

**RECREATIONS AND
STUDIES OF A COUNTRY
CLERGYMAN OF THE
EIGHTEENTH CENTURY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649392193

Recreations and studies of a country clergyman of the eighteenth century by Thomas Twining

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THOMAS TWINING

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RECREATIONS AND STUDIES
OF
A COUNTRY CLERGYMAN
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BEING SELECTIONS FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE
OF THE
REV. THOMAS TWINING, M.A.

TRANSLATOR OF 'ARISTOTLE ON POETRY'
SOMETIME RECTOR OF ST MARY'S, COLCHESTER; AND FORMERLY FELLOW OF
SIDNEY SUSSEX COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

LONDON
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET
1882

P R E F A C E.

IN placing before the public the present records of the life and correspondence of my great-uncle, the Rev. THOMAS TWINING, sometime Rector of St. Mary's, Colchester, of whom the memory—dear on all accounts to his family—still lives among scholars by his work on 'Aristotle on Poetry,' I am prepared for the question, what can have moved me to publish that which has been reserved for nearly a century for the private use of the family.

The best answer to that enquiry will, I hope, be found in the work itself, believing, as I do, that notwithstanding the lapse of time and the passing away of the entire generation of those who rejoiced in personal intercourse with and devoted attachment to the subject of this memoir, it will still be a satisfaction to a new generation of the family to have a more accessible record of an ancestor whom they have so much reason to revere ; while to the

public at large—notably to men of letters, lovers of art and music, and to all who can appreciate a vast fund of playful humour—a perusal of the following pages can hardly fail to be attractive. The sketches of home scenery, and the contrasts afforded between the leisurely journeying of those times, along the old coach-roads of the country, and the ‘express’ movements of the present day, may also not be without interest.

Some explanation, however, may still be required of the circumstances which have led to the publication having been so long deferred. They are these. My grandfather, the half-brother of the Rev. Thomas Twining, his constant correspondent and frequent companion, and so the best qualified in all respects to have done justice to the undertaking, was prevented by severe and long-protracted illness from completing the work of preparation, in which he had made considerable progress. In that labour of love he had had the advantage of the willing and able assistance of many surviving and attached friends, whose names have been gratefully recorded by him in the following memoir—Dr. Parr, Dr. Burney, Dr. Charles Burney, Dr. John Hey (sometime Norrisian Professor at Cambridge), and Dr. and Mrs. Hughes; the latter devoting herself with loving assiduity to the transcription of the original documents for the press. In the next

succeeding generation the work was carried forward by the Rev. Daniel Twining, the nephew and literary executor of the Rev. Thomas Twining. In the latter capacity he had taken an active interest in the undertaking from the first, and had brought his ripe scholarship and critical taste to bear upon it with constant zeal. Much was accomplished in the arrangement of the materials, but he could never sufficiently satisfy himself to go to press; and in 1853, shortly before his decease, he made over the charge of all the letters and papers to myself. Thus it has fallen to my lot, in such intervals of leisure as a busy life has afforded, to complete a work for which others had made so much thoughtful preparation.

The responsibility for the act of publication rests entirely on myself: whatever credit may attach to the work is wholly due to those who preceded me in the task. It only remains for me to add the expression of my earnest hope that, in bringing before the public the following records of a blameless, simple, and learned life, I may be doing no wrong either to the memory of the ancestor whom I desire to honour, or to the wishes of those members of his family and friends who survived him in his generation.

RICHARD TWINING.

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