

A sketch of the life and character of the late Charles Brandon Trye, Esq. F.R.S., senior surgeon of the infirmary at Gloucester / by Daniel Lysons.

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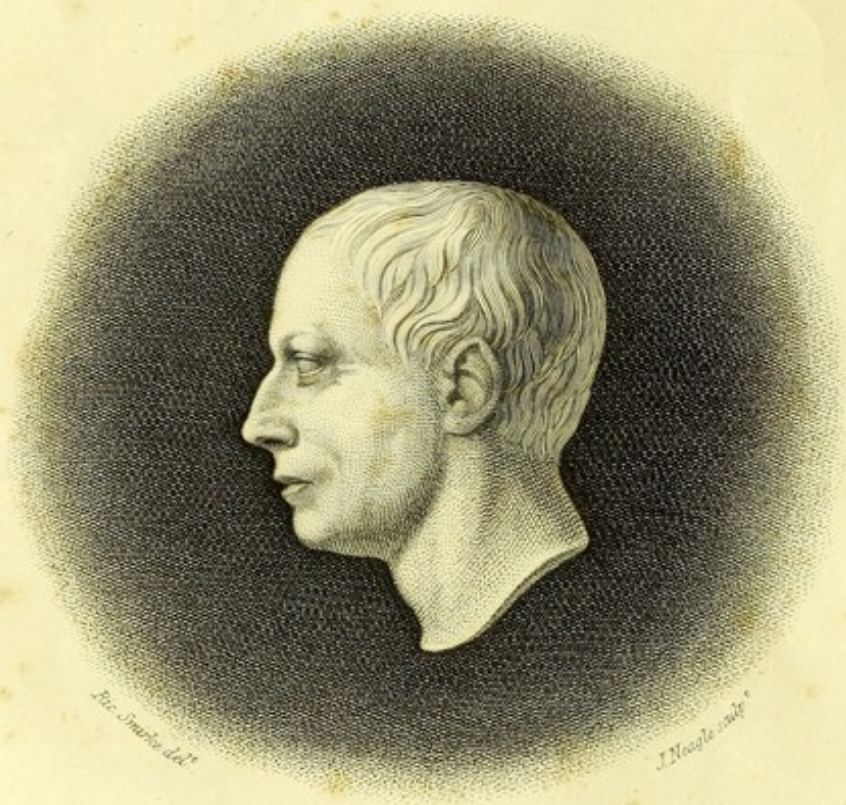
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Charles Brandon Frye Esq. F. R. S.

from a Bust by Chas. Rossi R. A.

A
SKETCH
OF THE
LIFE AND CHARACTER
OF THE LATE
CHARLES BRANDON TRYE, ESQ. F.R.S.
SENIOR SURGEON OF THE INFIRMARY
AT GLOUCESTER.
BY THE
REV. DANIEL LYSONS, M.A. F.R.S. & F.S.A.
ONE OF HIS EXECUTORS.

GLOUCESTER:
PRINTED BY D. WALKER.

1812.

SKETCH

OF THE

TEMPERATURE

AT THE SITE OF THE

CHARLES BRADON TRINITY B.P. F.R.S.

RESIDENT HOUSE OF THE

AT GLOUCESTER

BY THE

REV. DANIEL JONES M.A. F.R.S.

PRINTED BY

THE AUTHOR

GLOUCESTER
PRINTED BY J. WALKER

1811

TO

THE FRIENDS

OF THE LATE

CHARLES BRANDON TRYE, ESQ.

THE FOLLOWING PAGES,

CHIEFLY INTENDED FOR THEIR PERUSAL,

ARE RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY

THE AUTHOR.

TO

THE FRIENDS

OF THE CAUSE

CHARLES BRADBURY TRYE, ESQ.

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CHIEFLY INTENDED FOR THEIR PERUSAL

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SKETCH

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LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF THE LATE

CHARLES BRANDON TRYE, ESQ.

THE late CHARLES BRANDON TRYE was descended from an ancient family, who are supposed to have taken their name from a place in Normandy so called. The family of de Trye was of considerable consequence in France: Sir Reginald de Trye, was slain in a battle with the Flemings, between Courtray and Bruges, in the year 1302;* Matthew de Trye, Marechal of France, did homage to King Edward II. in 1322, for lands in Ponthieu;† and Sir James de Trye is mentioned among the French prisoners who were in England in the third year of the reign of Henry V.‡

The first of the family who is known to have been resident in Gloucestershire, was Reginald, or Rawlin de Trye, who

* Trivet's Annals, p. 332.

† Rot. Pat. 16 Edw. II.

