THE LIFE
OF
The Learned and Pious
DR. HENRY MORE,
Late Fellow of Christ's College in
CAMBRIDGE.
To which are annex'd
Divers of his Useful and Excellent
LETTERS.

By RICHARD WARD, A. M.
Rector of Ingoldsby in Lincolnshire.

Ecclus XXXIX. Ver. 9, 10.

Many shall Commend his Understanding; and so long as
the World endures, it shall not be blotted out; his
Memorial shall not depart away; and his Name shall
live from Generation to Generation. Nations shall
show forth his Wisdom; and the Congregation shall
declare his Praise.

LONDON,
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Her Person, and quondam Pupil of his, told me, what Pains he would take with those under him; and amongst other things, what Excellent Lectures he would deliver to them of Piety and Instruction, from the Chapter that was read on Nights in his Chamber. And these things, with the like, have also more than once been confirm'd to me from Others.

He had one Heroine Pupil, as I may call her at a distance, of an extraordinary Nature; the Lady Viscountess Conway, whom he always mentions with a Particular Respect. She was Sister to Sir. John Finch, some time the Embassadour from this Crown at the Ottoman Port; an Early Pupil of the Doctor’s himself; and one also that was of equal both Honour and Accomplishments; and who always retain’d a very High Veneration for the Person and Writings of the Doctor. He lies interr’d, with his great Friend, and noted Companion, Sir Thomas Bains, another Pupil of the Doctor’s, in the Chapel of Christ’s College in Cambridge; and the Inscription upon the Monument that serves for Both of them was written by their Tutor.

The Lady Conway, formerly Mrs. Anne Finch, was of Incomparable Parts and Endowments (there seems indeed a very great Mixture of Nobleness and Ingenuity in the Name and Blood at this day) between this Excellent Person and the Doctor there was, from first to last, a very High Friendship.

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He gives a great Character of her in an Epistle Dedicatory before his Antidote against Atheism. And I have heard him say; That he scarce ever met with any Person, Man or Woman, of better Natural Parts than the Lady Conway. She was Mistress, as I must express it, of the Highest Theories, whether of Philosophy or Religion; and had, on all accounts, an extraordinary Value and Respect for the Doctor. I have seen abundance of Letters, that are Testimonies of it. (And so also not a few from my Lord himself, expressive of the greatest Kindness and Esteem: And he professeth in One to keep every thing of the Doctor's with as much Reverence as if it was Socrates his.) And as she always wrote a very Clear Style; so would she argue sometimes, or put to him the Deepest and Noblest Queries imaginable.

This Incomparable Person (as he was wont to call her) had the Misfortune to be exercised, from her very Youth, with great Pains and Disorders in her Head. Few have been afflicted in so Severe and Durable a manner as her self was. Which yet She bore with admirable Christian Patience and Piety. Though it is not improbable, but these so terrible Fits, which oppress'd and clouded her so much, might dispose her by degrees to a greater Inclination of some Persons, than her own free Reason, and entire Value for the Doctor, would otherwise have permitted: Which yet he imputed to the Height of her Virtue; and said,
said, It was the Greatness of her Mind that betray'd her to it; Who looking upon some Pretensions of the Quakers to be very Excellent (and these imposing upon her Judgment) all the External Considerations of her Quality, and the World, avail'd nothing with her for the hindring of those Regards which she shew'd towards them.

In the mean time, this gave an Occasion to the Doctor to be personally concern'd with Several of the most Considerable of them; and to make most Useful Remarks upon some of their Writings; such as possibly some time may see the Light. And he hath not been perhaps a Small Instrument, in clearing up many Persons of that Sett into a more explicit Profession, as to some Main Points of our Common Christianity, than otherwise might have been; Such as the Divine Providence hath of late made new and extraordinary Attempts for the awakening of them to; and so, in all respects, for the reducing them to a Sober Sense of things; however, they seem yet in a stiff resolute way to set and harden themselves against it; and, as a strong Fort, to please and pride themselves not a little, in being able to hold out against such Powerful Batteries, as have been laid against them. But some Persons can look up, it seems, to the Sun and Moon in the Firmament, and say, they discern them not: Which is plainly the Case of this very Sett (to mention no other Instances) in the Sacrament of Baptism, and of the Lord's Supper. But they would do
do well to remember the Wo that is denounced against such as take counsel, but not of God; and that cover with a Covering, but not of his Spirit, Isai. 30. 1. And those Words, Chap. 28. 20. For the Bed is shorter than that a Man can stretch himself on it, and the Covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it.

It may be thought by many Strange, That so Wise a Person, and such a great Friend and Admirer of the Doctor, as this Lady Conway, should have at last that Opinion of the Quakers, She is known to have had: And some possibly may be Curious to understand how it was resented by the Doctor; and what he did to preserve her from the Infection.

