

**STEPHEN  
GRELLET. [1881]**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649712076

Stephen Grellet. [1881] by William Guest

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**WILLIAM GUEST**

**STEPHEN  
GRELLET. [1881]**



## PREFATORY NOTE.

---

THE following is the Life of a man who saw the last days of the great French Monarchy, shared the sufferings of the old French Nobility, traversed Europe several times on a mission of Mercy during the wars of the First Napoleon, assisted after the peace in the development of a new period, was one among the first and foremost workers for the abolition of slavery, aided in the advancement of the United States Republic to its present greatness, and lived on beyond the middle of this century. This remarkable life has hitherto been little known beyond the circle of the Society of Friends. The "Memoirs of the Life and Gospel Labors of Stephen Grellet," edited by Benjamin Seebohm, are contained in two large and closely printed octavo volumes, and have passed through three Editions. There is also an interesting and good sized volume, called an "Abridged Edition," by R. and C. R. Alsop, but written mainly for the use of Friends. Messrs. Samuel Harris & Co., have courteously granted permission to prepare in a briefer form a Life intended for the general Christian public.

W. G.

*Milton-on-Thames.*

Wm. D. Stewart Louisa

April 1860

## CONTENTS.

---

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.	
GUIDING PRINCIPLES, . . . . .	I
CHAPTER II.	
THE YOUNG NOBLE : PREPARATION FOR HIS MISSION, . . . . .	6
CHAPTER III.	
THE GREAT CHANGE, . . . . .	21
CHAPTER IV.	
THE DIVINE CALL, . . . . .	32
CHAPTER V.	
DIVINE INTERPOSITIONS, . . . . .	44
CHAPTER VI.	
VISIT TO HIS PATERNAL HOME, . . . . .	57
CHAPTER VII.	
" INSTANT IN SEASON, OUT OF SEASON," . . . . .	73
CHAPTER VIII.	
FIRST VISIT TO GREAT BRITAIN, . . . . .	80

*CONTENTS.*

	PAGE
CHAPTER IX.	
SECOND VISIT TO EUROPE, . . . . .	94
CHAPTER X.	
MISSION TO THE NORTHERN EUROPEAN NATIONS, . . . . .	118
CHAPTER XI.	
SIX MONTHS IN RUSSIA, . . . . .	135
CHAPTER XII.	
VISIT TO TURKEY AND GREECE, . . . . .	166
CHAPTER XIII.	
IN SOUTHERN ITALY, . . . . .	177
CHAPTER XIV.	
IN ROME, . . . . .	189
CHAPTER XV.	
THIRD VISIT TO CENTRAL EUROPE, . . . . .	207
CHAPTER XVI.	
FAITHFUL WITNESSING, . . . . .	224
CHAPTER XVII.	
FOURTH VISIT TO EUROPE, . . . . .	232
CHAPTER XVIII.	
THE CLOSING YEARS, . . . . .	259

## CHAPTER I.

### *GUIDING PRINCIPLES.*

THE few introductory remarks of this chapter will not, it is hoped, be regarded as mere truisms, but rather as the statement of principles of which we need in this age to be reminded.

The latter part of the third quarter of this century brought into full manifestation two totally opposite schools of opinion. On the one side were eminent and distinguished students of biology, physics, and philosophy, who having started on their investigations with the principle that the supernatural is not the field for human inquiries, have apparently come to admit design without a designer, to teach a sublime scheme of evolution which has proceeded, not with a presiding will, but on self-acting laws, and have thus, by a willing dismissal of the Creator, turned the faces of not a few in this generation away from the light, so that they confront only negations and ever deepening darkness. Unspeakably melancholy has this become to a younger race of scientific inquirers, while in lower levels of society the disbelief has filtered as a baleful poison of vice, license and corruption. On the other hand, there is a vast multitude of rare cultured and earnest Christian believers who, compelled to note in



the world and in human history indubitable proofs of the presence and temptations of the spirit of evil, and at the same time irrefutable evidences of the presence among men of a Saviour, are prepared for a cordial acceptance of the profound spirituality of the New Testament, and for a self-less and saintly consecration to the well-being of the human race. The latter class have happily no reason to be ashamed of their fellow-workers, and of the results of their lives. To confirm their faith in the mission of the Comforter, and in His abiding guidance, is the main end in offering this life of Stephen Grellet.

An intelligent reader who should come for the first time to the pages of the New Testament would be impressed by the emphatic, tender, and unambiguous manner in which Christ promised the abiding presence among men of the Spirit of grace and truth.

The Spirit was to "convince" the world. Until the end of the age He was to remain with the race for whom the Son of God had offered the great expiation. Men in a moral graveyard of death would "hear His voice and live." While the grace would be for all men, the effectual operation would be in *His* hands to whom the eternal Father had "given authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man" (John v, 27).

Endowed by the Spirit, Christ's servants were to do "greater works" than the Master's. The acts of His incarnation specially bore the mark of being works on nature. The "greater works" of His disciples were to be moral and spiritual.

There was, however, to be a condition—the entire and cordial acceptance of the Divine will. His followers were to “abide” in fellowship of heart and purpose with their ascended Lord. Only thus could they bear this “abundant fruit.” As they willed and planned and acted with Him, they might “ask what they would, and it should be done unto them.” Thus would they be “vessels meet for the Master’s use,” ready for every emergency and for every demand of their Lord in the way of service and of testimony.

In reading such lives as those of St. Paul, of St. Bernard, of Boniface, of Francis de Sales, of Fletcher, of Bramwell, and McCheyne, we find these conditions fulfilled. We shall note the same habitual waiting upon Christ, the same sympathy with Him, and the “hearkening to His word,” in the apostolic life of Stephen Grellet. We shall see that after this calm and prolonged looking unto the Lord he became a witness for Him during a terrific crisis of European history; and that over the two hemispheres he bore a testimony adapted, with marvellous wisdom, alike to dwellers in palaces and in slaves’ huts, to the inmates of ecclesiastical mansions and common jails, and yet none the less suited to the periodic meetings of Friends and to large assemblies of Roman Catholics and Protestants in Europe and America.

By the twofold watching for heavenly direction—the inward voice and external providences—we shall, in following the narrative, observe how a humble, but not ungifted man, seldom testified in any one circle, and over not less than sixty years, without witnessing

those "greater works" of moral awakening and of spiritual revival of which the Lord Jesus spake.

This also we shall learn, and the lesson is not unneeded in the present time. The subject of this memoir was like "the Servant of Jehovah," of whom it was predicted—"He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause His voice to be heard in the streets." By the craving for crowds and numbers, by the placard sensation and advertisement, by mechanical methods for revival services, we *may* be fulfilling the Lord's will. But by relying on these methods, and by the inflexible fore-arrangements for them, we may unconsciously be out of harmony with the Spirit's guidance, and out of sympathy with Him who gave His sublime teaching on spiritual worship to one solitary woman; who "opened the Scriptures," during several hours on the day of His resurrection, to two disciples, both obscure, and the name of one of whom we do not even know; and who directed the evangelist Philip to make a long journey in order to relieve the solitudes and guide into the way of peace one inquiring man.

The life of Stephen Grellet will teach one other important lesson. In reading the history of Jesus we could hardly conceive of His laying out His plans at the beginning of a week, and resolving that this should be done on the first day, that and the other on the days following. He lived in such unity with God's providence that the path of service was constantly made plain as He came up to it. In like manner will this guidance be apparent as we follow the course of the subject of this memoir. He travelled over Europe