‡ Rot. Norman.

married Margaret, daughter and heir of Thomas de Berkeley (grandson of Maurice Lord Berkeley, who died in 1281.) The family continued to reside on an estate which was the inheritance of this Margaret, till the year 1447, when, in consequence of the marriage of John, great grandson of Rawlin, with Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of Almeric Boteler á Park, they became possessed of Hardwicke Court, and fixed their residence at that place. William, the elder son of this John Trye, married Isabella, daughter of James Lord Berkeley, and sister of William Marquis of Berkeley; John, his second son, who had been one of the Representatives of the city of Gloucester in the reign of Edward IV. was, by King Richard III. in 1483, appointed the first Mayor of that city.

John Trye, Esq. of Hardwicke Court, grandson of William, married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Gournay, and niece of Charles Brandon Duke of Suffolk, who, on the decease of the infant Dukes, his sons, who died on the same day, of the sweating sickness, in 1551, was adjudged to be one of their co-heiresses, in preference to sisters of the half blood; and the Tryes in consequence inherited an eighth part of the Duke's large estates. The descendants of this John Trye continued to reside at Hardwicke Court, in a state of opulence and respectability, for five generations.

Thomas Trye, (son of William Trye, who was one of the Representatives for the city of Gloucester in two Parliaments during King William's reign, and in the first Parliament of Queen Anne,) having dissipated the greater part of the inheritance of his ancestors, sold Hardwicke Court, their ancient

residence, with the manors of Hardwicke and Haresfield, and a considerable estate in Yorkshire, to Sir Philip Yorke, then Attorney-General, who, when he became Lord Chancellor, and was created a Peer in 1733, took his title of Baron, and afterwards, on his advancement to an Earldom, that of Earl, from Hardwicke, in the county of Gloucester.

The late Charles Brandon Trye was the elder son of the Rev. John Trye, of Haresfield, (Rector of Leckhampton,) second son of Thomas above mentioned, by his wife Mary, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Norwood, Rector and Patron of Leckhampton. He was born August 21, 1757. At the age of seven, he was placed at the grammar-school at Cirencester. His father died when he was in his ninth year; and his mother, of whose pious care, in instructing him from his earliest childhood in religious duties, he ever cherished the most grateful remembrance, survived him about two years. He was distinguished at school as a boy of bright parts, and soon acquired the common attainments of scholastic education. A facility of writing Latin, which he then possessed, he retained through life, as appears by a medical work which he left behind him in that language, and a brief memoir of himself found amongst his papers. In this sketch he laments, that, in his early youth, with an ardent thirst for knowledge, and a desire to explore the higher walks of literature, he had no guide to direct his course. “*Dux nullus adfuit, qui me per vias scientiæ doctrinæque altiores festinare cupientem duceret: volitare non ausus, humi repsi. Piget me, eternumque pigebit tot dierum, quæ, invita natura, inertia, ineptiaque scholastica, confeci.*”

The advantages of an University education were not attainable for the children of the younger son of an impoverished family: Mr. Trye's friends did their utmost, when, having selected for him the medical profession, they gave him that education which would enable him to make its practice a source of livelihood to himself, and advantage to the public. In the month of March 1773, being then fifteen years of age, he was placed as an apprentice to Mr. Hallward, a respectable apothecary at Worcester, whom he describes as a sagacious and worthy man: and during the two last years of his apprenticeship, he studied under the late Mr. Russell, a very eminent surgeon at that place, and was one of his pupils at the Infirmary. We may easily credit him when he says, that, during his apprenticeship and pupilage, he diligently applied himself to the study of every branch of the art of healing. In the month of January 1780, at the age of twenty-two, he quitted Worcester; and, at this period of his life, he thus modestly describes his own character. "*Viginti duo annos natus, tirocinium deposui, per divinam gratiam vitiis paucis imbutus, religionis veræ observans, scientiæ amantissimus, vanæ gloriæ nimium appetens, mundi parum gnarus.*"

On the 27th of January 1780, he was chosen Apothecary to the Infirmary at Gloucester: and during the time which he continued in that office, he applied himself diligently to clinical studies, and to the practice of surgery, taking every opportunity of improving his knowledge of anatomy by dissection. In the month of September 1782, he went to London, where he was, for nearly twelve months, house-

surgeon at the Westminster Hospital, being pupil to Mr. Watson, a man very eminent in his day, then surgeon to that institution. During his residence in London, he attended the lectures of John Hunter, whom he appositely calls "*artis suæ et seculi, decus et lumen;*" Mr. Pott, and others of the most eminent teachers in the various branches of medical science; particularly the celebrated anatomist, Mr. Sheldon, whom he assisted in his lectures at the Royal Academy, and with whom he was about to enter into partnership, when circumstances occurred which induced him to settle in his native county.

In the month of July 1784, he was appointed senior Surgeon of the Infirmary at Gloucester, an office which he held till his death, with the highest degree of credit to himself, and of advantage to the institution, for which he ever entertained the warmest regard.

