

**MEMOIRS AND SELECT PAPERS
OF HORACE B. MORSE, A. B., OF
HAVERHILL, N. H.; WHO WAS
DROWNED NEAR PORTSMOUTH
HARBOUR, JUNE 22, 1825**

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Memoirs and Select Papers of Horace B. Morse, A. B., of Haverhill, N. H.; Who Was Drowned Near Portsmouth Harbour, June 22, 1825 by Charles Burroughs

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CHARLES BURROUGHS

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WHO WAS DROWNED NEAR PORTSMOUTH HARBOUR,

JUNE 22, 1825.



BY CHARLES BURROUGHS.



Hast thou the vigour of thy youth ? an eye
That beams delight ? a heart untaught to sigh ?
Yet fear. Youth, oft times healthful and at ease,
Anticipates a day it never sees ;
And many a death, like this, does cry aloud
Prepare, prepare thee for an early shroud.—*Cooper.*



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BE it remembered, that on the fourth day of December, A. D. 1823, and in the fifty-third year of the Independence of the United States of America, T. H. Miller, of Portsmouth, in the said District, has deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as proprietor in the words following, to wit:

“Memoirs and Select Papers of Horace B. Morse, A. B. of Haverhill, N. H. who was drowned near Portsmouth Harbour, June 22d, 1825. By Charles Burroughs.

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In conformity to an act of the congress of the United States, entitled “An act for the encouragement of learning by securing the copies of maps, charts and books to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned;” And also to an act, entitled “an act supplementary to an act entitled an act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts and books to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving and etching historical and other prints.”

CHARLES W. CUTTER, *Clerk of the District of N.H.*

A true copy. Attest.

CHARLES W. CUTTER, *Clerk.*

PREFACE.



It may seem unreasonable and unnecessary to publish the memoir and writings of one, who perished in early youth, was little known, and was undistinguished by eminent talents, attainments, or any unusual incidents in his life. But, notwithstanding these circumstances, it appears to me, that there are satisfactory reasons for publishing this volume. I was intimately acquainted with the subject of it, and sincerely regarded the qualities both of his head and heart, deeply lamented his death, and felt the liveliest sorrow for the calamity of his bereaved parents. Under the influence of these feelings, I visited them in the autumn after their affliction, to converse about their severe bereavement, and offer them some kindly solace. Most earnestly then did they solicit me to take their son's papers, arrange them for publication, and annex a sketch of his life. I felt myself unable to resist their entreaties, especially as they were at that time enforced by many affecting incidents; and, as it occurred to me, that a compliance with their wishes might possibly be attended with their pecuniary advantage. On examination of the papers, which they placed in my hands, I hardly dared apprehend that they would awaken sufficient interest to ensure

much profit from them; and have deemed it expedient to delay their publication, till a sufficient subscription should warrant it. As this has just been effected, and as profits are likely to accrue from the sale of the work, all of which will go to the parents of the subject of this memoir, I can no longer withhold it from the public.

There is another consideration, which encourages me to publish this work. It exhibits an instance of early, ardent, unfeigned and exemplary piety; a trait that secured to its possessor the divine blessing, the love of his friends, and that, we trust, has gained for him, through the blood of Christ, an inheritance in the kingdom of heaven. It is not possible that such an example can be without some serious influence, particularly as it is urged home by the touching eloquence of an awful and sudden death.

Let it be understood, that in compiling this volume I have no object whatever of a sectarian character. I renounce all design of advancing or opposing any particular creed. I make this statement to defend myself against any unkind censures, to which I may be exposed, respecting the religious opinions of the subject of this work. His parents are Methodists, and he was himself brought up in habits of attachment to this denomination of Christians. Several of his letters, written during his residence in this

town, relate to this subject, and seem to indicate his intention to have been a Methodist preacher. In publishing these letters, it is but justice to suggest certain considerations, connected with them.— While a student at Dartmouth, and while superintending the academy in this town, he was in each place a regular communicant of what is termed an orthodox Congregational church, and was such at the time of his decease. Nor did he ever intimate to his pastor here any disposition to relinquish that communion.

It is true that, shortly before his departure from this sublunary scene, his mind was extremely agitated and anxious about the denomination of Christians, to which he should attach himself, and about what ministerial path he should pursue. An impatience to commence preaching as soon as possible, his early religious preferences, and the power of parental example and influence and attachment, strongly prompted him to an immediate course of itinerancy, as a Methodist preacher. Other powerful considerations caused him to waver; and the conflict was evidently severe. Yet we see no reason to believe that his mind underwent any actual decision on the question; and it was his own explicit declaration at that time, that he should hold himself undecided, till he should have made a full and thorough examination. We learn moreover,

that in the midst of this mental conflict he signified his readiness to accept a tutorship in Dartmouth College. He was accordingly nominated to that office; and nothing was wanting to his appointment, but his written acceptance, which the sudden summons of death prevented. Hence we may reasonably infer that he had not *then* resolved upon adhesion to his early and hereditary religious tenets, otherwise he would not have sought an office at Hanover, an office which he was requested to retain for two years. It is therefore my full impression, which several other incidents confirm, that at the time of his decease he had never resolved to what religious denomination he would belong.

But, as connected with this work, it is a matter of no consequence in what way he might or would have determined this point. The value of his life to the public is not founded on any peculiarity in his creed or his speculations, but on his practical holiness, and on the powerful religious incentive, which his example furnishes to persons of every denomination, to remember their Creator in the days of their youth.

With these views I give this book to the world; and I commend it to God, with the earnest prayer, that it may be read with candour, advance the divine glory, and cause many to know and feel the necessity, beauty and rewards of holiness.

MEMOIRS.



THE world abounds with the narratives of persons, who have betrayed extraordinary genius, or have developed uncommon powers amidst surprising incidents, or have filled with renown some of the most eminent stations of public life. These affect the mind with all the enchantment of romance. Few however can be morally benefited by such examples, as few are similarly circumstanced.— That biography is the most likely to prove beneficial in a moral point of view, where the individual portrayed is represented with a mind and temper, with circumstances and trials like our own ; where the tenour of his life is not uncommon ; where his opportunities and advantages are such, as we enjoy ; where, amidst usual temptations, he rises superior to the power of sin ; and where, guided by such wisdom as all may obtain, he exhibits the majesty of virtue. Such biography may afford but little interest to the world at large, but it is the most de-