

**A BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR OF SAMUEL
HARTLIB, MILTON'S FAMILIAR FRIEND;
WITH BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES OF
WORKS PUBLISHED BY HIM; AND A
REPRINT OF HIS PAMPHLET, ENTITLED "AN
INVENTION OF ENGINES OF MOTION."**

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A biographical memoir of Samuel Hartlib, Milton's familiar friend; with bibliographical notices of works published by him; and a reprint of his pamphlet, entitled "An invention of engines of motion." by H. Dircks

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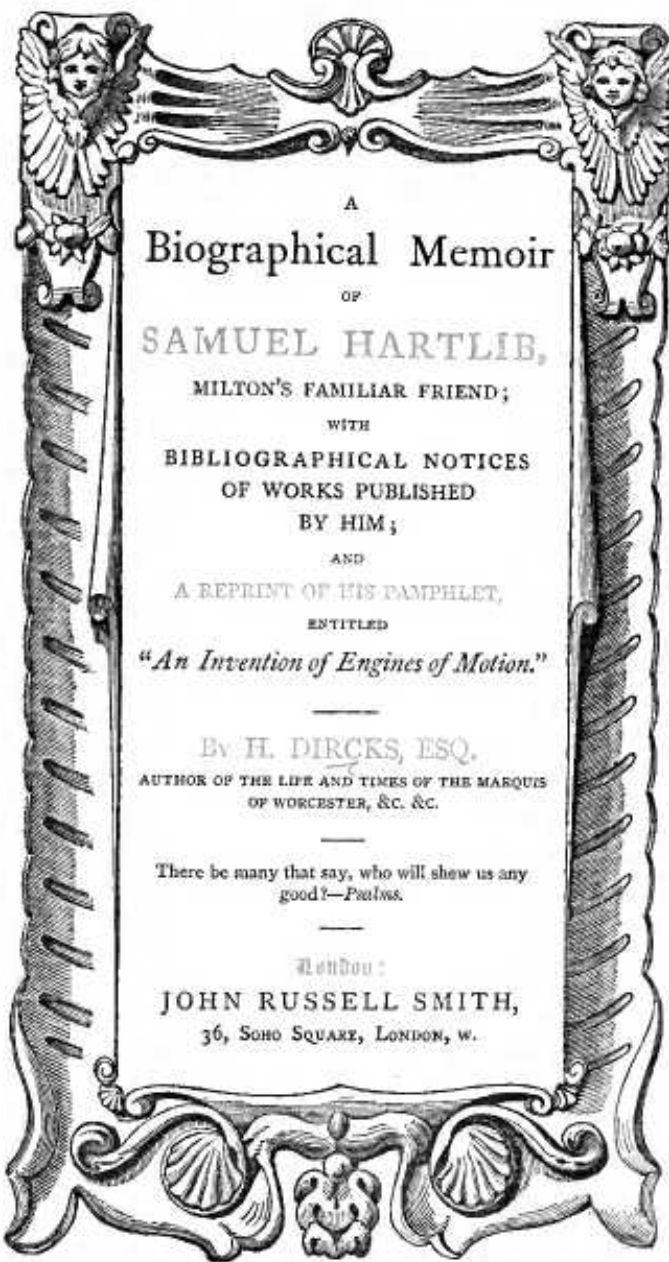
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H. DIRCKS

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A

Biographical Memoir

OF
SAMUEL HARTLIB,

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES
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BY HIM;

AND

A REPRINT OF HIS PAMPHLET,
ENTITLED

"An Invention of Engines of Motion."

By H. DIRCKS, ESQ.

AUTHOR OF THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE MARQUIS
OF WORCESTER, &c. &c.

There be many that say, who will shew us any
good?—*Psalm.*

London:

JOHN RUSSELL SMITH,
36, SOHO SQUARE, LONDON, W.

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H3D5

TO

BENNET WOODCROFT, Esq. F.R.S.

LATE PROFESSOR OF MACHINERY IN THE LONDON UNIVERSITY,
ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF PATENTS,
ETC., ETC., ETC.

DEAR SIR,

An acquaintance of one quarter of a century emboldens me to inscribe to you my present work relating to Samuel Hartlib's life and publications. I acknowledge it forms but a small memento of friendship, yet it enables me publicly to declare my sincere estimation of your character, and satisfaction that you occupy a government position, in which you are emphatically "the right man in the right place."

