

**THE HISTORY OF THE LIFE OF
THOMAS ELLWOOD: OR, AN
ACCOUNT OF HIS BIRTH,
EDUCATION, ETC., PP. 1-225
[1671-1713]**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649604234

The History of the Life of Thomas Ellwood: Or, an Account of His Birth, Education, Etc., pp. 1-225 [1671-1713] by C. G. Crump

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

C. G. CRUMP

**THE HISTORY OF THE LIFE OF
THOMAS ELLWOOD: OR, AN
ACCOUNT OF HIS BIRTH,
EDUCATION, ETC.,
PP. 1-225 [1671-1713]**

THE HISTORY
OF THE LIFE OF
THOMAS ELLWOOD

OR AN ACCOUNT OF HIS BIRTH, EDUCATION, ETC., WITH
DIVERSE OBSERVATIONS ON HIS LIFE AND MANNERS WHEN
A YOUTH; AND HOW HE CAME TO BE CONVINCED OF THE
TRUTH; WITH HIS MANY SUFFERINGS AND SERVICES FOR
THE SAME; ALSO SEVERAL OTHER REMARKABLE
PASSAGES AND OCCURRENCES WRITTEN
BY HIS OWN HAND

EDITED
BY
C. G. CRUMP

"BY FAITH THE SLIDERS OBTAINED A GOOD REPORT."
—HEB. XI. 2



METHUEN & CO.
86 ESSEX STREET, W.C.
LONDON
1900

THE PREFACE

"GATHER up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost" (John vi. 12), was the direction of our Saviour to His Disciples, after He had fed the multitude, which may well and usefully be applied to the collecting and preserving the accounts of the lives of good men; men who in their day have been eminently useful in those stations of life wherein God by His good providence hath placed them. And this preserving, by publication, is the rather to be done when themselves do leave behind them in writing an account of their lives and of the signal mercies of God to them therein. For from such accounts may best be gathered by the reader the man's particular state, exercise and growth in the work of restoration, out of the fall of degeneracy, and in the reading thereof be not only excited to bless the name of the Lord on his behalf, but also gain some direction from the path so fairly tracked out and ground of hope; that by being faithful they may likewise attain to the same good experience.

There is not with me any doubt, but something of this kind may be the lot of many, into whose hands this treatise may happen to come; for that they will herein meet with variety of exercises, and the providences of God therein all related with great strength and plainness of speech: our deceased friend Thomas Ellwood having been a man whom God had endued with singular abilities, both as a man and as a Christian; which is evident not only from this short account of his life which was written by himself, and

by the supplement added thereunto; but more largely from his many useful labours and services in the many books which he writ in the defence of Truth and the Friends thereof. For which service he was in a particular manner qualified by spiritual wisdom and Christian obedience to which in him was added great strength and depth of judgement wherein he could discern the spirits of others and was very much the master of his own, as did appear to such as knew him, not only by the soundness of his reasoning and the seasonableness of his words; but also by his great and exemplary modesty, in that he was not hasty to propose nor rudely tenacious to insist on what he had proposed, if anything, though not well expressed, yet well intended, was offered by any one much weaker, nay, though but a babe in Christ.

His countenance was manly and cheerful; his deportment grave, yet affable and courteous even to the meanest person; his conversation innocent, pleasant and instructive, yet severe against anything that was beyond the liberty of truth. These, with his other qualifications of body and mind did render him both very acceptable as a friend, as a neighbour, and as a member and elder in the Church of Christ; and the more for that his time was chiefly employed in being serviceable in one or other of these capacities.

I might here particularly mention the several labours of our deceased friend, according to their respective times, and the nature of their several subjects; but much of this being already done in the ensuing pages, I choose to remit the reader thither; by which possibly he may be excited to the perusal of them, and shall only say concerning them that the judicious reader will easily observe that his method and style do denote him to have been a scholar; and yet not farther so than the simplicity and purity of the truth whereof he made profession would permit him.

I was with our friend Thomas Ellwood the greater part of his sickness, in which he was also very frequently visited by our friend George Bowles, who was his neighbour; to whom therefore I refer for the account which he may give of his sickness and dying words.

As it was my good lot to be well acquainted with him, though only in the latter years of his life, and know that he did neither use nor encourage the bestowing elaborate encomiums upon persons deceased; so neither shall I add further concerning him, than to say with the Apostle concerning the faithful "that he was righteous, God testifying to his gifts; and by it, being dead, yet speaketh" (Heb. xi. 4).

J. W.

LONDON, the twelfth of the second month, 1714.

GEORGE BOWLES HIS TESTIMONY CONCERNING THOMAS
ELLWOOD.