In 1793, in conjunction with the late Rev. Thomas Stock, he established a Charity for the Relief of Poor Lying-in Women, which was carried on by them for seven years, with the assistance of a few friends, at their own expence, with the aid of his professional skill in all cases of extraordinary difficulty. Having been attended with the most beneficial effects, even on this limited scale, it was recommended to the public at large, in a printed address, in the month of July 1800; ever since which time it has been liberally patronized, and found productive of every benefit intended by its benevolent founders.

When his friend and school-fellow, Dr. Jenner, brought forward his important discovery of the Vaccine Inoculation,

in the year 1798, Mr. Trye had at first considerable doubts with respect to a system which was apparently so inconsistent with the ordinary operations of nature; but having, with a liberal spirit of inquiry, given it a fair trial, he became convinced of its efficacy and superior advantages, and promoted its use, not only by his practice and by his pen, but by his personal influence, in giving effect to the Association for promoting Cow Pox, and discouraging Small Pox Inoculation, which was instituted in the county of Gloucester in the month of April 1810, for the purpose of checking the unlimited dissemination of small-pox contagion, and affording every facility to the practice of vaccination, by establishing institutions at Gloucester, and other places in the county, as should be deemed expedient.

The month of March 1797, was an important epoch in Mr. Trye's life. His cousin, Henry Norwood, Esq. of Leckhampton, with the intention of preventing the inheritance of his ancestors from being dissipated by an improvident near relative, (the last heir-male of that ancient family, since deceased without issue,) bequeathed him the whole of his estates, consisting of the manor and advowson of Leckhampton, and the greater part of the landed property of that parish, (which had been possessed by the Norwoods, and their immediate maternal ancestors, the Giffards, from the time of Edward I.) subject to certain annuities to his nearest of kin.

Having thus the means in his power of placing his family in that situation of life which his forefathers had filled, he formed, nevertheless, the prudent, and, for his neighbourhood, the happy resolution of continuing in the practice of his profes-

sion; upon the emoluments of which he still maintained his family, living in his accustomed style, and keeping a plain but hospitable table, whilst he appropriated the income of his newly acquired estate to the most honourable and praiseworthy purposes; punctually discharging the whole of the large personal debts of his deceased relation; and improving the estate, by the eligible addition of adjacent lands, of which, at several times, he purchased at least 200 acres.

Having all his lifetime been attached to agricultural pursuits, and fond of embarking in schemes of public utility, for the planning of which he possessed considerable talents, he kept part of the estate in his own hands, for the purpose of improving the land by experimental culture; and he laid the foundation of making the barren rock of Leckhampton-hill the source of future profit to his family. Having ascertained that the stone of this rock was of an excellent quality, and capable of being worked with great facility, he caused quarries to be opened, and, at his own expence, constructed a railway (with an inclined plane) from the quarries, to join the public railway lately made under the powers of an Act of Parliament, from the Bath road to Cheltenham, and thence to Gloucester; by means of which convenience the Leckhampton stone may be brought thither, and conveyed up and down the River Severn. Mr. Trye's private railway, together with that branch of the public railway which leads from the Bath road to the town of Cheltenham, was opened on the 2d of July 1810; the railway from Cheltenham to Gloucester on the 4th of June, in the following year.

On Thursday, October 3, 1811, Mr. Trye was seized,

about one o'clock in the morning, with what was apparently an attack of *cholera morbus*; the evacuations from the stomach and bowels continuing for several hours. When first seen by his medical friends, Dr. Jenner and Dr. Baron, he was lying in a lethargic state, his breathing loud, the pulse in one arm not to be felt at all, and in the other barely perceptible. From this condition he was roused by powerful stimulants, both external and internal. Towards night, the symptoms denoting an affection of the head became more unequivocal; and although they were occasionally so much relieved as to afford some prospect at least of temporary recovery, yet they were never completely removed. On Sunday, the 6th, about two o'clock, they increased so rapidly that all hopes of his recovery were relinquished by his physicians. About five o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, the 7th of October, having been blessed apparently with a perfect exemption from sufferings either mental or corporeal, he resigned his soul into the hands of his Maker, and thus closed a life of exemplary virtue, and of eminent public utility.

It appeared, on opening the head, that the brain was in a very diseased state. Blood was extravasated upon the posterior surface of the left hemisphere. The *pia mater* was very much thickened, and the blood-vessels upon its surface equalled the size of small crow-quills. To one *choroid plexus* was attached a cluster of *hydatids*, and to the other a small quantity of earthy or bony matter.

Mr. Trye left eight children, three sons and five daughters, by Mary, eldest daughter of the Rev. Samuel Lysons,

Rector of Rodmarton, to whom he was married in the month of May 1792. His remains were deposited, on the 12th of October, in the church-yard of St. Mary de Crypt, Gloucester, in a spot which he had himself pointed out as the place of his interment.

