

**THE LIFE OF  
RICHARD  
ALLESTREE, D. D.**

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The life of Richard Allestree, D. D. by Various

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**VARIOUS**

**THE LIFE OF  
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**THE LIFE**

OF

**RICHARD ALLESTREE, D.D.,**

**SOMETIME REGIUS PROFESSOR OF DIVINITY IN THE  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, AND PROVOST OF ETON.**

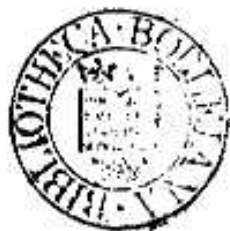
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The following Memoir was first published  
in 1685. It is from the pen of Bishop  
Fell.



## THE LIFE OF ALLESTREE.

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DR. RICHARD ALLESTREE was the son of Robert Allestree, a gentleman of an ancient family in Derbyshire, who being decayed in his fortune by the profuseness of his predecessors, retained unto Sir Richard Newport, afterwards created Lord Newport, Baron of High Arcol, in the quality of his steward; and being married, settled himself at Uppington, near the Wreken in Shropshire, where Richard Allestree, the person of whom we write, was born in March, 1619. He being grown up to be capable of institution, was sent to a neighbouring country free school, and from thence to another somewhat more celebrated, at Coventry, where he remained till he became fit for the University. In the year 1636 he was brought to Oxford by his father, and placed a commoner in Christ Church, having for his tutor Mr. Richard

Busby, who since is Dr. Busby, the eminent master of Westminster School, and prebendary of that church. Six months after his settlement in the University, Dr. Samuel Fell, the dean, observing his parts and industry, made him student of the college, which title he really answered by great and happy application to study, wherein he made remarkable improvement; as a testimony and encouragement of which, so soon as he had taken the degree of Bachelor of Arts, he was chosen Moderator in Philosophy, and had the employment renewed year by year, till the disturbances of the kingdom interrupted the studies and repose of the University, putting them into arms.

King Charles I., in the year 1641, being by tumults driven from London, and issuing out his commission of array into the several parts of the nation, did also direct it to the University of Oxford, where it found an active and a ready obedience, as by the generality of the members of that place, so particularly by Mr. Allestree, who engaged in the service, and continued in it till Sir John Biron, afterwards the Lord Biron, (who was sent with a party of horse to support and *countenance* the scholars in arms there,) withdrew *from thence*. He after a short stay was called off



to join with Prince Rupert, and by the assistance of the loyal gentlemen of Worcestershire was received into that city, where he was pressed by the Rebels' forces; but the Prince came up seasonably to reinforce him, and thereupon followed the sharp fight in Poyick field, near the aforesaid city, the unexpected success of which gave great consternation to the Rebels, who being masters of the money, forts, and magazines of the kingdom, hoped to have carried all without a stroke. As many of the scholars as could furnish themselves for a sudden march, went along with Sir John Biron from Oxford: the others, among whom was Mr. Allestree, stayed behind, and returned to their gowns and studies.

Soon after this, the Lord Say, with a party of the Rebels' forces, drew into Oxford, and plundered the colleges of such plate as had not been before sent to His Majesty, making inquiry after those who had been forward to promote the King's service; on which occasion, and also a particular accident that then happened, Mr. Allestree was called in question. The occasion was this: at Christ Church some of the Rebels attempted to break into the treasury, and after a day's labour forced a passage into it; but met with nothing, except a single groat and a halter in the bottom of

a large iron chest. Enraged with that disappointment, they went to the deanery, where having ransacked what they thought fit, they put it altogether in a chamber, locked it up, and retired to their quarters, intending the next morning to return and dispose of their prize. But when they came, they found themselves defeated, and every thing removed to their hand. Upon examination it was discovered that Mr. Allestree had a key of the lodgings, the Dean and his family being withdrawn, and that Mr. Allestree's key had been made use of in this enterprise; hereupon he was seized, and notwithstanding all the defence he could make, had been severely handled, but that the Earl of Essex called away the forces on the sudden, and so redeemed him from their fury.

In October following, the King having strengthened himself at Shrewsbury with the supplies that came from the north and Wales, and the loyal gentlemen of other parts of the nation, began his march towards London, and was met by the army of the Rebels, commanded by the Earl of Essex, in Keinton field in Warwickshire, where both armies engaged. At this battle Mr. Allestree was present; after which, understanding that the *King designed immediately to march to Oxford, and make his court at the accustomed place, the*

deanery at Christ Church, which was in part left to his care in the absence of the Dean, hasting thither he was taken prisoner by a party from Broughton House, which was garrisoned by the Lord Say for the Parliament. His confinement here was very short, the garrison surrendering itself to the King's forces, who summoned it in their passage.

The war being now formed, and the King being returned from the fight at Brainford, having made Oxford his head quarters, Mr. Allestree settled himself again to his study, and in the next spring took his degree of Master of Arts; after which he was in great hazard of his life, being seized by the pestilential disease which raged in the garrison, and which was fatal to very many eminent men of all employments and conditions; and fell more severely upon him by reason of a relapse, which doubled the calamity and danger.

Having recovered a little strength, he was engaged to employ it in military service, the exigence of His Majesty's affairs calling for the aid of all his loyal subjects, and in particular the scholars: and accordingly a regiment of them was raised, who served as volunteers without any pay or reward, and performed all duties not only in the garrison, and sallies for the defence of it in