

**MEMOIRS OF HENRY
RICHARD, THE
APOSTLE OF PEACE**

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Memoirs of Henry Richard, the apostle of peace by Lewis Appleton

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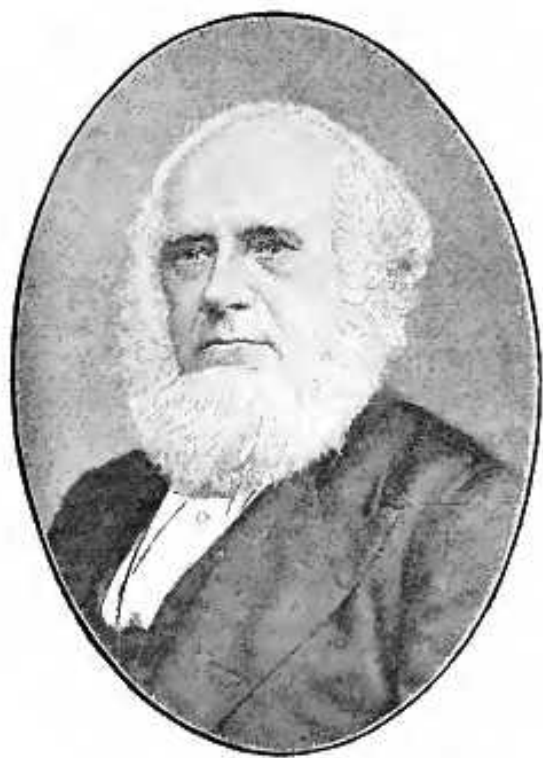
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LEWIS APPLETON

**MEMOIRS OF HENRY
RICHARD, THE
APOSTLE OF PEACE**



HENRY RICHARD.

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To the Right Honorable
WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE, M.P.;

WHOSE ENLIGHTENED STATESMANSHIP,
DURING HIS PREMIERSHIP OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ENGLAND,
POWERFULLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF

International Differences;

AND WHOSE COMMANDING ELOQUENCE, AND BRILLIANT SERVICES,
THROUGHOUT HIS ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER,
HAVE CONSPICUOUSLY ADVANCED THE CAUSE
OF JUSTICE, OF FREEDOM, AND OF HUMANITY,
AMONGST THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD;

*This Memoir
Is Inscribed,*

WITH THE WARMEST SENTIMENTS
OF ESTEEM AND ADMIRATION,

By The Author.

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P R E F A C E .

IN presenting to the reader of these pages, a brief record of the public life and labours of our honoured friend Henry Richard, over a period of upwards of half-a-century, in the great cause of International Peace, as well as of political, civil, and religious freedom, to both of which he consecrated his great gifts, and for the furtherance of which he indefatigably laboured, I am deeply sensible that this "frail memorial though sincere," with its many imperfections, inadequately sets forth the great labours and eminent services of his noble life.

"For poor my eloquence *thy* worth to tell,
And small the need,—embalmed in every heart
Shall live thy memory."

The career and incidents of his early life and manhood are generally well-known, and though comparatively unimportant, a reference to them may possibly be of interest, for they were the preliminary discipline in training and qualifying him, under the guiding hand of an All-wise Power, to those wider spheres of public usefulness and splendid service for peace and freedom, in which he has justly won an enduring and an honourable fame.

He was the son of the Rev. Ebenezer Richard, a Minister in the front rank of the Calvinistic Methodist Church, a man of great energy and zeal for the spiritual welfare of his countrymen, and whose piety and eloquence are still treasured in the hearts of the Welsh people.

At the little hamlet of Tregaron, in Cardiganshire, Mr. Richard, in 1812, was born, and under the tuition and training of so good a father, and the wise counsels of a devoted Christian mother, he was well equipped for the life of conflict before him.

Of his boyhood and youth, few records are to be found, beyond the fact that he received his first education at Llangeitho Grammar School, where his ardent spirit was fired with that glowing love for freedom, based on justice, which were the marked features of his action throughout his remarkable career.

In 1830, then 18 years of age, full of high hopes, and stirred with a youthful ambition, he left the home of his fathers, and the land of his adoption, to fight the battle of life, and made his way to London, for the purpose of entering Highbury Independent College, to be trained for the Congregational Ministry; * and there, under the immediate training of Dr. Henderson, Dr. Halley, and others, and with the companionship of such excellent fellow-students as Mr. Stoughton and David Thomas, (subsequently Dr.

