

**PURGATORY SURVEYED: OR, A
PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF THE
HAPPY, AND YET THRICE
UNHAPPY, STATE OF THE SOULS
THERE**

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Purgatory surveyed: or, a particular account of the happy, and yet thrice unhappy, state of the souls there by W. H. Anderdon

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W. H. ANDERDON

**PURGATORY SURVEYED: OR, A
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UNHAPPY, STATE
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PURGATORY SURVEYED:

OR,

*A Particular Account of the happy, and yet thrice
unhappy, state of the Souls there.*

ALSO OF THE

SINGULAR CHARITY AND WAYS WE HAVE TO RELIEVE THEM.

AND OF THE

Devotion of all ages for the Souls Departed.

WITH TWELVE EXCELLENT MEANS TO PREVENT PURGATORY, AND THE
RESOLUTION OF MANY CURIOUS AND IMPORTANT POINTS.

by Etienne Binet

Edited by

W. H. ANDERDON,

Priest of the Society of Jesus.

REPRINTED FROM THE EDITION OF 1663.

LONDON:
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AND PATERNOSTER ROW.

1874.

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P R E F A C E.

THIS quaint, but forcible and edifying book, was partly translated, partly, as the translator acknowledges, "disposed, abridged, or enlarged," from a treatise by Father Stephen Binet, a French Jesuit, which is entitled "De l'estat heureux et malheureux des âmes souffrantes du Purgatoire, et des moyens souverains pour n'y aller pas, ou y demeurer fort peu; ou sont traictées toutes les plus belles questions du Purgatoire." Paris, 1625, in 12. Douay, 1627, in 24.

Father Binet was born at Dijon in 1569, entered the Society in 1590, and, having been successively Rector of its principal houses in France, died at Paris, 1639. This treatise is numbered 20, out of 36 ascetical works composed by him, and given in De Backer's *Bibliothèque des Ecrivains de la Compagnie de Jesus*.* Their titles make one wish that some competent pen may be found, to reproduce them for us in our own tongue.

* Vol. i. pp. 95—97.

The translator, who simply signs himself by the initials, R.T., was Father Richard Thimelby, also of the Society of Jesus. In those evil days, when it was death to be known to say Mass, or to reconcile any one to the true Faith, almost every priest was furnished with an *alias*;* and Father Thimelby accordingly went sometimes by the name of Ashby.† He is described in Dr. Oliver's "Collections"‡ as being "of a genteel and ancient family in Lincolnshire." This is abundantly justified by notices occurring of

* This system of double or even treble names makes it difficult, sometimes, to ascertain the true name of a Catholic writer of that date. To take an instance or two from Oliver, occurring under the letter T, and met with in searching for the name for which R. T. might be supposed to stand: we find that John Taylor was *alias* Valentine Upsal; that Adrian Talbot's real name was Fortescue; that Oswald Tesimond was *alias* Greenway, *alias* Philip Beaumont; and that John Turbeville passed under the name of Fermor.

† He was probably led to this particular name by the proximity of the village of West Ashby to that from which he derived his family name. Saunders' *History of Lincolnshire*, vol. ii. p. 98, gives us the following particulars:

"Thimbleby is about a mile north-west from Horncastle, the parishes adjoining each other. In *Domesday Book*, this place is written Stimelbi. The manor, in the reign of Charles II., was the property of Sir Robert Bolles, of Scampton," &c.

"West Ashby is a parish adjoining to the north boundaries of that of Horncastle, from which town the village is about two miles distant."

‡ "Collections towards illustrating the Biography of the Scotch, English, and Irish members of the Society of Jesus. By the Rev. Dr. Oliver. London: Dolman, 1845." The notice occurs at p. 47.

the family, at two different periods of English history. Thus :

(1.) In Sir S. Meyrick's *Heraldic Visitations of Wales, and part of the Marches*,* mention is made of Richard Thumbleby (Thimbleby), knight, who was one of the bailiffs of Harddlech, or Harlech, in the county of Lincoln, and son to John Thumbleby, *armiger* to King Henry V. "It is recorded," says this writer, "I think in Camden's *Britannia*, that in the chapel of the town of Harlech (now standing, though converted into a dwelling) lies buried Sir Richard Thimbleby, who settled in that county for the purpose of enjoying the sports of hunting and hawking."

(2.) Dod's *Church History* exhibits this knightly Lincolnshire family as maintaining their hereditary spirit of loyalty, like so many other Catholic houses, during the struggles between Charles I. and his Parliament. We read there of "Charles Thimelby, a captain in the King's army, who lost his life at Worcester;" of "Robert Thimelby, a captain in the royal army, killed near Newark," and of "Nicholas Thimelby, a gentleman volunteer in the King's service, who lost his life at Bristol."†

But to return to the immediate subject of this notice. Dr. Oliver goes on to say, of Father

* Vol. ii. p. 217.

† Dod's *Church History*, vol. iii. p. 67. Brussels, 1742.

Thimelby: "The Annual Letters show that he joined the Society in 1632, and describe him as *vir doctus et prudens, et amore Instituti excellens*. On 22nd November, 1646, he made the Profession of the four vows. After teaching philosophy, and discharging several collegiate offices, he was ordered to the mission, where he laboured very diligently, and chiefly in his native county. In 1666, on the death of Father William Campian, he was called over to Ghent, to be the Rector of the house of probation, and continued such until his appointment to the presidency of St. Omer's College, 28th August, 1672. There he died, 7th January, 1680, æt. 66. We have from his able pen, A Treatise on Purgatory, 8vo, London, 1663; Remarks on Stillingfleet, 4to, London, 1672."

This account seems to be taken, for the most part, from Father N. Southwell's continuation of Ribadeneira's *Bibliotheca Scriptorum Societatis Jesu*; in which we find the additional particulars, that Father Thimelby entered the Society at the age of seventeen, and taught, not only philosophy, but also polemical theology, at Louvain; and that, during his missionary life in England, he was Superior of the English Jesuits. The titles of his two works are also there given; though the former not with great accuracy. *De Felici et infelici statu animarum in Purgatorio, et [de] modo eis juvandi. Londini, 1633, in 8. Item:*

Observationes generales in librum Doctoris Stillingfletii, cum vindicatione S. Ignatii et Sociorum ejus a fœdis maculis quibus eos ille aspergit. Londini, 1672, in 4.

It is interesting to know that this devoted Catholic family gave another of its sons to the priesthood, and one, at least, of its daughters to religion. Dod gives us the outlines of their lives :

“Edward Thimelby, of an ancient and worthy family at Irnham, Lincolnshire. Being sent abroad for education, he entered into an [the] ecclesiastical state, and lived a considerable time in Rome, in the family of an eminent Cardinal. He was afterwards made provost of the collegiate church of St. Gery's, in Cambray, where he died about 1690. He was a person of remarkable piety. Some verses of his composing may be seen in the beginning of Cressy's *Church History*.”

“Winifrede Thimelby, daughter of Richard Thimelby, of Irnham, in Lincolnshire, esquire, by Mrs. Brooksby. She became a nun in the English monastery of St. Augustine's Order, in Louvain, where she was chosen the third Superior. She died August the 31st, 1690, in the seventy-second year of her age, and fifty-five after her profession, having been Superior twenty-two years.”*

The alterations ventured upon, in this reprint, consist chiefly in the mode of punctuation, which,

* Dod's *Church History*, vol. iii. pp. 479, 495.