

**REMAINS, HISTORICAL AND LITERARY,
CONNECTED WITH THE PALATINE COUNTIES
OF LANCASTER AND CHESTER. VOL. CXIV.
THE DAIRY AND CORRESPONDENCE OF DR.
JOHN WORTHINGTON, VOL. II. - PART II., PP.
249-399**

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RICHARD COPLEY CHRISTIE

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THE
DIARY AND CORRESPONDENCE
OF
DR. JOHN WORTHINGTON,
MASTER OF JESUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, ETC., ETC.

FROM THE BAKER MSS. IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM AND THE CAMBRIDGE
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VOL. H.—PART II.

EDITED BY
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P R E F A C E.

THE first volume of the *Diary and Correspondence* of DR. WORTHINGTON was printed for the Chetham Society under the editorship of the late Mr. JAMES CROSSLEY in 1847, and was followed in 1855 by the first part of the second volume. Each of these was enriched by copious notes, explaining not only the obscure allusions, and identifying the persons referred to, but pouring forth, sometimes from the inexhaustible stores of the editor's memory, sometimes from the books and manuscripts in his library, a flood of illustration of the persons, the books, and the matters mentioned in the correspondence.

The greater part of the volumes edited by Mr. Crossley are occupied by the correspondence between Worthington and Hartlib, and while there is hardly one of the theological, the philosophical, or the learned writers, who were their contemporaries or immediate predecessors that is not referred to, by far the greater number of the names are those *obscurorum virorum*, some of whom are to be found noticed in no biographical dictionary, while others, though mentioned, have received hardly any attention. No one could be more fitted than Mr. Crossley for editing this correspondence, for it is probable that no Englishman of the time had so wide and accurate an acquaintance with the English

and Latin literature of the seventeenth century; in his notes he has given us the results of forty years' reading, and has thus produced a volume containing more entertaining matter to those who are interested in the literary and theologo-philosophical disputes of the times, than so far as I know is elsewhere to be found. It is more than thirty years since my own attention was first called to the work (which I then little thought it would devolve upon me to complete), by the late Mark Pattison, who was struck with amazement, as many others have been, at the extraordinary amount of knowledge and reading which the notes displayed. Professor Masson (*Life of Milton*, vol. iii. p. 194) refers to it as "one of the best edited works known to me, the foot-notes being very nuggets of biographical lore."

The notes to the second volume edited by Mr. Crossley, though not of less interest, are fewer in number, particularly in the latter part; and as from the time it was issued in 1855, Mr. Crossley seems to have entirely laid the work aside, it may not unfairly be assumed that like many other editors before and since, he had become weary of the task he had undertaken.

From the year 1855, the concluding part of the *Diary and Correspondence* (vol. ii. pt. ii.) has been regularly announced among the volumes in progress, and at most of the annual meetings of the Society, inquiries were addressed to Mr. Crossley (who had been elected President in 1847, the year in which the first volume was issued), as to when it was likely to appear. For many years, the stereotyped answer was given by the President, that it was only postponed to make

way for other books of interest, and that if at any time no other work was ready, it could be completed and issued at a few weeks' notice. Of late years, and after the publications of the Society had fallen into considerable arrear, the reply was that the volume was nearly ready and would speedily appear.

Upon Mr. Crossley's death on 1 August, 1883, his niece and executrix Miss A. C. Clough, expressed her wish to edit and complete the volume, a wish, it need hardly be said, cordially acceded to by the Council of the Chetham Society; but upon her death, which occurred a year afterwards, it was found upon inquiry that no trace could be discovered either among Mr. Crossley's or Miss Clough's papers, of the transcript of the unprinted portion of the Diary and Correspondence, or of any notes, collections, or manuscripts, made or acquired by Mr. Crossley, with a view to the completion of the work. In these circumstances, the Council obtained a transcript of the remaining portion, which was made by Mr. H. Kensington, of the British Museum, from the Harleian MS., and I undertook to superintend the volume through the press. In the meantime the sale of Mr. Crossley's books and manuscripts took place. No item of the latter appeared to refer to Worthington; but in one of the lots of undescribed manuscripts, which passed into the hands of Mr. J. E. Bailey, F.S.A., the Secretary of the Chetham Society, and which consisted of a large bundle of loose sheets of paper, was found the missing transcript of the unprinted portion of the Diary and Correspondence, with one specimen page printed, but without any notes, and

it does not seem improbable that one cause of the non-appearance of the volume was, that Mr. Crossley had lost the transcript among his enormous mass of papers and books.

I cannot expect for the present volume the popularity of its predecessors. Dr. Worthington himself was a pious and learned man, possessed of a sincere devotion to his sacred calling, but no bigot; an excellent specimen of a seventeenth century clergyman and university dignitary, with abilities and attainments above the average of his fellows. But he was in no sense a remarkable man, and his diary is absolutely without interest, being chiefly a record of places where he preached, and of the state of his health. Living through one of the most exciting periods of our history, he hardly ever mentions any public event, and though a sincere Royalist, inclined in early life to Presbyterianism, he has only one mention of the king's misfortunes. On Jan. 30, 1648-9, the entry in his diary is, "King Charles was beheaded." A few matters relating to Jesus College during his Mastership, and to the University whilst he was Vice-Chancellor, are noted at somewhat greater length, and possess some little interest; but only one affair was of sufficient importance to the good doctor, to receive more than the briefest note; but this, it is true, was an affair of such transcendent importance to the Master and Fellows of the College, that we cannot be surprised that King Charles and the Parliament sink into utter insignificance beside it. Half a line is devoted to the execution of the King; two pages are occupied with the election of the College cook! The letters