

**THE ART OF  
CONTENTMENT. BY  
LADY PAKINGTON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649062881

The Art of Contentment. By Lady Pakington by W. Pridden

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**W. PRIDDEN**

**THE ART OF  
CONTENTMENT. BY  
LADY PAKINGTON**



THE  
ART OF CONTENTMENT.

BY  
LADY PAKINGTON.

A New Edition.

EDITED BY  
THE REV. W. PRIDDEN, M.A.  
VICAR OF BROXTON, BUCKS.



LONDON:  
JAMES BURNS, 17 PORTMAN STREET,  
PORTMAN SQUARE.

1841.

541.

---

## CONTENTS.

---

	PAGE
EDITOR'S PREFACE . . . . .	xi
AUTHOR'S PREFACE . . . . .	xxxix
CHAPTER I.	
Of the necessary connexion between happiness and contentment . . . . .	1
CHAPTER II.	
Of God's absolute sovereignty . . . . .	14
CHAPTER III.	
Of God's unlimited bounty . . . . .	23
CHAPTER IV.	
Of the surplussage of our enjoyments above our sufferings	46
CHAPTER V.	
Of our demerit towards God . . . . .	72
CHAPTER VI.	
Of God's general providence . . . . .	87
CHAPTER VII.	
Of God's particular providence . . . . .	98

CHAPTER VIII.		PAGE
Of the advantage of afflictions . . . . .		106
CHAPTER IX.		
Of our misfortunes compared with other men's . . . . .		127
CHAPTER X.		
Of particular aids for the gaining contentment . . . . .		145
CHAPTER XI.		
Of resignation . . . . .		159
THE CLOSE . . . . .		170





THE treatise which is here reprinted has long been valued by good judges as one of the best practical Christian treatises which our language contains ; and many religious persons have borne witness to the comfort they have found in it under severe trials. But it has become scarce, and is now difficult to be met with in a separate form. It is to be found among the collected works of the author of the *Whole Duty of Man* ; an author whose writings will be treasured by the Christian reader as long as the English language is spoken, and wherever the English Church is known. But as these collected works, from their great bulk, are not accessible to the generality of readers, and they are not all of equal merit, selection has been made of one well-approved treatise, which seems to



offer a kind of religious advice best suited for these times.

The name of Dorothy, Lady Pakington, is now prefixed for the first time; because it is presumed that the evidence ascribing it to that excellent person is sufficiently strong to warrant the appearance of her name in the title-page. It is certainly one of the most remarkable cases in the history of letters, that the name of the author of a series of treatises so popular should have remained so effectually concealed. Never were so many anonymous writings published with a design so pure. The opinion, however, which assigns them to Lady Pakington is not of any recent origin; it has been handed down from the time of the first appearance of these writings; it has lately become more general, and it is confirmed by private tradition, as well as some public testimonies.

It is well known that the house of Sir John Pakington, Bart., Westwood, in the county of Worcester, was a place of refuge in the time of Cromwell's usurpation to many eminent sufferers of the King's party, and especially to that pattern of Christian constancy and primitive zeal for the truth, Dr. Henry Hammond, whose life and writings remain

for the instruction of all ages that have come after. Here that great and good man was cherished for the last ten years of his life by the worthy owner of the mansion and his pious lady; and here, just before the restoration of the royal family, according to his own heart's prayer, he peacefully resigned his soul to his Maker, April 25, 1660.

It was known at the first appearance of these treatises, that the author was a friend of Hammond; and this is almost the only fact concerning the author, which can be said to have been certainly known. Lady Pakington's warm regard for her distinguished guest was such as to give her the best of all possible titles to be called his friend: it is instanced in other particulars mentioned in Bishop Fell's *Life of Hammond*, and more especially by the following impressive and affecting anecdote:

“There was one Houseman, a weaver by trade, but by weakness disabled too much to follow that or any other employment, who was an extreme favourite of Dr. Hammond's. Him he used with a most affectionate freedom, gave him several of his books, and examined his progress in them, invited him, nay, importuned him still, to come for whatever he needed, and at his death left him ten pounds as a legacy. A

little time before his death, he and the Lady Pakington being walking, Houseman happened to come by; to whom, after the Doctor had talked a while in his usual friendly manner, he let him pass; yet soon after called him back with these words: 'Houseman, if it should please God that I should be taken from this place, let me make a bargain between my lady and you, that you be sure to come to her with the same freedom you would to me for any thing you want.' And so with a most tender kindness gave him his benediction. Then turning to the lady, he said, 'Will you not think it strange I should be more affected at parting from Houseman than from you?'<sup>1</sup>

It cannot be surprising that one whose Christian benevolence and discernment were thus appreciated by Hammond, should have been, as Fell relates of her, a person who delighted much in the attractive discourses of her guest, and who could imbibe their spirit. It has long been handed down and confidently received as a family tradition, and there is a small apartment in the top of the house at Westwood, which has always been pointed out as the room in which Lady Pakington, with the assistance

<sup>1</sup> Fell's Life of Hammond, ed. 1661. p. 162, 3.