

**A MEMOIR OF MR. JOSEPH SEDGWICK,
LATE PASTOR OF THE CHURCH
ASSEMBLING IN EBENEZER CHAPEL,
BRIGHTON WITH EXTRACTS FROM HIS
CORRESPONDENCE AND DIARY**

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A Memoir of Mr. Joseph Sedgwick, Late Pastor of the Church Assembling in Ebenezer Chapel, Brighton with Extracts from His Correspondence and Diary by Samuel Milner

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SAMUEL MILNER

**A MEMOIR OF MR. JOSEPH SEDGWICK,
LATE PASTOR OF THE CHURCH
ASSEMBLING IN EBENEZER CHAPEL,
BRIGHTON WITH EXTRACTS FROM HIS
CORRESPONDENCE AND DIARY**

A
MEMOIR
OF
MR. JOSEPH SEDGWICK,

*Late Pastor of the Church assembling in Ebenezer
Chapel, Brighton.*

WITH

Copious Extracts from his Correspondence & Diary,

TOGETHER WITH THE

ADDRESSES DELIVERED AT THE INTERMENT,
THE FUNERAL SERMON, &c.

"Nothing ought ever to be said of me but that I loved the
truth from necessity, and shall be an eternal monument of Grace!
Grace! Grace!"—*From the Diary of the Deceased.*

London:
HOULSTON & STONEMAN, 65, PATERNOSTER ROW.

Brighton:
C. A. JOHNSON, 31, KING'S ROAD.

1853.

210. L. 374.

PREFACE.

IN presenting this little volume to the Christian public, it may be proper to say that, perhaps, there is nothing of a really novel, or particularly striking character in it, beyond other works of the same kind ; yet it is hoped there are some things which will carry with them, under the Divine anointings of the Holy Spirit, "a sweet savour of Christ" to the heart, and prove useful and refreshing to many who are yet travellers in the desert.

The subject of this memoir was a man of an exceedingly warm temperament of mind, and of strong affections ; coldness, preciseness, and formality, formed no part of his composition. He could not have existed in an ice-house of form and ceremony ; but wherever he found a genuine, generous, open, warm-hearted godliness, he was in his element. His sensibilities were very acute. Meanness, dissimulation, and treachery, were his perfect abhorrence, while he never failed to discover

a lively delight in truth and integrity, and a keen sense of kindness.

As a minister of Christ, he was strictly an *original*; his thoughts were deep, spiritual, and savoury; and *that* which he thought, felt, handled, and tasted of the word daily, was his pulpit theme from time to time. Hence there was a freshness, a vitality, a sweetness in his ministry, which made it particularly acceptable, and especially to his own people, who never grew tired of it. His manner was warm, energetic, earnest, and solemn, without any studied action or affectation. As he felt the word, so he declared it in truth and simplicity. He was led into a deep acquaintance with the plague of his own heart, and was favoured to know and enjoy the salvation of God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. It was his peculiar delight to set forth "Christ crucified" as the only source of peace, hope, and joy, as believed in, and relied upon through the power of the Holy Spirit; nor could he live happy nor preach happily, but as he had communion with the Father, and the Son, by the Spirit. He was an experimental Trinitarian.

As a pastor, he was much beloved and respected by his flock. He knew how to sympathize with them in their troubles, both spiritual and temporal, and to "speak a word in season to him that was weary." By a hint or

a look he could check the froward and unruly, and was loved and feared like a father who knows well how to govern his family ; and they all looked up to him as a ruler and guide in the house of God. His friendship was permanent, and not in general hastily formed ; but once formed, it was not soon broken ; hence, those whom he loved in his youth were the companions of his riper age, even till his death.

It was always an anxious matter with him, that he might be kept from falling, and disgracing the sacred office he sustained, and the truths he preached and loved ; and, well knowing human depravity and frailty, this, in the hand of the Lord, made him *go softly*. And through the tender mercy of God, he finished his course honourably, respected throughout the town of Brighton ; deeply lamented by his church and congregation, and beloved by many sincere friends in town and country.

It has been the aim in the following sheets, not to draw a portrait of the man, and say, is it like ! but to give the man himself as *existing* in his own narrative, diary, and letters, through a period of thirty years. And, it will be easily perceived, by his diary *particularly*, that he had lost none of his *spirituality*, freshness, love to his work or energy in it, down to his last sermon. It is believed by his friends, that his fruitfulness as a min-

ister is yet further to be developed, and that many are at this time under religious impressions through his ministry, who have not yet been brought to make a public profession of their faith in Christ.

In compiling this brief memoir, the aim has been to give the greatest *substance* in the *smallest compass* : (large volumes are looked at, but not often read ; who reads a folio ?) The *italics* and *capitals* in his diary and letters are given as they were found in his writings ; and whatever the critical grammarian may find in his *verbal emphases* to disapprove and censure, those who are acquainted with his style of preaching and writing, will immediately perceive the *marked emphasis* he would give to the words so distinguished, and the peculiarity of thought which then struck his mind.

The Funeral Sermon, and the Address at the Funeral were delivered without the least idea of their being published ; they were taken down by a reporter who attended unknown to the speakers, and would not have been published but for the wish of the friends. The sermon is a very plain and simple matter ; and in such plainness and simplicity it was purposely delivered, there being a very large concourse of persons present, many of whom, probably, knew very little about Divine things ; and to reach their consciences and inform their minds

on such a momentous subject, under the divine blessing, was the aim of the preacher. Such as it is, however, it is presented to the reader in love.

That the blessing of the triune God may attend the perusal of the following pages to the comfort and refreshing of the souls of his people, is the earnest prayer of theirs to serve in the gospel of Christ,

SAMUEL MILNER.

25, Stepney Causeway,

July 20, 1853.

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