

**A TRIBUTE TO THE
MEMORY OF
THOMAS MAW**

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A tribute to the memory of Thomas Maw by Lucy Maw

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LUCY MAW

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THOMAS MAW**

A TRIBUTE

TO THE

MEMORY OF THOMAS MAW.

BY HIS WIDOW.

"Not he who commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord
commendeth."—PAUL.

"The memory of the just is blessed."—PROVERBS.



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DEDICATION.

To my beloved Grandson, who bears the name of his honoured grandfather, I more especially dedicate these pages, in which I have endeavoured faithfully to delineate the amiable and excellent qualities which adorned the subject of them through a long life, and greatly endeared him to his family, and to all with whom he was connected, — feeling an anxious solicitude that, through the descendings of heavenly dew, his dear grandchildren, now too young to appreciate his character, may become the happy possessors of those Christian graces which distinguished him, and, I may add, have shone conspicuously in several of their ancestors. Then, if their lives should be prolonged, they will be blessed indeed, and be made a blessing, not only to their dear and affectionate parents, under whose watchful and tender care they enjoy great advantages, but,

like the subject of this memoir, be examples of the beneficent influence of early, genuine, and consistent piety, to all around them.

This hope and this paramount desire stimulates me in the endeavour to portray the life of one so justly dear to me, before I also descend to the grave; an event which, at my advanced period of life, cannot be far distant. Or, should it consist with unerring Wisdom to lengthen out my days, I must expect they will be days of weakness and infirmity, so that it seems incumbent upon me that what I do I should do quickly, being now in my seventy-sixth year.

LUCY MAW.

1st Mo., 1850.

A TRIBUTE,

&c., &c.

THOMAS MAW was born, 9th of 4th mo., 1772, at the pleasant village of Kelsale, near Saxmundham, in Suffolk, from whence, after residing a few years, his parents removed to Ipswich, finding, as their family increased, a country situation inconvenient, both for getting to meeting, and for educating their children. Simon and Rose Maw were sensible, intelligent, and exemplary Friends, and their well-ordered family was much admired. They, for some years, regularly closed their shop, that they might all attend week-day meetings, and my dear T. M.'s father filled the station of an appointed Elder, for several years before his decease, which event took place in the fifty-first year of his age.

Thomas, their eldest son, early manifested an amiable disposition and engaging manners, as well as a good understanding, and diligently improved

the opportunities afforded for cultivating his mind ; although he often regretted in after-life that these had been so very limited.

His worthy father had been, for a long time before his death, in a poor state of health, and the care of his business devolved in consequence very much upon his son, who was remarkable, even when quite a youth, for industry and prudence.

At the age of twenty-one, his father took for him the business of a chemist and druggist, which was to dispose of, in consequence of the death of the proprietor, an opposite neighbour. This obliged him to acquire a knowledge of Latin, which he had not been previously taught, (though he was a pretty good French scholar,) and in a short time he made himself so well acquainted, both with the elements of his new business and its language, as to be able to conduct it very respectably, and gain the confidence not only of the general customers but of the medical profession also; and the business suiting his taste he took pleasure in it. But he relinquished it, in the spring of 1800, in consequence of the paper-mill, near Needham Market, being then to be disposed of, and some of his friends, whose judgment he valued, recommending it to him as preferable to what he was engaged in; and his dear mother, who was then become a widow, was willing to resign him, in part from the hope that the change would be.

beneficial to his health, which was rather delicate. He therefore left the oversight of his father's business to his younger brother, who being of age was competent to manage it for his own and his mother's benefit.

The house adjoining the mill was a pleasant residence, and one of his sisters being his housekeeper, it was an agreeable addition to the little Society at Needham. But the manufacture of paper, and the complicated machinery connected with a mill of that description, was very different from anything he had before been engaged in; and there were, also, extensive repairs and improvements to make, so that his talents and energies were again called forth, and so successfully exerted, that he soon became master of his new undertaking, and gained the confidence and respect of the workmen employed in its various departments; and his upright conduct and easy address obtained for him the esteem of his new neighbours. And just four years after his entering into this concern, we were united in marriage; the attachment had been long formed, and we were led to believe it was the gracious appointment of our heavenly Father, and a fulfilment of the sacred proverb, "cast thy lot into the lap, and the Lord will give it out;" and, through Divine and unmerited mercy, the union has been lengthened out to the decline of life, without alloy or abatement.