It was the intention of his executors to have placed a monument to his memory in the Cathedral Church of Gloucester: but having been earnestly solicited, that this might be done by a subscription amongst his numerous friends, as a public and lasting mark of their regret for his loss, and veneration for his memory, they have been induced, by this gratifying token of the esteem in which their relation was held, to forego their intention, and in lieu of it to put up a plain tablet in the church of Leckhampton, with an inscription which he had himself prepared.

To speak of Mr. Trye's medical character, (and in so doing it should be observed, that I am happy to avail myself of the sentiments and language of the medical friends who attended him in his last illness,) "his conduct, on every occasion, evinced not less his anxiety for the welfare of his patients, than for the dignity and improvement of his profession. Determined that in his hands it should never be debased by being rendered the source of unworthy gain, he chose rather to expose himself to the charge of neglect, than to seek for an augmentation to his emoluments by protracting what appeared to him an unnecessary, and therefore selfish attendance. Whenever his care was actually required, it was most assiduously and kindly bestowed; but he would not consent that his own interests should be promoted, by

driving a successful trade through the medium of the unfounded apprehensions of his patients. This high mindedness and integrity certainly much diminished his professional income; but it secured his self-esteem, and the respect and affection of all who knew him.

“ Deeply skilled in all the branches of his art, penetrating and accurate in his observations, his opinions were formed with promptitude, and executed with energy and decision. These qualities were invariably evinced amid the trying and agitating events of the capital operations of surgery. Confident of the extent of his own knowledge, he was cool, dexterous, and intrepid; and the embarrassing circumstances which, in such scenes, occur more or less to every operator, never either obscured his judgment, or caused him for one moment to lose sight of the most effectual means of benefiting his patient. In combating unlooked for difficulties, or in supplying expedients for the pressing exigencies of the moment, he always displayed an inventive and original mind, which gained alike the confidence and admiration of all who witnessed his exertions. The results of his practice were what might have been expected from such qualifications, the most hazardous operations having been performed by him with a degree of success which rewards only the most distinguished of his profession.”

Mr. Trye first appeared as an author in the year 1784, when he published a pamphlet entitled, “*Remarks on Morbid Retentions of Urine.*” His subsequent publications were,

“*A Review of Jesse Foote's Observations on the Venereal*

Disease, (being a Reply to his Attack on Mr. John Hunter.) 1787.

“*An Essay on the Swelling of the Lower Extremities, incident to Lying-in Women.*” 1792.

“*Illustrations of some of the Injuries to which the Lower Limbs are exposed;*” (with plates.) 1802.

“*Essay on some of the Stages of the Operation of Cutting for the Stone.*” 1811.

Mr. Trye had printed great part of a Treatise on Aneurism, in Latin, about the year 1801, and laid it aside; but it is believed, that, a short time before his death, he had an intention of completing it. He left behind him a large collection of cases, and other manuscripts, chiefly on professional subjects. If any of these should on examination appear to be in a state sufficiently correct, and should contain any particulars which may be thought new or important, it is the intention of his executors, with the assistance of some of their medical friends, to make a selection for publication, uniting them with such of his pamphlets as it may be deemed adviseable to reprint.

Of Mr. Trye it may justly be said, that he had as few vices, and as few frailties, as most men: those which fell to his lot, appear to have been much subdued by that deeply impressed sense of religion which, in the midst of intense application to the studies of his profession, formed the predominant feature in his character, without abating the natural cheerfulness of his disposition. In his conduct towards God and man, he seems to have attained, in a great measure, that state of piety and morality which he aspired

to in his early prayers, from one of which the following is an extract :

“ In my moral conduct give me grace to observe constantly the golden rule, *to do unto all men as I would they should do unto me* ; to promote, as far as I can, the temporal and eternal welfare of all mankind. Let a spirit of charity influence all my thoughts, words, and actions ; that charity which vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, thinketh no evil. Give me courage at all times to vindicate my neighbour, when I know he is wronged ; and make me, as far as I am able, on all occasions the undaunted defender of innocence. Make me ready to forgive injuries, nor let me ever revenge them, but out of a regard to justice, and the good of mankind. Teach me to mourn with them that mourn, and rejoice with them that rejoice ; give me a heart to feel for the distresses of my fellow-creatures, and a hand to relieve them to the extent of my power ; make me friendly to my equals, respectful to my superiors, condescending to my inferiors, grateful to my benefactors, affable to all. Give me true Christian humility ; make me firm and stedfast in my friendships ; and bless me, O Lord, with discernment to chuse real friends. Make me punctual in the performance of my words and promises ; make me, O Lord, the noblest of thy works, an honest man.

“ In my religious services, let me wait ever upon thee with a pure heart, at once free from enthusiasm and indevotion ; from superstition, and every stain of infidelity. Let me ever submit my reason to faith, founded on rea-

“sonable evidence; believing in thee, the eternal God,
“and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. Let me fol-
“low after Jesus Christ in all humility; let me live in
“thee; let me die in thee; and, through thy mercy,
“and the merits of thy Son, be received into thy hea-
“venly kingdom.”

