

**MEMORIALS OF WILLIAM
JONES, OF THE RELIGIOUS
TRACT SOCIETY**

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Memorials of William Jones, of the Religious Tract Society by William Jones

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WILLIAM JONES

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TRACT SOCIETY**



MEMORIALS
OF
WILLIAM JONES,
OF THE
Religious Tract Society.

COMPILED FROM HIS PRIVATE PAPERS AND OTHER
AUTHENTIC DOCUMENTS.

BY HIS ELDEST SON.

LONDON:
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MEMOIR.

CHAPTER I.

CHILDHOOD AND EARLY YEARS.

'Howe'er it be, it seems to me,
'Tis only noble to be good:
Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith, than Norman blood.'

'THE memoirs of our departed friends are valuable only as they contain a faithful record of their excellences and defects, and a full development of their opinions upon important points. An intimate acquaintance with a beloved friend may so enthrone him in our affections that there may be considerable danger of his excellences being too highly estimated, or of the blemishes of his character being unintentionally overlooked. A

partial or prejudiced statement, also, renders a memoir of little value to the reader who consults it either for information or for personal improvement.'

It is now twenty years ago since the subject of this present memoir commenced with these sentiments an account of the life and labours of his revered friend and pastor, the Rev. Rowland Hill. In his own case the opinions thus expressed have especial weight. The task of presenting a sketch of his own life has devolved upon those over whose eyes filial affection may well be presumed to throw a veil, so that they may not be so discriminating as others with regard at least to the faults of a much-loved parent. It is fortunate, therefore, that, at the suggestion of some members of his family, he had been in the habit of committing to writing from time to time the principal incidents in his life, and recording his impressions and opinions on points of the deepest interest. Written at intervals, snatched from the active pursuits of his busy life, and often during hours that ought to have been given to rest, the manuscript contains an unreserved expression of his inmost thoughts and feelings. Intending no stranger eye to peruse its pages, and bequeathing it as a precious legacy to his children, he tells them, with all the undisguised confidence of a

loved and loving father, the tale of his life. Its opening sentences are a faithful index to the spirit in which it is written. 'The history of most persons will furnish abundant evidence of the loving kindness and tender mercies of the Lord. I am sure this has been evident in my own case. I wish to leave a few particulars of the way in which I have been led, not to promote personal vanity, but for the benefit and instruction of my children. Events may be interesting to them which will be altogether without interest to others. When I look back on the days that are past, how much cause have I for deep humility and fervent gratitude,—humility, when I remember the troubled waters through which in my childhood my beloved parents had to pass,—and gratitude, when I consider the marvellous way in which God in his providence interfered in my behalf, and all along has encompassed me with his mercies.'

As far, therefore, as it is possible, the subject of this memoir shall be the expositor of his own opinions:—the narrative of a father's life shall be told in his own simple and truthful language.

WILLIAM JONES was born at Battersea, in the neighbourhood of London, on the 15th day of April, 1795, and was baptized at Clapham Church, on the 17th of June following. His father was a native of Gloucestershire, his family being re-