

**MEMOIRS OF EVAN REES;
CONSISTING
CHIEFLY OF EXTRACTS
FROM HIS LETTERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649646456

Memoirs of Evan Rees; Consisting Chiefly of Extracts from His Letters by Jonathan Rees

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JONATHAN REES

**MEMOIRS OF EVAN REES;
CONSISTING
CHIEFLY OF EXTRACTS
FROM HIS LETTERS**

MEMOIRS
OF
EVAN REES;

CONSISTING CHIEFLY

OF

EXTRACTS FROM HIS LETTERS.

"AND I HEARD A VOICE FROM HEAVEN SAYING UNTO ME, WRITE,
BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHICH DIE IN THE LORD FROM HENCE-
FORTH: YEA, SAITH THE SPIRIT, THAT THEY MAY REST FROM THEIR
LABOURS; AND THEIR WORKS DO FOLLOW THEM."—REV. XIV. 13.

LONDON:

Printed by

RICHARD BARBETT, JUN., MARK LANE,

For

JONATHAN REES, NEATH, SOUTH WALES.

1853.

P R E F A C E.

IN presenting the following brief Memoir of a departed and much loved brother, some explanation may be needed as to the length of time which has elapsed since his death and this publication, which is to be attributed to a variety of causes. Among these, some delay may be ascribed to the natural reluctance felt by his relations to the publication of what may be considered private and confidential communications, and which were written without the most distant notion that they would ever be printed. The concurrent opinions of a few esteemed friends, to whom a portion of his

correspondence has been recently submitted, being in favour of this undertaking, and entertaining a conviction that some good and no harm, might probably result from it, these objections were waved in the hope that the pious example and Christian experience of this humble follower of a crucified Lord might tend to the promotion of His cause, and incite others to an increased diligence to make their "calling and election sure."

On arriving at this determination, another difficulty had to be overcome, which also has caused considerable delay. Unaccustomed to literary composition, I was conscious of my inability to prepare these papers for the press, and therefore sought the assistance of some suitable friend to edit them. One to whom they were entrusted for this purpose, detained them upwards of a year, without accomplishing the object. Considerable time was subsequently

lost by submitting the manuscripts to other friends, in the hope of obtaining their assistance, but no offer was made by any of them to undertake the duties of editor. Under the discouraging effects of these results, I had almost determined to consign them to oblivion; but such a course not yielding satisfaction, I attempted the task. Experiencing inability to do the subject that justice which I desired, I mentioned my difficulties to a friend in this neighbourhood, who kindly offered his assistance, which I gladly accepted. His name would have appeared on the title page, had it not been his desire that it should be withheld. I cheerfully avail myself of this medium to express my obligations to him, and the satisfaction I feel for the manner in which he has discharged the duties assigned to him. The opinions and commentaries of the Editor are so in unison with my own views, that I feel no difficulty in adopting them; nor

do I, in any way, shrink from the responsibility involved in the publication of this small work.

It is perhaps to be regretted that the publication of these Memoirs has been postponed until after many that knew and valued my brother, have also like him, passed from works to rewards, but there are still many of his contemporaries left, to whom the perusal of the following pages may be interesting and acceptable.

Should it be thought that the general tenor of his letters is too discouraging, it may be proper to remark, that Evan Rees was not a man of gloom, but of a lively temperament and cheerful disposition, not appearing to the world "to fast;" it was only in the confidential communications to his relations, to whom with a few exceptions, the letters were addressed, that he fully opened his heart, and revealed his spiri-

tual trials in the Christian warfare. Desertion and self-abasement are frequently permitted to assail the traveller Zion-ward, to wean him from all earthly dependence, and to attract his faith and confidence to Him, who never said "to the wrestling seed of Jacob, seek ye my face in vain." In remarking upon the afflictions of the righteous, John Thorp beautifully says,— "Alas! why should that wholesome discipline, which consummate wisdom hath ever exercised upon those whom he hath made willing to bear every refining operation, and turning of His holy hand, seem strange to any of us? Gold is tried in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of adversity; and indeed, if 'it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings;' if He was 'a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, is it not

'enough for the disciple that he be as His Master, and the servant as his Lord.'"

With an earnest desire that the following pages may have a tendency to encourage the Christian traveller to persevere in the path of self-denial, and to take up the daily cross of our dear Lord and Saviour, and follow him in the regeneration, I commend this little book to the attentive perusal of Friends, craving that patience may have its perfect work with us all, and that we may be enabled in sincerity to ascribe "Salvation to our God, which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."

JONATHAN REES.

Neath, Ninth Month, 1853.