

**AN ACCOUNT OF THE
EARLY PART OF THE LIFE,
AND CONVINCEMENT**

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An Account of the Early Part of the Life, and Convincement by Thomas Melhuish

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THOMAS MELHUIISH

**AN ACCOUNT OF THE
EARLY PART OF THE LIFE,
AND CONVINCEMENT**

AN ACCOUNT
OF THE EARLY PART
OF THE
Life, and Convinement
OF
THOMAS MELHUISE,
LATE OF TAUNTON.

Given by himself in a Letter to a Friend:
Together with
A Short Account of his subsequent Life, &c.

With EXTRACTS from some of his LETTERS
On Religious Subjects.

*Collected and arranged by two Friends,
to whom he committed the Revisal of his Papers.*

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NOTICE BY THE EDITORS.

The materials from which the annexed account is compiled, being very incomplete, we rely on the candour of those into whose hands it may fall, to make suitable allowance for any incorrectness or deficiencies that may appear; hoping the serious reader will think with us, that the value of this little compilation sufficiently warrants its being brought forward to general notice, even in its present imperfect state.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in financial matters. The text notes that without clear records, it becomes difficult to track expenses, revenues, and other critical data points.

2. The second section addresses the challenges associated with data management and storage. It highlights the need for secure and scalable solutions to handle large volumes of information. The document suggests that investing in robust IT infrastructure is crucial to ensure that data is protected from loss or unauthorized access while remaining easily accessible when needed.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the role of technology in streamlining operations. It describes how automation and digital tools can significantly reduce manual errors and improve efficiency. By leveraging software solutions, organizations can optimize their workflows and allocate resources more effectively.

4. The fourth section discusses the importance of regular audits and reviews. It states that periodic assessments help identify potential issues, such as discrepancies or inefficiencies, before they become major problems. The text encourages a proactive approach to monitoring and evaluating performance across all levels of the organization.

5. The final part of the document provides concluding remarks and recommendations. It reiterates the key points discussed throughout the text and offers practical advice for implementing the suggested strategies. The document concludes by expressing confidence that these measures will lead to improved operational performance and long-term success.

AN ACCOUNT, &c.

IT may not be amiss to introduce the following letter with a short account of our friend in his early life.

He was born at Bradninch in Devonshire, about the year 1737, of parents not then professing with Friends: but his mother soon afterwards joined the Society, his father continuing in profession with the national church.

Having learnt the business of a taylor, he travelled to London for employment as a journeyman in that line, about the twentieth year of his age, and having been previously brought acquainted with the principles of Friends, he soon formed an intimacy with some in that city, particularly the family of the Marshmans, who kindly noticed and entertained him; which doubtless proved a singular favour to him, and made a lasting impression of gratitude on his mind, opening the way to a correspondence after his return

into

into the country, from whence it appears he addressed a letter to James Marshman, of which the following is an extract.

2d Mo. seventh, 1758.

RESPECTED FRIEND,

THE many and repeated favours received at thy hands, call for my thankful acknowledgements; and I make use of this opportunity to return them, hoping I shall always retain a grateful sense of thy kindness manifested to me at a time, wherein my poverty and distress (spiritually speaking) were very great; and as from an observation I have made, I believe thou art mindful of the apostle's advice, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers," I doubt not but thou hast largely experienced the blessings which attend such a pious disposition, and that they may be continued to thee is my ardent desire.

The humble followers of the meek and crucified Jesus, whose desire it is to be found walking in the path of self-denial, and are earnestly

earnestly concerned to attain a thorough resignation to the divine will, are oftentimes drawn to look back and take a sorrowful prospect of their once fallen and lost estate; and under a humbling sense thereof are made to adore the worthy name and magnify that powerful arm, by which they were called and delivered from darkness, and brought to a state of marvellous light; and from blindness and ignorance to be measurably acquainted with the hidden mysteries of the everlasting kingdom: these being filled with a sense of their unworthiness, are at all times ready to acknowledge that it is not in the least by any might, strength, or even desire of their own, but through the free, universal love of God, by the revelation of that invisible power in their hearts, which made Felix tremble, that they are preserved from the sins and gross enormities by which they were once led captive; and as by a steady obedience to divine grace they are kept in a humble state, and know themselves to be (what they really are) poor dependant creatures, insufficient of themselves to do, or even think any good, they have nothing to

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glory