Mr. Trye having, from an early period of life, been impressed with religious ideas, by the pious care of his mother, that impression was never eradicated: but so devoid of ostentation was his character,* and so unlike to pharasaical was his devotion, that his nearest friends did not know how deeply he had thought of these matters till after his decease, when, among his private papers, they found the sketch of his life which has already been spoken of, and several prayers and meditations which would have done honour to the pen of the most eminent divines.

Among these are forms of prayer for the anniversaries of his birth-day; of the 28th of October 1770, when the house in which he then lived was near being reduced to ashes; and of the 8th and 23d of August, on each of which days he experienced a providential escape from death; on the one from being crushed by the fall of a booth; and on the other from being drowned in the River Severn. The dates of the year are not mentioned; but they were both during his apprenticeship at Worcester. These forms of prayer

* It is a remarkable instance of his want of ostentation, that, when a friend presented him with an original portrait of his collateral ancestor, Charles Brandon Duke of Suffolk, though gratified with the present, he would never consent to have it hung up in either of his sitting-rooms, but placed it in a bed-chamber, where it remained till his death.

consist of collects and other selections from the Liturgy, with proper psalms and lessons, and an occasional prayer and thanksgiving. The following is an extract from that for the 8th of August.

“ More especially for the repeated favours to me, thine
“ unworthy servant, now prostrate at the foot of thy mercy-
“ seat, do I desire, O God, to laud and praise thee. Glory
“ be to thee for causing me to be born of Christian pa-
“ rents; that I was taught in my infancy to know thee,
“ the true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent;
“ for preserving me from the snares of heresy, of schism,
“ and irreligion; for giving me grace to receive and stand
“ fast in the true faith; for numbering me by the holy
“ mystery of baptism with the congregation of Christians;
“ for all the assistances I have had to enable me to observe
“ my infant vows, and for participation of the body and
“ blood of my Lord and God, in the holy sacrament. For
“ whatever sin I have at any time escaped, for whatever
“ good I have done or thought, glory be to thee.
“ I bless thee likewise, O Father of Mercies, for all thy
“ temporal blessings to me; for my good education in use-
“ ful human learning; for all the faculties of my body and
“ soul; for the competency of living I enjoy; for the many
“ friends thou hast blessed me with; for my health and
“ strength; for all I am or have been, glory be to thee.
“ Had I the tongue of angels to hymn thy praises, and
“ thank thee according to the prodigies of thy bounteous
“ goodness, the tongue of angels would have failed in its
“ attempt to offer a worthy sacrifice of thanksgiving. How

“ then shall I, frail, finite, earthly worm, be equal to the
“ task. What can I do but fall down before thee in silent
“ gratitude, reflect, wonder, and adore? Oh! thou inex-
“ hausted fountain of perfection, thou knowest the secrets
“ of my heart; though the frailty of my nature cannot ex-
“ press my thankfulness and gratitude, thy eyes can read
“ it in the innermost tablets of my heart.

“ Particularly for that instance of thy benign Providence
“ which I now commemorate, do I acknowledge thy good-
“ ness. How did thy hand support me in the hour of
“ peril, so that not a hair of my head fell to the ground.
“ Though swallowed up in the pleasures of dissipation,
“ and without thee, my God, in all my thoughts, thou didst
“ not forget the worthless sheep of thy pasture: but when
“ my feet had slipped and stumbled, thy stretched out
“ hand withheld me from falling. What am I, O Lord,
“ that thou hast been mindful of me. Conceived and born
“ in sin, and in sin proceeding every hour of my life, am I
“ thus deserving of thy guidance and protection? Praise
“ the Lord, oh! my soul; all that is within me praise his
“ holy name!”

Mr. Trye was habitually a thinking man: although from early prejudices, therefore, he had imbibed a sense of religion, and had been instructed in the principles of the Church of England, he did not rest satisfied with an acquiescence in its doctrines, without a minute inquiry into their nature, the result of which he committed to writing. To his discussion of the Articles of the Church of England, he has annexed his assent severally to each article; and

some of them, particularly that relating to predestination, he has treated of at considerable length. The progress of his sentiments, and of his growth in virtue, may be traced by the various prayers and meditations which have been found among his papers; and it is a pleasing reflection, that the general tenor of his life, and his constant attention to the duties of religion, evince that God had granted his prayers, and confirmed his virtuous resolutions.

