

THE
ALPHABET OF VIRTUES.



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A



A, Adoration, to God the Supreme,
Who has shed upon this dark world's pathway a beam
Which will lighten our way to his kingdom above,
Prepared for those only who trust in his love !

B



B is *Benevolence*, generous feeling !
Which prompts us the sorrows of those to be healing
Whose hearts are made sad by affliction and pain,
And are bound with the fetters of poverty's chain !

C



C is for *Charity*, teaching us all
To be tender and gentle to great and to small,
And wherever the poor and the needy we find,
Our aid should be prompt, and our words should be kind!

D



D is *Devotion*, that feeling which lifts
Our hearts to the Being from whom all good gifts
In so much profusion and richness descend ;
It is fit that in worship to Him we should bend !

E



E is *Economy*—let us beware,
And of spending too much at a time have a care,
Lest some day or other we grieve to our cost
O'er the shillings and pence we have foolishly lost.

F



F is for *Faith*, which assists us to bear
Our losses and trials in this world of care,
By fixing the mind on that happier shore,
Where sorrow and trouble will vex us no more!

G



G is for *Gratitude*, which we should show
Towards all who assist us as onward we go
In this chequered way, which indeed would be drear,
Did we not meet with friends who are kind and sincere!

H



H is for *Hope*, may each one of us try
So to pass through this life that when called on to die,
With the terrors of death we may not fear to cope,
Sustained by a cheering and glorious Hope!

I



I is for *Industry* ; let us work on,
While the idle and gay to their pleasure have gone ;
The strength of our youth we should wisely engage
In providing a store for the wants of old age.

J



J is for *Justice*, protecting the right
Against the oppression of fraud and of might,
And enforcing that precept, so perfect and true,
“Do to men as you wish they should do unto you!”

K



K stands for *Kindness*,—our Saviour was kind,
And to imitate him should our hearts be inclined;
What a world this would be, if each one did his best
To relieve the afflicted and cheer the distressed!

L



L is for *Love* ; in the Bible we learn
That Jesus will never the little ones spurn,
His arms to receive them are always unclosed,
For of such is the kingdom of heaven composed !

M



M stands for *Modesty*; we should all seek
To cast away pride, and be lowly and meek,
The merits of others should willingly own,
While confessing the faults to which *we* may be prone.

N



N, *Noble-mindedness*, steadfast and high,
Repelling dishonour and scorning a lie,
Preferring to riches, or splendour, or fame,
A conscience at ease, and a good, honest name !



O is *Obedience*; let us obey
Our parents, who cherish us day after day,
As well as our teachers, by whom we are led
In the fair paths of learning and wisdom to tread.

P



P is *Politeness*, displaying a mind,
That is gentle and tender, good-natured, refined.
Little children should be with its graces embued,
And never be cross, or impatient, or rude.

Q



Q is for *Quietness*, disliking fluster,
Avoiding all riot, and tumult, and bluster;
And shunning the ways of those bad girls and boys
Who vex other people by making a noise.

R



R is *Repentance*; if e'er we do wrong,
Our grief for the fault should be earnest and strong,
And whenever we chance to displease our kind friends,
We should do all we can to make hearty amends.

S



S is *Sobriety*; do not be thinking,
Like some folks, of nothing but eating and drinking;
Learn the maxim that cannot be too oft rehearst,
“Eat only when hungry, and drink when athirst!”