"DEAR FRIENDS,

"It is in my heart, briefly on this occasion, to commemorate the tender dealings of the Lord with His people in this latter age of the world, when it hath pleased Him, in love to poor lost man, graciously to appear by the breaking forth of His glorious Gospel Day. And by the secret Divine reaches of the Hand of God, which hath been felt and seen in the light of it, many have been drawn in their spirits to seek after the Lord, and to enquire after the knowledge of the way of life and salvation; and blessed be His holy Name who was graciously pleased, by the inshinings of this Divine Light in the hearts of many to expel the darkness and rend the veil. And then was the arm of His mighty power made bare, for the gathering many thousands to the saving knowledge of Himself. And in that day was the Lord pleased, according to His

promise, to pour forth of His spirit upon sons and upon daughters; yea upon servants and upon handmaids, and many were made to prophesy; and being qualified by the Holy Spirit which they received, and were baptized by it into His Holy Name, became willing and were freely given up in obedience to the Lord and in bowels of tender love to the souls of mankind, in his power to preach the Gospel of life and salvation to those to whom they were sent, and many were turned from the darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, by their ministry. Amongst whom our dear deceased friend, Thomas Ellwood, was one, whose conscience was reached and awakened by the powerful ministry of dear Edward Burrough, as I have heard him relate, and as by the following sheets will more plainly appear. And of that day and time, and the worthy instrument by whose ministry he was convinced and turned unto God and made sensible of the Divine principle of life and light in his own heart, have I heard him speak with great regard; and also of the sufferings which did attend him, after he received the truth, in his Father's family for the truth's sake; and how the Lord preserved him in that time, under the various exercises which he passed through for truth's testimony; which for Christ's sake he was conscientiously concerned to stand in, according to that plainness and simplicity which truth then led, and still continues to lead the sincere disciples of Christ into, by which they were distinguished from the world. Such was the plain language of *thou* to one, and refusing the hat-honour, for which dear T. Ellwood suffered not a little in that day, as, by the following account of his life more fully appears. And it were well if all who come up in a profession of the blessed truth in this time were faithful in these and in the other branches of its testimony. And let all consider, that the neglecting thereof is, in a

degree, a making void the sufferings of the faithful, and strengthening the hands of evil doers, who for the sake of their testimony loved not their lives to the death; but underwent cruel mockings, buffetings, stonings, whippings, stockings, revilings, imprisonments, and spoilings of goods; rejoicing in the Lord, that they were counted worthy to suffer, either less or more, for His Name's sake. In respect of which this my dear friend was a good example, he being a man of a steady mind and very patient in suffering, as well as faithful in his testimony for truth, and took joyfully the spoiling of his goods, wherein he was tried but a few years before his death. He was often concerned in defence of Truth's testimony, both against our professed adversaries, and also against the libertine spirit which appeared in some, professing the same truth with us, who opposed themselves against the good order and discipline which the Truth led Friends into. All which will abundantly appear from the books themselves which are in print, which he writ upon various occasions, and upon divers subjects, and let not his great labour and industry be forgotten in his writing those two historical volumes, relating to the Old and New Testament; a work truly great, and is, and may be of great use and service. By all which his many labours it may be perceived by the wary and enlightened reader that the Lord had endowed him with an excellent gift, and qualified him for the service of Truth, His Church and People; in which he employed the talent which the bountiful Lord had given him, to the honour of the great Giver, and to the comfort and edification of the Church of Christ. But more especially were his services known to the brethren in this county of Bucks; most of which are fallen asleep, and but few remaining here who knew him in his beginning, or his first services for the Lord, His Church and People;

amongst whom he was a zealous asserter of that excellent discipline the Lord had opened in, and led His people to, for the preserving His Church as a garden enclosed. For which cause how did many of these libertines set themselves fiercely against them and shot their arrows at him; but the Lord defended him and covered his head in the day of battle and his bow abode in strength, and his bough spread over the wall and continued fresh and green. But a blast from the Lord came upon their evil work; and how have they melted away? And how is their strength failed and their work brought to naught? But the blessing of the Lord is with His people, even with the Faithful, to this day whom He hath preserved as a peculiar treasure to Himself: Blessed be His Holy Name for ever more. And furthermore it may be truly said of this our dear friend that as the Lord fitted him for His service so was he eminently serviceable in His Hand, in the Church of Christ, particularly in these parts, of which there are many living witnesses, in this and the adjacent counties, of His great labour of love, having served the Church freely, with great diligence and faithfulness; the true sense of which toucheth me and others with the deeper sense of the great loss the Church hath by his removal; but being also sensible through the Lord's goodness that our loss is his eternal gain I feel in my heart an humble submission to the will of Him who doth whatsoever pleaseth Him, both in heaven and in earth; and who shall say to Him, what doest Thou? And it is the tender breathing of my spirit to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that He would be graciously pleased, in pity and compassion to His poor people, to raise up, fit and furnish more faithful servants for His work and service, and make them zealous for His Name and Truth upon the earth, that the place of this my dear friend and other faithful servants of the Lord and His