

**MEMOIR**

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Memoir by John Lang Bickersteth

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**JOHN LANG BICKERSTETH**

**MEMOIR**





RUGBY SCHOOL.

MEMOIR  
OF  
JOHN LANG BICKERSTETH,  
LATE OF RUGBY SCHOOL.

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by  
taking heed thereto according to thy word."—Psa. cxix. 9.

WITH  
A PREFACE BY THE REV. J. BICKERSTETH, M.A.  
RECTOR OF SAMPSON.

LONDON:  
THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.  
*Instituted 1799.*

1857.

210. 2. 36.

## PREFACE.

THE materials for the following Memoir have been chiefly furnished by its lamented subject.

They were confided to the care of one who had observed, and knew how to appreciate, a character of so much excellence and promise, and who has arranged them in the form in which they are now presented to the reader.

It is scarcely possible to over-estimate the worth of youthful piety: what more pleasing to God—what so graceful in itself, or so edifying in the way of ex-

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ample and encouragement to the, as yet, undecided or unthinking young? What so bright, and cheering in its aspect, upon the future of two worlds? And is it unreasonable to hope, that, under the blessing of God, a sketch of the path pursued by this youthful convert may allure others to enter upon and pursue the same path, and with the like diligence and success?

The grace of God is consistent and uniform in its operation and results.

It moves always in the direction of repentance, and faith, and holiness.

It inspires a determination to do the will of God at all costs, and declines no sacrifice.

Its talk is of God's truth, and of his salvation.

It re-echoes the angels' song, "Glory



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to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will towards men." And its fruit is one and the same with the fruit of the Spirit.

It breathes, it lives, in an atmosphere of "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance," Gal. v. 22, 23.

Doubtless this piety, in whomsoever it dwells as a principle and rule of action, includes, and is inseparable from, trials. How can he escape them who resolves to live godly in Christ Jesus? 2 Tim. iii. 12.

The world loves only its own; and he whom the grace of God has separated from the world, will have to encounter its hatred, and perhaps its scorn.

Nevertheless, piety, even in this life,

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is not unrecompensed: it is quite impossible that it should be unnoticed or unremembered in heaven. To the regenerate in Christ Jesus, the commandments of God are not grievous; and "in keeping of them," not only there *will be*, but "there *is*, great reward," Psa. xix. 11.

And whatever opposition it may cost the pious young to maintain their integrity, the consciousness of that integrity will sustain them under even sharp trials. What balm so healing as that which flows from an uncondemning heart? What peace like his whom grace has taught and warranted to say—"Being justified by faith, I have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ?" Rom. v. 1.

Upon principles like these, the dear

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child whose name stands in front of this little Memoir, started and proceeded, early seeking and early finding the path of life, which conducted him early to Him, who was the object of his supreme affection and desire, in whose presence is fulness of joy, at whose right hand there are pleasures,—not temporal, not transitory, like the very best that earth affords, but pleasures for evermore. Psa. xvi. 11.

To these principles of grace, by grace, he adhered, and, in one so young, with an almost surprising tenacity. These principles he found by experience strong enough to support him in all dangers and to carry him through difficulties which, to others, actuated by principles less sanctifying and sound, would have been insurmountable.