In the year 1788, in consequence of an occasional, but, as it appears, a voluntary absence from public worship, he committed to paper the following reflections and prayer:

“ Thus, at no season of this day, have I joined in the
“ assembly of Christians, to offer up my prayers and praises
“ to him on whose mercy and pleasure I depend for all my
“ success in this world, and all my happiness in the next.
“ I never feel my mind so easy, or my spirits so good, as
“ when I have embraced an opportunity of being present
“ at the service of the church. When I have neglected it, no
“ necessary engagement preventing me, I feel a cloudiness
“ hang about my mind, which company does not correct.
“ That uncomfortable state of mind I have experienced
“ this day; and to amend it a little, I have passed the af-
“ ternoon with an intelligent acquaintance; but still my
“ thoughts are disturbed, and I have an internal sensation
“ of inexplicable distress. I have wasted this day, 'tis true,
“ in idleness and in folly. I make this reflection at the ele-
“ venth hour; but nevertheless my contrition, I will trust,
“ comes not too late. God is merciful, long suffering, and
“ of great goodness: he quencheth not the smoking flax,

“ nor breaketh the bruised reed. It is surely of him that I
 “ feel this disquietude in my mind. Conscience, his repre-
 “ sentative on earth, tells me I am doing wrong; and I
 “ am assured by the holy scriptures, that if I cease to do
 “ evil, and amend my life, I shall receive pardon of my
 “ Judge. Whoever feels his own weakness, and desires
 “ to receive help from above, is not far from the king-
 “ dom of heaven; but he may still miss of entrance into
 “ it, if he do not strive earnestly to obtain that help. O
 “ God, and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, father of the
 “ human race, all merciful as almighty, forgive me what
 “ is past; send me the assistance of thy holy spirit, to guide
 “ me in future in the paths of righteousness and holiness,
 “ that thus I may attain to the living in that peace which
 “ passeth all understanding, and die in the comfortable
 “ assurance of rising again to immortal happiness.”

In another paper, written about the same time, are the
 following meditations and prayer: “ To-morrow I begin a
 “ new quarter; time flies away, and we take little note of
 “ its course, though it is continually bringing us nearer to
 “ that serious moment, when we must exchange it for eter-
 “ nity. I have made, and broken, numerous good and
 “ virtuous resolutions. Once again I will try, by the as-
 “ sistance of the divine grace, to frame my life by good
 “ and prudent regulations. To-day, whilst it is called to-
 “ day, will I be serious! Oh! Thou who art the author
 “ of all good counsels, direct my footsteps in the paths of
 “ wisdom. Let piety, charity, and integrity, influence all
 “ my thoughts, words, and actions. Grant unto me pardon

“ and peace. Give unto me that wisdom which is from
“ above, and grant me perseverance in obedience to its dic-
“ tates. Hear me, O Lord, from heaven, thy dwelling-place;
“ and give unto me those things which, from my ignorance,
“ I omit to ask, and for my unworthiness I dare not; and
“ this I beg for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.”

The behaviour of this excellent man upon his death-bed, was such as might have been expected from the general tenor of his life; from one who had lived in an uniform course of piety towards God, and benevolence towards his fellow-creatures, and who confidently trusted in the atoning merits of his Redeemer. He was thankful for the attentions of all his friends, particularly of those of the medical profession, who watched over him with the most anxious solicitude; and he cheerfully submitted to their advice, even when his own knowledge of the hopelessness of his case convinced him that it would be unavailing. The certainty of his approaching end gave him no disquietude; the prayers against the fear of death, which he had frequently offered to the throne of grace, were doubtless granted. It appears, indeed, by passages in his own sketch of his life, that he had overcome that fear long before he was seized with the severe illness which terminated in his dissolution.

About four-and-twenty hours before his death, he was roused by the application of powerful stimulants, from a lethargic state, to the full possession of his mental faculties; when, from his knowledge of the human frame, being convinced that a few hours must close his earthly existence, he gave various minute directions respecting his affairs,

with the utmost composure, having previously to his illness settled the most important of his worldly concerns. The remainder of the short time during which he was blessed with the faculties of reason, was employed in prayer; and the last act of his life was the receiving of that holy sacrament, of which he had for many years been a constant and devout partaker, and in which he joined with as much attention, and as great composure, as when in perfect health! The whole of his demeanor, during the last awful scene, was that of a devout Christian, who, with a conscience void of notorious offence, and a lively trust in the merits of his Redeemer, looks forward with humble confidence to the blessed hope of immortality promised in the gospel to the righteous; affording to his surviving friends the consoling assurance, that he possessed, during his last moments, those feelings which he so well described, some years before, in a letter to a friend, on the immateriality of the soul.

“ Ere long the curtain will be dropt, and the world for
“ ever hid from my eye. If I am permitted to pass my
“ last hours on my bed, and reason and understanding
“ shall not have forsaken me before I have notice of my
“ approaching end, tell me, my friend, which side the
“ question I shall wish the truth on, and from which hy-
“ pothesis I shall draw the greatest consolation?