T



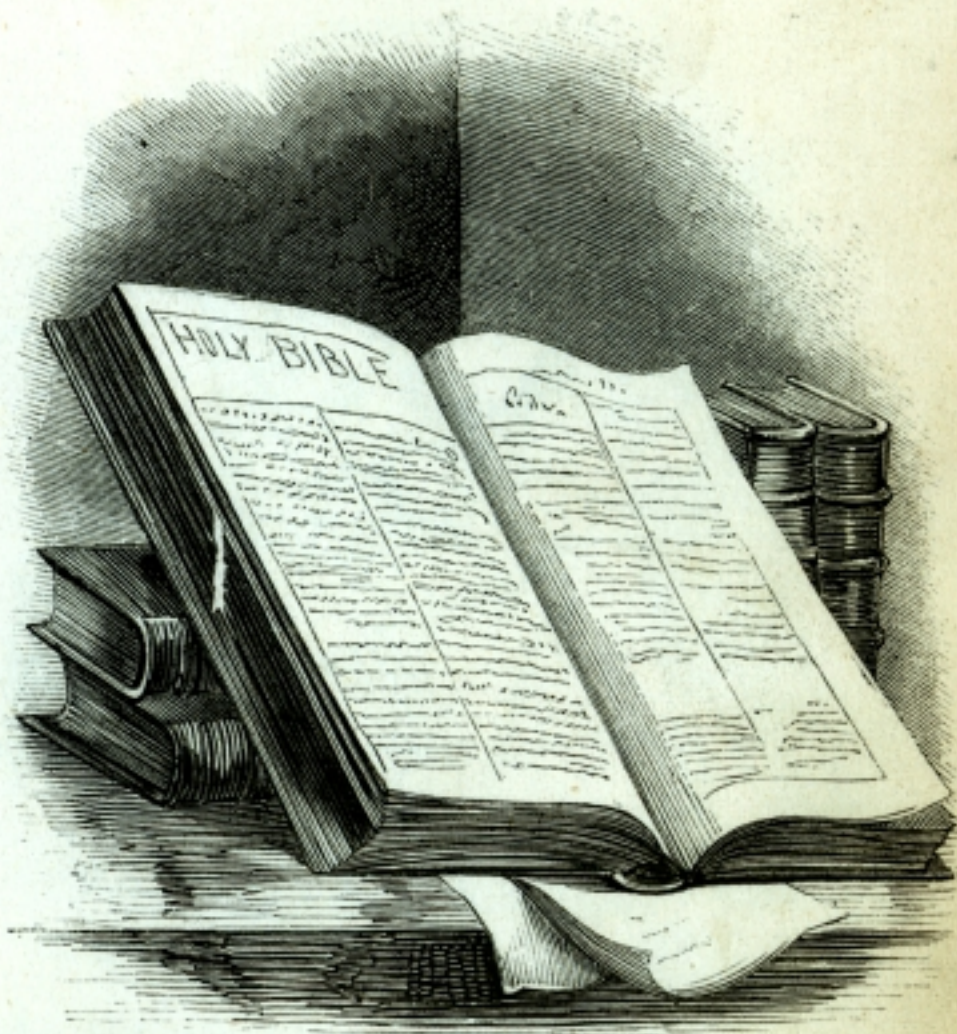
T is for *Truth*, which we all should observe,
And from which we should never be tempted to swerve;
Any sacrifice we may be called on to make,
Is better by far than a promise to break.

U



U is *Uprightness*; like this judge so grave,
Unflinching in duty, we ought to behave;
To the whispers of sin should our ears be denied,
When we're tempted to turn from strict duty aside!

V



V, *Veneration*; all those who act rightly,
Will never of serious matters speak lightly;
They who love God will treat Him with reverence and awe,
Nor dare to transgress His divine, holy law!

W



W is *Wisdom*, and oh, let us pray,
That from her sacred precincts we never may stray,
Our happiness then will for ever increase,
For her ways are all pleasant, her paths are all peace!

X



X is a letter that seldom is used,
But it's shape will remind us how sinners abused
Their Saviour and God, when, with brute, cruel force,
They compelled Him to bleed and to die on the *cross*!

Y



Y is to teach us our bosoms should *Yearn*
With tender affection and love, in return
To our father and mother, and teachers and friends,
And we ought to thank God who such comforters sends!



Z stands for *Zeal*, which should fire our breasts,
When the cause we're engaged in on equity rests;
What our hands find to do must be done with good will,
In old age it will be time enough to stand still!