For the First Particular; I cannot but think what I intimated to be true; That however her Understanding might be Quick, and Sound in other respects, yet the severe Pains she labour'd under, and the Melancholy Circumstances she was so long in, might more, as I said, dispose her to a liking of these Persons, and their way, than otherwise we should ever have seen. And I find some Grounds to confirm me in such a Sentiment, from one of her Letters; In which She acquaints the Doctor (in answer, one may see, to what himself had written) that she had indeed chang'd some of her Servants for Quakers, and designed to have another shortly of the same Profession; and then adds the Words following: "For if they prove, what they seem
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I seem to be, Lovers of Quiet and Retirement, they will fit the Circumstances I am in, that cannot endure any Noise, better than Others. And in another Part of the same Letter, She writes thus; "The Weight of my Affliction lies so heavy upon me, that 'tis incredible how very seldom I can endure any one in my Chamber: But I find them to Still, Quiet, and Serious, that the Company of such, will be very Acceptable to me. And She particularly takes notice of the Pressures and Sufferings they had lain under, both Bodily and Others; and how that She was much refresh'd by the Accounts of their Trials and Consolations: And that they were fitted, from the sundry and heavy Exercises that themselves had experimented, and their Patience and Supports under them, to administer Comfort to Others in great Distress. And then it is to be Consider'd, that She had the Best and the Chiefest of them Occasionally to converse with her. (Such as R. B. W. P. G. K. &c.) The late Baron Van Helmont, Who for her Health sake, (being a Skilful Physician) liv'd long in her Family, was a Frequent. ter of the Quakers Meetings: With respect to whom the Doctor hath been particularly heard to say, That he knew as little of himself truly and really, as one that had never seen him in his Life. But 'tis not my Business to insist on these things. I shall only add, that She took the best, and not the worst of what She found in this People:
As she tells the Doctor further in the Letter, That she never was in Love with the Name of a Quaker, nor with their Rusticity; and only regarded their Principles and Practices, so far as they were Good and Christian.

Now as to the Doctor's real Trouble, under this unexpected Scene at Ragley; it may in part be Collected from what hath been already noted: And I can farther inform the Reader, that it affected him so much at length, that he receiv'd the Account of it with Tears, and labour'd, all that a Faithful Friend could do, to set her right, as to her Judgment in these Matters. He both convers'd with, and wrote to these Persons, and made Remarks, as I said; on some of their Writings; as particularly on Mr. Keith's Immediate Revelation. He wrote to Mr. Pen a very excellent Letter concerning Baptism and the Lord's Supper, with some Other matters; which is now Publish'd. And for their great Leader (as most account of him) George Fox himself, he hath said to some; That in conversing with him, he felt himself, as it were, turn'd into Brass. So much did the Spirit, Crookedness, or Perverseness of that Person, move and offend his Mind. See also what he farther speaks of him. Schol. in Dial. 5. Sect. 5.

As he argued thus Occasionally with these Heads of the Quakers, and exercis'd his Pen both for this Lady's, and their own Benefit; so he was not wanting in his more
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more particular Applications to her self.

(And great Pity it is, that the Letters are not to be seen, that he wrote to her on this Occasion.) But when he saw, that he could not sufficiently prevail, he was forced to desist; and leave that Great Person to enjoy in her Extremities, the Company and the Ways that she most fancied.

For the Readers Satisfaction, I will transcribe a few more Passages, from some Letters that are extant, relating to the Sense of this Lady, and the Condition She was in.

She complained, That her Devotion was infinitely hinder'd by her Pain; and that the very Faculties in her, which should be applied to Humility and Self-resignation, were swept away by the Violence of these Pains, as in a Storm.

She call'd her Room, that Dungeon-Chamber above; which yet (goes she on) will look at length more cheerfully in that Dress it hath so long mourn'd for.

She added, after many pious Expressions, That she was in hopes not many Days before the sending of this (from her excessive Pains and Weakness) of a Release from her Terrestrial Confinement: But now (faith she) it seems Probable, that I shall yet remain Alive in my Living Tomb.

And in another Letter she writes thus.

"From the redoubling of my Afflictions, the Continuedness of my great Pains, Encrease of Weakness, with new additional Distempers, I might fancy my Release not far off from those weighty Sufferings, I have groan'd under so many..."
Dr. HENRY MORE.

ny Years: But Life and Death are in the
Hands of the Almighty; and what He
designs for me, I desire, I may be ena-
bled to give my self up to willingly,
without Murmuring; who only knows
what Measure of Sufferings is most Ne-
cessary for me.

And then She goes on thus. "I think
you mistook me, in what I wrote of the
Quakers; if I rightly remember it: For
I never thought, that none of the Fa-
milists might turn Quakers, either at
the first rising of them, or since; but
that G. Fox, was never lifted into that
Sect, before his taking up this Form. I
am of your Opinion, that there are ma-
ny Bad People amongst them, as well as
of other Professions; and do also believe,
that their Converse with you, might be
of good Use to them, for the Clearing
up of their Understandings, and advan-
cing their Progress towards the Best
things; and therefore that your Conver-
sation with them at London, might be, as
you express it, Charitably intended, like
that of a Physician frequenting his Patients,
for the Encrease, or Confirmation of their
Health: But I must profess, that my Con-
verse with them is, to receive Health and
Refreshment from them.