“ On the one hand, though I behold the world, with all
“ my heart holds most dear in it, sinking from my em-
“ brace, and beginning to be covered with the shades of
“ night, yet my mind, if supported by the conscience of a
“ well-spent life, looks beyond them, and cherishes my

“ drooping spirits with a fairer prospect! Rays of light
 “ break in upon me: reason, and my creed, give me as-
 “ surances not to be doubted of, that, though my frail
 “ body is shortly to become food for worms, and moulder
 “ in the dust, yet that my soul, that *I myself*, shall sur-
 “ vive triumphant over the king of terrors; that though in
 “ a few moments the important change must take place,
 “ yet that change will render me completely happy; that
 “ though I am bidding a mournful adieu to the earthly
 “ objects of my esteem and love, yet that I am going to
 “ be welcomed to still better joys. That whilst my body,
 “ this earthly tabernacle, is being prepared for its inter-
 “ ment and corruption, I myself shall be introduced, by
 “ the angelic host, into the company of disembodied saints,
 “ into the assembly of just men made perfect, and be pre-
 “ sented before the throne of the Great Ancient of days,
 “ in whose presence is the fulness of joy for evermore.

“ With such assurances, who will not, with his last breath,
 “ exclaim, *O Death! where is thy sting? O Grave! where*
 “ *is thy victory?* Strike, Death, thy friendly blow; thy
 “ dart is the key that shall open to me the gates of life, of
 “ light, of felicity never to change, never to cease! Ho-
 “ sanna! Hallelujah!”

To this imperfect sketch of the life and character of a
 most excellent man, and a most valuable member of so-
 ciety, I shall subjoin one or two devotional pieces, which
 do much honour to his memory, and will, no doubt, be
 read by his friends with a great degree of interest.

For Grace to discharge the Duties of his Profession.

“ALMIGHTY GOD! Maker of Heaven and Earth, in
“whom we live, and move, and have our being; I thy
“most unworthy servant humbly desire to offer thee my
“unfeigned thanks for thy goodness and mercy, in pre-
“serving me through all the dangers of youth, until now.
“O my God, assist me with thy grace, that I may pass
“through every stage of my life with innocence and purity
“of heart; increase my abilities, if it be thy good will,
“and enable me on every occasion, by my life and ex-
“ample, to shew forth the dignity of human nature, and
“to act as a being endowed with a reasoning capacity,
“and deserving thy favour, in exalting us so high above
“thy other creatures. I know, O Lord, the weakness of
“my nature, and my own insufficiency: without thee, I
“can do no good thing; therefore to thee I flee for suc-
“cour and protection, against all the enemies to my pre-
“sent and future happiness.

“As thou hast ordained that man should be born to
“labour, O aid me with thy spirit, ever to work the thing
“that is good. Give me a thorough detestation of idle-
“ness, a constant and most diligent care of my time, and
“an unceasing and indefatigable desire to promote thy
“glory, and the good of mankind. Direct me, O Lord,
“to the most worthy pursuits and studies; and bless and
“prosper my labours and undertakings, both of body and
“mind. More especially, O God, author of every useful
“science, assist me in the discharge of the duties of my

“ worldly profession, and improve my abilities therein.
“ Excite in me an universal philanthropy, a most sincere
“ and tender regard to the health of all who fall under my
“ care ; let no mean prospects of lucre tempt me to any
“ unjust or dishonourable measures. Supply me, O Lord,
“ with Christian indifference in the practice of my pro-
“ fession, that, without regard to their outward circum-
“ stances, I may consider all my suffering fellow-creatures
“ as equally entitled to my most diligent attention. Take
“ from me presumption, obstinacy, and prejudice ; and give
“ me at all times a true and humble knowledge of my own
“ capacity. On every occasion, O God, direct my steps
“ in the paths of charity, candour, humility, sincerity, and
“ honour.
“ Heal in me, O Physician of Souls ! whatever wounds
“ sin has inflicted, and preserve me for the time to come
“ from every injury my spiritual enemies may covet to
“ annoy me with. Permit likewise, O Lord, thy unworthy
“ petitioner to implore, as far as seemeth good in thy sight,
“ a protection from temporal evils, and the enjoyment of
“ temporal blessings. In fine, O Lord, keep me so, both
“ in body and mind, that I may be presented pure at the
“ last day before the throne of Jesus Christ ; to whom,
“ with thee and the holy ghost, be honour, praise, adora-
“ tion, and worship, for ever and ever. Amen.”

*A Prayer written immediately after having been called
in to the assistance of a Gentleman who had committed
an act of Suicide.*

“ O LORD GOD ALMIGHTY! the searcher of all
“ hearts, from whom no secrets are hid; who canst guide
“ and rule our wills and affections according to thy good
“ pleasure; without whom we can neither think nor act
“ aright; at no moment of my life let thy presence be
“ wanting to me; keep up in my mind a constant belief,
“ hope, and trust, in thy power, wisdom, and goodness:
“ knowing that neither the good nor evil things of this
“ life can be of long continuance, nor are of any estima-
“ tion, in comparison with the eternal joys or punishments
“ which await our appearance before the judgment-seat of
“ Christ, in the life which is to come; for which dread
“ event prepare me, good Lord! Make me humble in
“ prosperity, patient in adversity, always resigned to thy
“ divine will, keeping a conscience void of offence, and
“ constantly looking for the coming of the Lord Jesus
“ Christ; to whom, with thee, and the holy ghost, be ho-
“ nour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.”

