

**A BIOGRAPHICAL &
CRITICAL SKETCH
OF DR. BEAUMONT,
THE ELOQUENT ORATOR**

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A biographical & critical sketch of dr. Beaumont, the eloquent orator by Richard Wrench

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RICHARD WRENCH

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SKETCH OF

DR. BEAUMONT,

The Eloquent Orator,

BY THE

REV. RICHARD WRENCH.

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PREFACE.

THIS little book owes its publication to the request of persons in whose judgment the Author has confidence. Having prepared and delivered it as a Lecture, the author has decided to retain it in that form.

Should this production be well received, the writer would be *prepared* to publish *Biographical and Critical Sketches*, of the following great men, viz :- JOHN FOSTER, THEOPHILUS LESSEY, CHARLES H. SPURGEON, JEREMY TAYLOR, ROBERT M. M'CHEYNE, RICHARD TREFFRY, JUN., DR. M'ALL, GEORGE GILFILLAN, JOHN HOWE, DAVID STONER, THOMAS CARLYLE, WILLIAM COBBETT, ROBERT HALL, and JOHN WESLEY ; the study of whose mental and general character has afforded the author great pleasure and profit.

As no young Minister, or literary layman in the Wesleyan Church has chosen this

portion of the field of popular literature, the present writer has ventured to enter upon it. Whether any similar production of his pen will be *published* must depend entirely upon the literary public. If the present specimen meet their approbation, the writer has materials for other *Pen-Portraits*, similar to the Sketches published by him of RICHARD WATSON, JOHN BUNYAN, &c., in the Wesleyan-Methodist Magazine. But if the public practically say, 'this is sufficient;' the author—less cheerfully it is true—but with like promptitude, after having made his best bow, would bid them adieu!

The writer trusts that he can await the public decision calmly, though not without anxiety; and is ready either to retire to solitude, or go—

"To morrow to fresh fields and pastures new."

He hopes, however, that that decision will encourage him to persevere, and prays that the Divine blessing may accompany this Biographical and Critical Sketch.

RICHARD WRENCH.

SELBY, *Dec. 15th*, 1859.

I Biographical and Critical

SKETCH OF

DR. BEAUMONT,

THE ELUQUENT ORATOR.

"Behold what fire is in his eye, what fervour on his cheek!
That glorious burst of winged words! how bound they from his
tongue! The rush of native eloquence, resistless as Niagara."

"For fame is the birthright of genius; and he recketh not how
long it be delayed."

Ours is an age of speech-making and lecturing. Intellect marches, and illiteracy flags and halts. Men extraordinary, ordinary, and less than ordinary, are lecturers. Self-appreciation is one of the chief features of the land and age we live in. 'Everybody is somebody,' and dull mediocrity boldly claims to be heard. Things and times, facts and fossils, persons and places, are the themes of

lecturers,—whose name is legion. Such being the case, to us it is verily a marvel that—with the exception of the somewhat expensive “Life” by his son,—up to the present time no one,—so far as we know—and especially no Wesleyan, has taken for his subject a man whose soul of fire and brilliancy of language, whose soaring imagination and glowing genius were the themes of never-tiring eulogy: a man who spent forty-two years of his very laborious life in preaching the glad tidings of gospel salvation, so earnestly and usefully, that by warm and general consent he was second to no one in this prolific age. Need we say that that man is the late eloquent orator, Dr. Beaumont?

Forty-two years did we say this servant of Christ, this burning luminary ran his course? What, is a man's life to be measured by the number of times the earth rotates and progresses round the sun? Verily, not. Life is to be measured by the good we get and do. Some persons, in usefulness and wisdom are children at a hundred; while others, in blessing their fellows, and in achievement and grace, are a hundred while yet young in years: or, in the words of Isaiah, “*The child shall die a hundred years old.*” At one of our Conferences a certain Superintendent complained of Dr. Beaumont's frequent absence from home, and that generally the supplies were scarcely suitable to the town congregations, to which the Doctor, in reply, exclaimed, “John Wesley, by means of his extraordinary labours, crammed into the fifty solar years which he spent as an Itinerant Preacher, five hundred years! You compel me to glory. ‘I speak as a fool,’ but, by the grace of God, I have been enabled, in the thirty years of my evangelical

ranning to and fro, to live three hundred years!" Yes, this is truth, as well as poetry, for

"That life is long which answers life's great end."

Joseph Beaumont, a barrister, has written his father's life. The biography displays considerable literary power, and a beautiful flow of filial affection, but comparatively little artistic skill. It is, we think, to be lamented, that the "life" was not written by a Minister, who was also a practised writer. Had Dr. Dixon, with his philosophic mind, and glowing descriptive powers, portrayed our subject; or William Arthur with his bewitching pen; where one now reads Beaumont's Biography, probably a hundred would. For a few incidents of the Doctor's history we are indebted to the above mentioned "life"; but we shall mostly array these incidents in our own phraseology, and in other portions of the Lecture pursue our own independent course.

The Beaumont family is of Norman descent. In its remote antiquity it took a prominent part in the wars of Palestine and Italy. The ancient name was Bellamont, which was subsequently changed to Beaumont: the Doctor was somewhat sensitive as to the pronunciation of his name, wishing the accent to be upon the *first syllable*. The change of name is presumed to have taken place about the time his ancestors settled in Leicestershire, of which county they were ancient Earls. A branch of the family migrated at an early period from Leicestershire into the West Riding of Yorkshire; and, from some of its ramifications, settled at Holmfirth, sprang the celebrated Doctor. To a branch of this family also belonged the poetical and illustrious *Francis*