As the founder of the Patent Office Museum at South Kensington you have rendered an essential service to inventors, by fully informing them through its medium in respect to what has been done to effect improvements in various arts and manufactures; as well as thereby to encourage and stimulate advancement, by popularising a knowledge of the best and most approved manufactures. We have thus before us in a palpable form the historic page of the progress of our country in

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those great inventions which have mainly contributed to its present commercial wealth and importance.

What Samuel Hartlib attempted for the advancement of Society in a religious and moral point of view, in the seventeenth century, by the establishment of suitable institutions, you, in another department of social progress, have carried to a successful issue at this present time ; and it is therefore my sincere hope that your valuable life will be long spared to enable you to complete, if not to perfect, the scheme you have so ably commenced for the furtherance of national improvement in those arts that largely conduce to peace, plenty, and civilization. Believe me,

Dear Sir,

Your very sincere friend,

HENRY DIRCKS.

BLACKHEATH, KENT,
January, 1865.

PREFACE.

READERS conversant with the historic periods of Charles the First, the Commonwealth, and the restoration of monarchical government, cannot fail to have met with frequent notices of Samuel Hartlib: a man universally respected during the period in which he flourished, and one whose activity in spreading knowledge, and whose zeal in doing good, had their influence in mitigating the severe pressure of those terrible times. His biography offers one among the too many examples of the wreck, dispersion, and oblivion consequent on civil discord; like a shattered vase or broken statue the precious fragments become with time but more scattered, and less available for reproduction. The monumental gallery left us, after the ravages of civil commotion, affords striking evidences of the savagery of war, and its fearfully brutalizing influence. It is amidst the relics of the past that, in peaceful times, the biographer has to search for some remnants sacred to the noble spirits of a past age, and to select and arrange as best he can the meagre remains that

reward his dreary labours. But the memory of men like Hartlib, survives every convulsion, for great and good works, blest with a life beyond life, serve to all time, to influence and stimulate others in following like paths of usefulness.

It was while engaged on his *Life of the Marquis of Worcester*, that the author was led to inquire into the merits of a pamphlet published by Samuel Hartlib, being the substance of two letters addressed to him, by a nameless correspondent, respecting his *Invention of Engines of Motion*. Finding that Henry Lord Herbert, the son of the Marquis, had been in communication with Hartlib, the inquiry was pursued further than had been originally contemplated: which was principally increased by a desire to trace the authorship of the pamphlet in question. While this remained doubtful, it seemed not unlikely that the Marquis of Worcester himself, as well as his son, might have been intimate with the universal correspondent. Thus led step by step to secure information at every stage of the inquiry—a mass of interesting matter was accumulated respecting Hartlib himself; which it was thought might excite some attention and gratify the modern reader, if accompanied by a reprint of the scarce pamphlet that had originated the inquiry into his life.

In a literary point of view it was important to establish the true authorship of the work, and for this we now have its publisher's own statement. Scientific-

cally considered it is valuable, seeing that notices of it have (very needlessly) been considered as requisite in tracing the history of the steam engine, to which it has not the most remote relation, and from which it will doubtless, in future, be excluded by all intelligent writers.

It is a little remarkable that no fuller account of the Life of Samuel Hartlib is to be found than is supplied by the brief compilations in popular biographies, with occasional notices in bibliographical works and magazines. Yet in the early portion of the 17th century John Evelyn had been solicited to supply necessary information for a biography; and later, Mr. Todd observed in his *Life of Milton* that it was a desideratum in our literature. Warton likewise declares that Hartlib deserved well of the public; and the Rev. Walter Harte, in his *Essays on Agriculture*, acknowledges his great merits. Sir Egerton Brydges also made an attempt to promote an interest in this inquiry. He is likewise favourably noticed in *Tracts on Practical Agriculture and Gardening*; by A Country Gentleman; 8vo. 1768, and in *A history of English Gardening*, chronologically arranged, 8vo. 1829. And later writers have not been wanting to express the satisfaction which collected information would afford. Mr. James Crossley, in editing "The Diary and Correspondence of Dr. John Worthington," published by the Chetham Society in 1847, has preserved many of Hartlib's letters, and