

**BRIEF MEMOIRS OF NICHOLAS
FERRAR: FOUNDER OF A
PROTESTANT RELIGIOUS
ESTABLISHMENT AT LITTLE
GIDDING, HUNTINGDONSHIRE**

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Brief memoirs of Nicholas Ferrar: founder of a Protestant religious establishment at Little Gidding, Huntingdonshire by Turner & T. M. MacDonogh

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TURNER & T. M. MACDONOGH

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BRIEF MEMOIRS

OF

NICHOLAS FERRAR, M.A.

FOUNDER OF A PROTESTANT RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT AT
LITTLE GIDDING, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

C. E. Thomson

Chiefly collected from a Narrative

Waukaport. pub.
BY

THE RIGHT REV. DR. TURNER,

FORMERLY LORD BISHOP OF ELY;

And now edited, with Additions,

BY

THE REV. T. M. MACDONOGH,

VICAR OF BOVINGDON.

SECOND EDITION.

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TO THE HONOURABLE
GRANVILLE DUDLEY RYDER.

THE first edition of this little volume was dedicated to my mother—it was a surprise to her. The second edition I venture to dedicate to you, to whom also it will be a surprise. Pray pardon the liberty, and accept the poor offering as it is meant.

The *first* edition was published anonymously. To the *second* I affix my name, because I care not how publicly I acknowledge myself

Your grateful

And affectionate servant,

T. M. MACDONOGH.

*Bovingdon Vicarage,
June 1837.*



PREFACE.

DR. FRANCIS TURNER, formerly Bishop of Ely, the biographer of Mr. Nicholas Ferrar, was of opinion, that "his life was not only admirable but imitable — by the gentry especially — or by his fellow-citizens, who gain plentiful estates, and then retire into the country."

He adds, in a preface intended to have been published with the Life of Ferrar: "If *some things* in this Life are rather to be admired than followed, I confess I had two ends in writing it: first, and especially, as an exemplary pattern of Christian economics; secondly, as an illustrious example of a more illuminate man in the Church of England than any, I believe, they can shew us in the Church of Rome, if they will tell us nothing but the honest truth; or any other sect whatever."

The Editor thinks, also, that the contemplation of so holy and self-denying a character

may, under the Divine blessing, have a very advantageous tendency in exciting a spirit of devotion in professing Christians, and in stimulating them to a holy emulation of those works which are the fruits, though not the foundation, of their faith. All classes of Christians may derive useful lessons from the exemplary temper and self-denying devotedness displayed in the character of this excellent man.

The Editor is aware that there is a *Life of Mr. Nicholas Ferrar* extant, by Dr. Peckard; but it is a scarce book. He is also not ignorant that that *Life* has been reprinted in Dr. Dodsworth's "*Ecclesiastical Biography*," a very valuable but voluminous work, to which comparatively few readers can have access. In the present form, the *Memoirs* are attainable by many who never would have met with them while they remained only in expensive or scarce biographical books. Of the truth of this observation the Editor has had repeated proof since the publication of the first edition; inasmuch as very many persons, of varied and extensive reading, had never even heard of Ferrar until they saw these *Memoirs*.

They are again put forth with a mixture of real diffidence and humble hope : of diffidence, lest the Editor's part of this little book should be found unworthy of the subject ; of hope, that the principles and acts of such a man and Christian as Nicholas Ferrar, as far as they are imitable—and no one without an effort knows the extent to which they are so—may, by Divine grace, be blessed, to the benefit of the Church, and the usefulness and happiness of individuals.

If any young person into whose hands this book may fall should see in Mr. Ferrar's character the rare beauty of great industry and transcendent talents united with deep humility, filial piety, and Christian devotedness ; and should be constrained by his early love to God, his useful life, and happy death, to pursue a course so lovely and so blessed ; then, indeed, will the Editor have great cause for thankfulness, in having been, in any degree, instrumental in drawing such a character more into public notice, and in exciting an imitation, although humble, of so illustrious an example.

The present edition differs from the former in this respect, that some points of historical