

**REMAINS, HISTORICAL AND LITERARY,
CONNECTED WITH THE PALATINE
COUNTIES OF LANCASTER
AND CHESTER, VOL. XXVI; THE
AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF HENRY NEWCOME,
M. A.; IN TWO VOLUMES. VOL. I**

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HENRY NEWCOME & RICHARD PARKINSON

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THE
AUTOBIOGRAPHY
OF
HENRY NEWCOME, M.A.

EDITED BY
RICHARD PARKINSON, D.D., F.S.A.,
PRINCIPAL OF SAINT BEES COLLEGE, AND
CANON OF MANCHESTER.

IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. I.

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INTRODUCTION.

VERY little, beyond a few words of explanation, seems required from the Editor to introduce these two volumes to the notice of the members of the CHETHAM SOCIETY. The history of the Author of them has been ably brought out in Mr. THOMAS HEYWOOD's excellent Introduction to the volume of the DIARY, edited by him for the Society in 1849. That Diary, together with what is styled the "Abstract," had been intrusted to the present Editor by Mr. NEWCOMBE's lineal descendant, the REV. THOMAS NEWCOMBE, Rector of Shenley, with a strict injunction that no transcript of or extract from it should be permitted, except for the purpose of publication by the CHETHAM SOCIETY. For that purpose the Rev. T. COBBER kindly undertook and laboriously executed a copy of the whole Abstract. It was, however, in consideration of the great bulk of the Abstract, thought advisable to print, in the first instance, the extended Diary for two years, which has been edited by Mr. T. Heywood. That volume has been so well received in various quarters, and so many inquiries have been made as to the probable issue of the unprinted volume, that it occurred to the learned PRESIDENT of our Society, as well as to the Editor, that by removing the antiquated spelling, abridging

the moral reflections, which however excellent are somewhat monotonous, and presuming upon the reader's knowledge of the history of most of the names that occur in the narrative, (which is generally to be found in Mr. Heywood's volume, or *Adam Martindale*,) two volumes might be formed out of the Abstract, which would be found of very great interest to the popular reader. This design is now carried into execution; and the Editor is much mistaken if the members of the Society do not find in these volumes much to gratify them, as illustrating the character of the man, the times in which he lived, and the party of which he was so great an ornament. In anticipation of the task now executed on these altered principles, the Editor had applied to his lively and excellent friend, the Rector of Shenley, for some notes regarding the history of his extraordinary family. The result of that application was the Memoir which follows. Nothing can be more characteristic than it is of its worthy Author, thus associated with his indeed altogether different progenitor! It is a great grief to the Editor to add, that the following amusing Memoir, written in 1846, is now, alas! a posthumous publication.

The Vice-President of the CHETHAM SOCIETY, my friend Canon PARKINSON, has requested me to furnish a Memoir of the Family of Henry Newcome of Manchester; and to give the authentic account of the two MS. Volumes which I lent him, for the purpose of making extracts therefrom "at his will and discretion."

The lesser MS.⁽¹⁾ I found in this house, and by my brother Archdeacon NEWCOME it was lent, some years ago, to Mr. HADFIELD of Manchester. The larger one was restored, in the year 1843, to me, as being a direct descendant from this Henry Newcome, by the Rev. Mr. HEATHCOTE, Incumbent of Stamford Hill, Hackney, into whose possession it had come with the books of his father the Rev. Dr. Heathcote.

Into the Doctor's hands it came with other books, but evidently through the negligence of my second cousin and quondam schoolmaster, Richard Newcome Esq., when he resigned Hackney School, in the year 1800, to Mr. Heathcote's father.⁽²⁾ The Vicar of Hackney, my great-grandfather, in whose handwriting the MSS. are, may have left or lent them to his younger son—the eminent schoolmaster of that place—instead of consigning them to the care of his eldest son, the Rector of Shenley.

In giving any Memoir of the family, I am placed in a

⁽¹⁾ This is the MS. already published by the Chetham Society.

⁽²⁾ This old School-house, with the fields around it, was sold to the projectors of the London Orphan Society; and the Chapel of that noble Institution stands on the spot where we pitched the stumps for many a cricket match, or urged the flying football with or against Admiral Bladon Capel and Colonel William Cadogan, &c. The former, who was an adept in giving me at football a broken shin or a summerset, brought home the news of Nelson's victory of the Nile; the latter, my rival class fellow, fell heroically at the battle of Vittoria.

George and Henry Newcome, Esquires, are the only male representatives of the *Hackney* family. The former married late Miss Girardot. The latter has a family by his wife, a daughter of Sir William Wake of Courten Hall, Northampton.

dilemma—for Verity on the one hand demands that little be told when the much known is *of little value to the public*—while Vanity on the other hand prompts me, by rather audible whispers, “to make the most” of an honest and singular pedigree, shewing many generations of laymen living on the same estate to the days of Queen Elizabeth; and eight or nine generations from that time, in lineal continuity, of clerical and beneficed Incumbents.

The late Mr. Clutterbuck, Author of the *History of Hertfordshire*, sent me a copy of No. 1550, pp. 126—128, in the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, by which it appears that fifteen generations of Newcomes or *Newcomens* lived and died seised of their estate of Saltfletby, in the county of Lincoln,⁽¹⁾ from the reign of Richard I. to that of Elizabeth, and A.D. 1596.

Of these several Hughs, and Walters, and Andrews, and Gilberts—deponent saith no more than that they lived “Armigeri,” and as such died, as he piously hopes, “in pace Domini et Ecclesie sue.”

It may be said or sung of them all, if not “omnes ignoti quia carent vate,” as by the witty King Charles to the knight of Norfolk—“Sir, you must have had neither fools nor knaves for your forefathers; for if fools, you had fallen lower in rank, and if knaves, have risen higher ere now.”

(1) There were Newcomens of the county of Longford; the Barony I believe extinct. I have a note of a Mr. Newcomen endowing, with £200, Braintree in 1724, and one of this name beat the bush for starting the Steam Engine. I cannot trace relationship to the Newcombs or Newcombes of Devonshire and elsewhere.