or twice they could see a pair of fiery opals glaring at them, but as soon as they turned the full flame of the lantern in that direction the goblin retreated. We need not tell the whole adventures of the night; but at last they came to a place where a heavy moan arrested them, and searching in the copse, they found a man stretched on the ground and badly hurt. He had either received a blow on the head, or he had inhaled some stupefying ether, for at first he talked very incoherently. It turned out, that as he had been coming along, a gentleman in black had prevailed on him to cast his lantern into the ditch, and that soon after some footpad had knocked him down and dragged him off the road and robbed him of all his money. As soon as he was somewhat restored, they set him on his beast, and