

**THE COMPLETE POEMS OF DR. HENRY
MORE (1614-1687). FOR THE FIRST TIME
COLLECTED AND EDITED: WITH
MEMORIAL-INTRODUCTION, NOTES
AND ILLUSTRATIONS, GLOSSARIAL
INDEX, AND PORTRAIT**

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The complete poems of Dr. Henry More (1614-1687). For the first time collected and edited: with memorial-introduction, notes and illustrations, glossarial index, and portrait by Alexander B. Grosart

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ALEXANDER B. GROSART

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Chertsey Worthies' Library.

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COMPLETE POEMS

OF

(1614-1687)

*FOR THE FIRST TIME COLLECTED AND EDITED:
WITH MEMORIAL-INTRODUCTION, NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS,
GLOSSARIAL INDEX, AND PORTRAIT, &c.*

BY

THE REV. ALEXANDER B. GROSART, LL.D., F.S.A.

ST. GEORGE'S, BLACKBURN, LANCASHIRE.



1878.

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1856

936
M835

To
EDWARD DOWDEN, Esq.
LL.D.

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.

*D*OWDEN! THE BOON I ASK, THOU WILT ALLOW—
TO LET THY NAME ADORN THESE LONG-DIMM'D PAGES;
WHICH I HAVE WORKED ON, FOR NO SORDID WAGES,
BUT IN REV'RENCE. *MORE*, IN THIS LIVING NOW
I WOULD RE-SHRINE FOR HOMAGE. 'TIS A VOW
OF LONG YEARS PAST. IN SUPREME BYGONE AGES,
HE STOOD IN THE FOREFRONT OF ENGLAND'S SAGES,
REVERED OF ALL AS ARROW FROM THE BOW
HIS GREAT THOUGHTS SPED STRAIGHT TO MEN'S HEARTS; AND SHOOK
GRAY SUPERSTITIONS, AS WITH STROKE OF LEVIN.
THE BOOKS REMAIN; AND I DARE RISK REBUKE,
AS I AVOUCH THEM NOBLE AS WHEN GIVEN.
AS POET DARK—BUT AS A STARRY NIGHT,
OR LEAF-SCREEN'D BROOK, GLEAMING WITH FLECKS OF LIGHT.

ALEXANDER B. GROSART.

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N.B.—In Nos. IV. and V. there are quotations from his other Poems; but it was deemed well to give them—being so short—as the Author did, viz. in his Poems-proper and in his Prose.

. The Portrait of More is to go before the general Title-page, and the Plate of Diagrams, etc., between pages 148 and 149.





MEMORIAL-INTRODUCTION.

I.—BIOGRAPHICAL.

RICHARD WARD, A.M., 'Rector of Ingoldsby, in Lincolnshire,' has written the 'Life' of our Worthy in a considerable volume.¹ Of it the Rev. BENJAMIN STREET, B.A., now of Barnetby-le-Wold (Lincolnshire), in his 'Historical Notes on Grantham and Grantham Church,'² says—'His [More's] Life is in the Vestry Library, written by a Rector of Ingoldsby, who achieved in it the difficult task of writing a Biography without giving any information respecting his hero' (p. 155). Unfortunately this drastically-put verdict is ill-warranted by the Critic's own notices; for notwithstanding that from local advantages—as being resident in Grantham—he might have added to our information, he does not one iota, and blunders, *e.g.*, he turns Alexander More into Sir Alexander More, Knt. (repeatedly), and our Dr. Henry More himself into 'Sir Henry More.'³ More justly, but still too severely, has PRINCIPAL TULLOCH said of the quaint discursive old book: 'Ward's Life is interesting, but vague, uncritical, and digressive, after the manner of the time.'⁴ I feel in-

clined to soften, or at least explain away, each adjective. The uneventfulness outwardly of the 'Life' accounts for the few facts given, and so for a certain 'vague' element. 'Uncritical' betrays, I fear, hasty reading; for it is superabundant in its criticism, albeit perchance not very careful or sifting in its selection of points. Then as to its being 'digressive,' I for one am thankful, seeing that—as in De Quincey later—it is in the digressions the best *bits* are met with. No one who will leisurely and with becoming sympathy study Ward's 'Life' will regret it. It is further to be remembered that the Biographer left behind him an additional Manuscript, wherein he discusses more fully, and with all his first enthusiasm of reverence, the manifold Works of More.¹ Besides these, More has written a kind of Autobiography in the 'Prefatio Generalissima' of his 'Opera Omnia' (1679), and earlier in his 'Apology' (1664), giving a 'General Account' of the *motif* and purpose of his writings—the former as notable as Herbert of Cherbury's for its supreme self-estimate. The 'Biographia Britannica' (1760)—those noble old folios, matterful and painstaking,

¹ The Life of the Learned and Pious Dr. Henry More, Late Fellow of Christ's College in Cambridge. To which are annex'd Divers of his Useful and Excellent Letters. By Richard Ward, A.M. Rector of Ingoldsby in Lincolnshire. London, Printed and Sold by Joseph Downing in Bartholomew Close near West Smithfield. 1710. 8vo. 22 leaves [unpaged] and pp. 366.

² Grantham, 1857. 1 vol. 8vo, pp. 164.

³ I have to thank Mr. Street for kind attention to my inquiries, so that it is a pain to need thus to retort his harsh words on Ward.

⁴ Rational Theology, etc., vol. ii. p. 504.

¹ Principal Tulloch inadvertently states that this Manuscript was in the possession of John Crossley, Esq. It is in the good keeping of my bookish and scholarly friend James Crossley, Esq., F.S.A., Manchester—to whom I venture to intimate Professor Mayor's appeal in Notes and Queries ('2d Series, vii. 19: pp. 249, 50), that he will make this MS. public, annotated like his Werthington's Diary. The published 'Life' and this MS. should be most acceptable additions to the very valuable series of the Chetham Society's books.