

**THE LIFE AND  
CORRESPONDENCE OF  
THE REVEREND  
JOHN CLOWES, M. A.**

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The Life and Correspondence of the Reverend John Clowes, M. A. by Theodore Compton

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**THEODORE COMPTON**

**THE LIFE AND  
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THE  
LIFE AND CORRESPONDENCE  
OF THE  
REVEREND JOHN CLOWES, M.A.

FORMERLY FELLOW OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,  
AND Rector FOR SIXTY-TWO YEARS OF ST. JOHN'S, MANCHESTER.

BY  
THEODORE COMPTON.



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## PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

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The manuscript which formed the basis of the following Biography was written by my father-in-law, George Harrison, within a few years of Mr Clowes's decease. He read portions of it to me in 1838, at the same time stating his wish that some one with more turn for biography than he had, would take the work in hand, and make a picture from his sketch.

His own Preface to the manuscript is as follows :—" Having repeatedly requested the friends of the late Mr Clowes to commit to writing all they could recollect of him, and finding one after another following him to an eternal world without having left any such recollections behind, I felt it the more incumbent upon me to set down what came under my own observation respecting this most interesting character during his latter years ; as well as what I had gathered from himself and his personal acquaintances from an earlier period. Since I began to write, however, I have been favored with several valuable collections of letters, and notes of his conversations. I have also included the substance of the short Memoir already published, having heard it from Mr Clowes's own mouth."

More than forty years passed without any further progress being made towards a complete Life of this excellent man. Meanwhile the manuscript came into my possession, as well as

Mr Clowes's original letters to Mr Tulk, Mr Harrison, and others. Though I never had the advantage of seeing Mr Clowes, his writings have been, under Divine Providence, the principal means of my own happiness, and I esteem it a high privilege indeed to be enabled to take a humble part in bringing their pious and enlightened author before a younger generation.

The original matter collected by Mr Harrison forms but a small part of the present volume. His personal recollections are now placed in a separate chapter, and I have endeavored to improve the arrangement of the whole materials, including some corrections, and a good deal of new matter elicited by the former edition.

THEODORE COMPTON.

*Winscombe, March, 1882.*



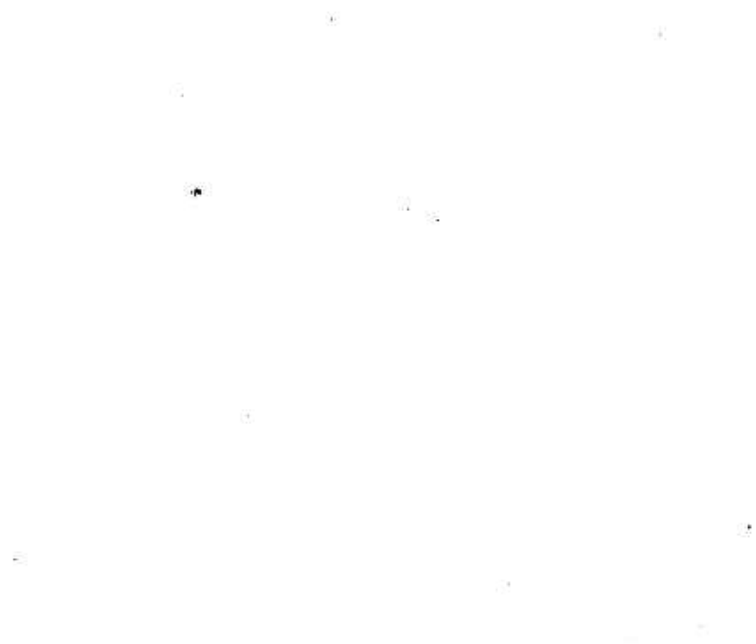
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### ERRATA.

Page 69, line 4, read "The cry of Charity was seasonable at that time. Clowes's voice was not monotonous," &c.

Page 166, line 11. The atheistical writer was Richard Carlile, not Carlyle.



## REFORMED SPELLING.

As the births of living creatures at first are ill shapen, so are all innovations, which are the births of time: yet, notwithstanding, as those that first bring honor into their family are commonly more worthy than most that succeed, so the first precedent (if it be good) is seldom attained by imitation; for ill, to man's nature as it stands perverted, hath a natural motion, strongest in continuance; but good, as a forced motion, strongest at first. Surely every medicine is an innovation, and he that will not apply new remedies must expect new evils: for time is the greatest innovator; and if time of course alter things to [for] the worse, and wisdom and counsel shall not alter them to the better, what shall be the end? It is true that what is settled by custom, though it be not good, yet at least it is fit. And those things which have long gone together, are, as it were, confederate with themselves; whereas new things piece not so well; but, though they help by their utility, yet they trouble by their inconformity; besides, they are like strangers, more admired [wondered at], and less favored. All this is true, if time stood still; which, contrariwise, moveth so round [rapidly], that a froward retention of custom is as turbulent a thing as an innovation; and they that reverence too much old times, are but a scorn to the new. It were good, therefore, that men in their innovations, would follow the example of time itself, which indeed innovateth greatly, but quietly and by degrees scarce to be perceived; for otherwise, whatsoever is new is unlooked for; and ever it mends some, and impairs others; and he that is holpen takes it for a fortune, and thanks the time; and he that is hurt, for a wrong, and imputeth it to the author. It is good also not to try experiments in States, except the necessity be urgent, or the utility evident; and well to beware, that it be the reformation that draweth on the change, and not the desire of change that pretendeth the reformation: and lastly, that the novelty, though it be not rejected, yet be held for a suspect; and, as the Scripture saith, "That we make a stand upon the ancient way, and then look about us, and discover what is the straight and right way, and so to walk in it."—*Bacon's Essays. "Of Innovations."*

The italicised sentence in the above quotation justifies an attempt to amend English spelling, which is the worst in the world. Lord Bacon elsewhere says "that writing should be consonant to speaking is a branch of unprofitable subtlety." But this censure must be considered as leveled against those crude attempts to reform our orthography which had been made in his day.

In the following pages the reader is introduced to a reformed spelling by successive stages. The first five Chapters are printed in the received orthography.

*First Stage.*—In Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, the principle of phonetic spelling is acknowledged, as far as it can be, in the use of the 23 serviceable letters of the old alphabet; *c*, *g*, and *x* being rejected as unnecessary, as duplicates of *k*, *s*.

*Second Stage.*—Five new letters are introduced in Chapter 12, namely,

*ð, ȝ, ʒ, ʒ, ʒ,*

for the sounds in *thin, sing, vision, aims, sea, faith, long, pleasure, father, bet.*

*Third Stage.*—In Chapters 13, 14, five more new letters, long vowels, are brought in; namely,

*ā, ē, ō, ō, ū,*

for the sounds in *they, field, fall, bone, boot, make, feel, fought, boat, truly.*

*Fourth Stage.*—Three more consonants,

*č, ǰ, ǧ,*

for the sounds in *čas, she, sheep, breads, wish, maak,*

complete the enlarged alphabet. They will be found in the concluding Chapters, 15, 16, 17, 18.