

**THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF JOSEPH  
LISTER, TO WHICH IS ADDED A  
CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNT  
OF THE DEFENCE OF BRADFORD AND  
CAPTURE OF LEEDS BY THE  
PARLIAMENTARIANS IN 1642**

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The Autobiography of Joseph Lister, to Which Is Added a Contemporary Account of the Defence of Bradford and Capture of Leeds by the Parliamentarians in 1642 by Thomas Wright

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**THOMAS WRIGHT**

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THE  
AUTOBIOGRAPHY  
OF  
JOSEPH LISTER,  
OF BRADFORD IN YORKSHIRE,  
TO WHICH IS ADDED  
A CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNT OF  
THE DEFENCE OF BRADFORD  
AND  
CAPTURE OF LEEDS  
BY THE PARLIAMENTARIANS IN 1642.

EDITED BY  
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1232.

\*  
TO THE

REV. JOSEPH HUNTER, F. S. A.

THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS DEDICATED

AS A TESTIMONIAL OF

SINCERE RESPECT AND ESTEEM,

BY THE EDITOR.



## PREFACE.

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The only object of this publication is to preserve a brief, but curious memorial of an eventful period of our national history. The original manuscript of the following narrative, or a transcript made from it by himself, was in the possession of my grandfather, and from it a small edition was printed by my father at Wakefield at the close of the last century; but copies of this edition are now so rare, that it has appeared to me to merit a reprint. In addition to the account of Joseph Lister and his family given in his own autobiography, and to what is said in the notes, the following notices have been kindly communicated to me by Mr. Hunter, to whom I am indebted for other observations on the text, and to whom I have taken the liberty of dedicating this little volume. I know nobody who is so intimately acquainted with the particular part of the history of the time to which it more especially belongs, and who, therefore, is so capable of appreciating the simple and unvarnished tale of Joseph Lister. It was he who, assisted by some private memoirs in my possession, first pointed out to me the connection between the Listers and my own family.



Joseph Lister is mentioned several times by Oliver Heywood, one of the non-conforming ministers under the Act of 1662 for the Uniformity of Public Worship, &c. in England, who left a large mass of auto-biographical manuscript. He was living at Allerton on the 26th of May, 1682, and on the 4th of June, 1686, when he was visited there by Mr. Heywood. Joseph himself sometimes preached as a 'gifted brother' in the dissenting congregation of Kipping, to which he belonged, in the absence of the pastor, as was the practice in the section of the non-conformists called Independents. They had for a time a minister who preached the Fifth Monarchy, from whom Lister and others withdrew. Kipping is near Thornton, which was a chapel to the church of Bradford, in which were several puritan ministers who prepared the way for the subsequent non-conformity of this rural district. Joseph Lister was buried in Thornton Chapel.

David Lister, the eldest son of Joseph Lister, who was intended by his father for the dissenting ministry, was first at school with David Noble of Morley, a Scotchman, author of a treatise on the book of Daniel, from whom he went to the academy kept by Richard Frankland, an ejected minister, then at Natland near Kendal, where he entered, May 12, 1675. He died there in November, 1677. Under the date of Dec. 1, 1677, Oliver Heywood observes,—“Got out early: visited,

prayed with, and was much afflicted with Joseph Lister's case, who buried his son at Mr. Frankland's on Monday last, a hopeful scholar."

Accepted Lister, the younger son, was born at Allerton, and baptized in March 1671, and was educated under Matthew Smith at Mixenden in the parish of Halifax, who was a non-conformist minister there, and author of various theological treatises. He was ordained by Mr. Frankland, Mr. Heywood, and Mr. Thorpe, (all ministers who had been ejected in 1662), other ministers being present, on the 6th of June, 1694, at the meeting place at Horton near Bradford. His *thesis* was, *An vere fideles de sua salute certi esse possunt?* He took the affirmative. He was then examined in Hebrew, Greek, and other parts of learning, delivered his confession of faith, and answered to various interrogatories respecting his objects in entering the ministry, &c. After this Mr. Thorpe prayed over him, and in the midst of his prayer the ordaining ministers laid their hands upon him. A bible was then presented and they gave him the right hand of fellowship. Then followed an exhortation to the ministers ordained (two others were ordained with him) and to the people. The service appears to have lasted about six or seven hours, after which they dined at Mr. Sharp's. Accepted Lister first settled as a minister at Kipping, but removed thence to Bingley in 1695, from whence he went to Thornton, and finally appears

to have returned to Kipping. He published a sermon preached at the dissenting chapel in Call Lane in Leeds, entitled "Christ's Coming the Believer's Comfort;" it was a funeral sermon for Benjamin son of Joshua Dawson of Leeds. On Sunday, Feb. 21, 1708-9, he preached twice, and administered the Lord's Supper, and on the Thursday following, 25th Feb., he died of apoplexy.

Oliver Heywood has the following entries relating to Accepted Lister. 18 March, 1694-5, "Called of Mr. Accepted Lister: did a weighty business with him about Bingley." 11 Dec. 1701, "Set myself to write a letter to Mr. Lister, in answer to his concerning that great dispute of his removing from Bingley." On this subject see p. 57, of Joseph Lister's Narrative. According to the testimony of his friend and neighbour Mr. Thomas Dickenson, who succeeded Mr. Heywood in his congregation at Northowram in the chapelry of Coley, Accepted Lister was "an excellent preacher; a little helpless body, but a great and sound soul." John Dunton\* says, "Mr. Accepted Lister, of Thornton in Bradford-Dale, is a little man, but one that has a great soul, rich in grace and gifts, of a strong memory, good elocution, *accepted* with God and all good men, and one

\* Panegyrick on eminent Persons; in the Life and Errors of John Dunton, Nichols's edition, London, 8vo. 1818, p. 421.