

Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions: Edited By John Sparrow, With a Bibliographical Note By Geoffrey Keynes (Classic Reprint)

John Donne

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During the last thirty years such interest has been taken in Donne spersonality and his writings that his Life and Letters have been published, his Poems edited, Selections taken from his Sermons, his philosophy and the doctrines which influenced it carefully explained, and a Bibliography of his works has been compiled. Yet his Devotions have been strangely neglected, though they present a more vivid and intimate picture of Donne than anything else written by himself or others, and form the only short volume which gives evidence of his powers as a writer of prose. Within twenty years of its first publication in 1624 the book went through five editions, and it is even said to have been translated into Dutch; but for the next two hundred years it was practically forgotten, and only reappeared in three somewhat unsatisfactory reprints about the year 1840. These have become scarce, and it is now difficult to obtain any copy of the book. Perhaps the fact most necessary for a true understanding of Donne spersonality, and one which it is easy to miss completely when reading Walton's Life, is that despite all vicissitudes of fortune, despite even the apparent changes in his character, Donne himself was always essentially the same.

(Typographical errors above are due to OCR software and don't occur in the book.)

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