

**THE
PHILOSOPHICAL
WRITINGS**

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The Philosophical Writings by Richard Burthogge

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RICHARD BURTHOGGE

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PHILOSOPHICAL
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THE PHILOSOPHICAL WRITINGS
OF
RICHARD BURTHOGGE

EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

MARGARET W. LANDES

HALLOWELL FELLOW AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE, 1913-14

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PREFACE.

THIS book is published in the hope of securing for Richard Burthogge the place which he deserves yet has never held in the history of British thought. Its editors wish to share with other students the rediscovery, which they owe to Georges Lyon, of a seventeenth-century English philosopher so free from the prepossessions of his Platonist contemporaries that he "grounds notions" in sense and so far advanced in the path which, a century later, Kant trod that he says: "The immediate objects of humane cogitation are all appearances, which are not properly in the things themselves."

All the writings collected in this volume are reprints from first editions in the possession of the Harvard University Library. All are printed entire save the *Essay upon Reason*, of which the greater part and (it is believed) the essential part is given including the chapter and section headings of the omitted chapters. The old orthography of English, Greek and Latin has, for the most part, been retained. Bracketed numbers are the page-numbers of the original editions. The kindness of the Harvard Library, in allowing the use of the texts, is gratefully acknowledged.

This volume is the third contribution to the study of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century English philosophical

texts by graduate students of Wellesley College.¹ The immediate incentive to its study of Burthogge is Prof. A. O. Lovejoy's reference to him in an essay on "Kant and the English Platonists." The editors take this opportunity to express their appreciation of Dr. Lovejoy's generous and expert counsel in the preparation of the book. Warm thanks are due also to Professor Rufus M. Jones of Haverford College, and to Professors Charlotte F. Roberts and Alice Robertson of Wellesley College, for Notes attributed to them.

The editor of this volume illuminates the text of Burthogge by biographical and philosophical Notes and, in her Introduction, calls attention to the anticipations both of Locke and of Kant which give the writings of Richard Burthogge, though hitherto all but unknown, their genuine historical significance. Miss Landes compares Burthogge's doctrine with that of his contemporaries and successors and, in an Outline, summarizes and combines the teachings, not always consistent with each other, of his different metaphysical works.

To her philosophical comments may be prefixed a brief remark about Burthogge's literary style. Readers of the *Organum* and the *Essay* will find those works marked at many points by a directness and a simplicity and by an occasional touch of humor which strongly distinguish them from most of the philosophical treatises by Burthogge's contemporaries. His predilection for plain language and for logical statement is indicated by his attitude of kindly scorn toward discourses "wherein Words are sensible but not the Propositions and yet are taken by those that make them for High Sence."

It is hardly to be hoped that the reader of this book will "make sense" of all that Burthogge says. The attentive

¹ Earlier volumes are: an edition of Arthur Collier's *Clavis Universalis*, with Introduction and Notes by Ethel Bowman (Open Court Publishing Co., 1909); and a study of *The Philosophy of John Norris*, by Flora I. MacKinnon (Psychological Review Publications, 1910).

reader cannot, however, fail to profit both by his keen and sympathetic comment on his immediate predecessors and contemporaries and by his first-hand introspection, sound argument and independent thinking.

MARY WHITON CALKINS.

WELLESLEY COLLEGE.

November, 1920.

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