"I pray God (saith She further, towards
the Clofe of it) give us all a Clear Dis-
cerning between Melancholy, Enthusiasm,
and true Inspiration; that we may not
be impos'd upon, to believe a Lye. The
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great Difference of Opinion in this Point, amongst the Learned and Experienc’d, occasions much Perplexity in Minds less exercis’d, and so not so well fitted for Judging.

The Doctor hath said of her; That She was one, that would not give up her Judgment entirely unto any. And for her great Pains, &c. ’twas thought, That the Pores of her Body were too little.

I shall add now, that the Doctor did long since concern himself with this People, because (especially at the first) he pitied their inward and Melancholick Wandrings; believ’d there was much Seriousness and Simplicity of Life in many of them (from which they seem of late not a little to have swerv’d) And because they professe’d the Guidance of the Spirit; a Noble Principle, if Soberly and Sincerely understood and pursu’d: Which made him very Desirous to bring them, if possible, into a right way; and willing to own, and commend in them, any thing that was truly Simple and Christian; though at the same time, with some Zeal and Vehemence, to tax and reprove the Odd and Wild things they had amongst them. And I dare boldly affirm, they will never find themselves well, and at rest, till they ripen into his Principle of the Spirit; and the sincere, solid, both outward and inward Frame of the Gospel.

I shall
I shall end this with a part of that which, as I before intimated, he hath long ago written concerning this Sect (according to the Appearance which they then made) in Mafius his Letter to a private Friend, Numb. 16.

"But to tell you my Opinion of that Sect, which are call'd Quakers; Though I must allow, that there may be Some amongst them good and sincere-hearted Men, and (it may be) nearer to the Purity of Christianity, for the Life and Power of it, than many Others; yet I am well assured, that the Generality of them are prodigiously Melancholy, and some few perhaps possessed with the Devil. And I conceive, that he doth work more cunningly and despitefully against the Kingdom of Christ in that Sect, than in any Open Sect, that hath appear'd in these Latter times. For they intermingling so great Severity, and Conspicuous Signs of Mortification, the keeping close to the Light within, and the not offending, in the least manner, the Dictates of our Consciences, but to walk evenly and sincerely before God and Men: They intermingling, I say, these wholesome things with what is so abominable and dangerous, viz. the slinging of the History of Christ; and making a mere Allegory of it; thereby voiding all that Wisdom of God, that is contain'd in the Mystery of Christianity, as it refers to the very Person of Christ; this, I say, cannot proceed from any
any thing so likely, as from the Craft and watchful Malice of Lucifer, who undoubtedly envies Christ his Throne, both in Heaven and Earth; and thencefore would bring one of these two Mischiefs upon his Church; that is, either the slurring the Person of our Saviour, or else of that without which he can take no Complacency in his Church, and that is true and real Sanctity and Holiness. All which, and other weighty Observations relating to it, he pursues farther in the Paragraphs following. But more hath been said here than was intended.

To return to that Noble Lady I was before speaking of; and who was too considerable in her own Person (as you will find presently) as well as too much concerned in a way of Intercourse with the Doctor, not to be taken notice of, with all the Honour that is due, in this Place: Besides, Some of his learned Treatises are expressly owing to her own Desire or Instigation; as his Conjectura Cabbalistica, and Philosophia Teutonicae Censura; to speak of nothing else: And we have particular Obligations to Ragley, and its Woods, as the Place of his Composing divers of them; at least in part) There was a Design once (from certain Hands I could mention) of Printing some Remains of this Excellent Lady: Upon which Occasion (for wise and good Reasons, though in the Name of another Person) he thought fit to write the ensuing
Dr. HENRY MORE.

Account, by way of Preface to the Reader:
The Beauty of which being not willing to break, and it setting that Personage (under all Disadvantages) in so Fine a Light, I shall give it here Entire in his own Words; presuming on the Readers rather Thanks than Patience, in my so doing.

COURTEOUS READER,

These Fragments of that incomparable Person, the Lady Viscountess Conway, which are put into thy Hands for thine Edification; that they may neither prove an Offence to thy self, nor an Injury to the deceased Author, as seeming less suitable to those singualar Natural Parts and Wit that God had bestow'd upon her, besides those admirable acquire'd Accomplishments in the Chiefest and Choicest Parts of Knowledge, as well Natural as Divine; Thou art to understand, that they are only Writings abruptly and scatterdly, I may add also obscurely, written in a Paper-Book, with a Black-lead Pen, towards the latter end of her long and tedious Pains and Sickness; which She never had Opportunity to revise, correct, or perfect. But so Sincere and Pious a Spirit breathing in them, it was thought Fit by some to make them Publick: It being hopeful, that these broken Fragments of so Entire and Sincere a Soul, may prove the Bread of Life to as many as have an unfeign'd Hunger after true Holiness and Righteousness.

Where-