* In 1866, Mr. Richard, addressing a meeting in Wales, thus refers to his entrance into Highbury College, in 1830:—It happened with me when I first became a student of theology, that I went up to London on a "wild-goose chase," hardly knowing what I should do, but I intended going into some English college to be educated for the ministry; but after I had been in London for some days I went without a single letter of introduction to apply for admission into a college. I was introduced to a good man, Thomas Wilson, who, after making inquiries, told me when I called again that the committee of the college were going to meet that afternoon and I must come and preach before them. Well, the committee of the college consisted of the principal ministers of religion in London, and I was a young Welshman of eighteen years of age, who probably had not heard half-a-dozen English sermons in my life; but as it is said that a coward if he is put in a corner must fight and will fight, so I managed to get through it.

Stoughton, and the Rev. David Thomas, of Bristol,) he remained for five years, until 1835, when he became Minister of Marlborough Chapel, in the Old Kent Road.

Mr. Richard was comparatively a young man (in his 23rd year) when he entered on the pastorate of Marlborough Chapel, its affairs were not flourishing, but the vigour of his preaching, and the youthful earnestness which he threw into the Church affairs, and all its surroundings, by the establishment of Sunday Schools for the children, and a literary institution for the adults, as well as by the power of his pulpit addresses, he soon infused restoration and life into, and around it.

From this period, 1835 to 1848, when Mr. Richard succeeded Dr. Jefferson in the Secretariat of the Peace Society, his ministerial career was marked by only two incidents, worthy of note, the one semi-political, in connection with what was known as the Rebecca riots; and the other semi-religious, in connexion with the work of training for teachers, and popular education generally.

The Rebecca riots of 1843 arose, chiefly from the turnpike system of Wales, which the local magnates, who had the administration of the turnpike trusts, erected in every direction, and caused serious obstacles to the tenant farmers, especially of Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire.

Against this intolerable grievance they formed themselves into companies, under the guidance of a female leader named Rebecca, and pulled down the obnoxious gates, and this uprising was taken advantage of by evil-minded persons to attribute to other and more sinister purposes.

Mr. Richard manfully stood in the breach as the exponent of the real truth in regard to this rebellion of a portion of the

Welsh people, defended them from the grossly exaggerated charges, and helped, by securing a mitigation of unjustly severe sentences, and by a calm and comprehensive statement of the facts, to allay the excitement and animosity that was aroused.

On the subject of popular education, in 1844, he visited Wales, as a deputation of the Congregational Union, and he took an active part in founding the Normal School at Brecon, for the training of teachers, and subsequently in 1847, assisted by Edward Miall and Samuel Morley, he founded the Voluntary School Association, and, as its Honorary Secretary, he actively opposed the educational policy of the Government of the day, in making large grants from the national exchequer for the erection of Church schools throughout Wales, ostensibly for education, but in reality for the proselytizing of the people in the doctrines of the Church Catechism, and the enforcement of attendance at Church services, both of which were repugnant to the Welsh mind and character.

In 1848, Mr. Richard resigned his useful ministerial post as Minister of Marlborough Chapel, in obedience, there can be no doubt whatever, to the call of duty, and especially at the solicitation of his friends, to occupy the responsible position as Secretary of the Peace Society, and the record of his remarkable and valuable services, throughout that memorable period of national and of international history of forty years, I have endeavoured faithfully and fully to describe, in the accompanying memoir.

In the execution of this task, I have not been fortunate in having access to his wide and extensive correspondence, (for that has been entrusted to another to edit, and prepare for the public eye), but I have relied upon, and am indebted

to the many public channels of information, to those publications, such as the *Herald of Peace*, the organ of the Peace Society, and which he edited for the greater part of his public life ; the *Nonconformist*, the organ of Nonconformity ; Hansard, the reliable mirror of Parliamentary debates ; to his many public writings, and to the press of England and Wales, and not less to my own personal recollections and reminiscences, as his colleague in the service of the Peace Society, from 1866 to 1880.

From these, and many other varied sources of information, from which I have gleaned, in order to illustrate the life and labours of our lamented friend, it must not be supposed that these pages, or indeed that any record that may be written, can adequately set forth the wide range of his prodigious labours in the cause of peace and freedom.

His public utterances, replete with eloquence, pathos, and valuable facts, delivered, not alone in England and Wales, in Scotland and Ireland, but throughout the Continent of Europe, in its capitals and cities ; the vast number of valuable articles in the columns of the *Herald of Peace*, the *Nonconformist*, and other journals, as well as his correspondence in the public press throughout the kingdom ; his intimate relations and communications with eminent statesmen of his own country and of foreign lands ; these, and many other public and private labours, would swell into a portentous volume, alike valuable to the student and lover of historical political records, and recollections, as they are a noble testimony to his ceaseless efforts, and useful public services.

In the political career of Mr. Richard, his triumphant