*Written immediately after coming into possession of the
Leckhampton Estate.*

“ A. D. 1797. On the 26th of March, my kinsman,
“ Henry Norwood, Esq. died, and by his will, bearing
“ date February 27, 1797, bequeathed me his manor and

“ estate at Leckhampton ; which, being added to the for-
 “ tune with which it had already pleased God to bless my
 “ industry, has placed me, according to the ordinary course
 “ of human events, in a state of affluence and indepen-
 “ dence, and provided for those who are or may be my
 “ offspring ; thus granting that petition which I have many
 “ times addressed to the Throne of Grace—give me nei-
 “ ther poverty nor riches ; feed me with food convenient
 “ for me.—April 15, 1797.”

“ O LORD GOD ALMIGHTY ! sovereign disposer of all
 “ things in heaven and earth ; who visitest the iniquities
 “ of the fathers upon the children only unto the third or
 “ fourth generation, but showest mercy unto thousands in
 “ them that love thee and keep thy commandments ; whose
 “ care and providence extendeth to nations, tribes, and
 “ families, as well as to systems and worlds ; I acknow-
 “ ledge thy great goodness, manifested to many generations
 “ of my forefathers, whom thou didst bless with abundance
 “ of worldly honour and riches : but they forgot thee, and,
 “ forsaking the ordinances of religion, and the paths of
 “ virtue, gave only to their own lusts and pleasures ; there-
 “ fore thou didst justly punish them and their children ;
 “ and we have been brought low even unto the dust : but
 “ thou, O Lord, in the midst of judgment rememberest
 “ mercy ; and now thou art again lifting up our heads, and
 “ restoring us to the possession of the good things of this
 “ world.”

“ Grant, O most merciful Father, that I may so use thy
 “ bounty as not to abuse it ; that I may enjoy it with mo-

“ deration, not employing it in the gratification of my
“ sensual desires and inordinate appetites; not wasting it
“ in vice or vanity, but applying it to the glory of God
“ and the good of my fellow-creatures. Let me not trust
“ in the multitude of my riches; but, feeling constantly
“ the uncertainty of all worldly pleasures and possessions,
“ look continually to thee as my shepherd and protector,
“ in whose providence and patronage I can alone hope for
“ safety and deliverance from worldly evils, and the conti-
“ nuance of any good.

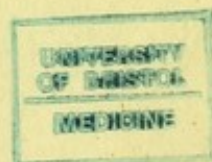
“ Keep my heart from avarice, and preserve it capable of
“ feeling, and desirous of relieving, the sufferings of my
“ neighbours, of every rank and condition. Preserve me
“ also from pride and arrogance; and make me ever mind-
“ ful, that I have nothing which has not issued from thy
“ hands. Assist my heart and understanding in the edu-
“ cation of my children, that I may raise up an holy family,
“ believers in thy faith and word, obedient to thy will and
“ commandments; that my posterity may serve and fear
“ thee, and of thee be blessed and supported. And when
“ this course of things shall cease, and the heaven and
“ earth pass away, I may meet my children among thy
“ saints in heaven, there to live eternally with Jesus Christ,
“ to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honour and
“ glory, world without end. Amen.”

Meditations on his Fortieth Birth-day.

“ Aug. 21, 1797. I am this day forty years old. The
“ spring and summer of my life are nearly gone, and the
“ autumn is at hand, in which, if I do not drop, the dreary
“ season of winter must soon follow, and finish the revolu-
“ tion of my life. Being now at the summit of the hill, I
“ will survey all sides, both that part of my journey which
“ I have already executed, as well as what remains to be
“ finished before I come to my final resting place. In
“ the retrospect I perceive innumerable evils which I have
“ escaped, neither by my own foresight, nor by my own
“ sagacity; and many difficulties which I have surmounted
“ and overcome, but neither by my own courage, nor by
“ my own strength. I feel a conviction that the Lord has
“ been my shepherd, and therefore only have I lacked
“ nothing, neither of temporal support, nor, I humbly hope,
“ of the means which, through the merits of Jesus Christ,
“ shall assist me effectually in the obtaining eternal salva-
“ tion. My infantine tongue was taught, through the wise
“ and affectionate care of my pious mother, to praise and
“ pray to my Lord and Saviour: my earliest ideas were
“ impressed with a sense of his goodness and power, and
“ my earliest hopes were directed to the enjoyment of
“ eternal life. The impressions then received, have never
“ been eradicated; neither the converse of the profane and
“ profligate, the objections of the infidel, whether found in
“ books or in conversation, the example of bad company,
“ nor the vices of which I myself have been guilty, have

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“ destroyed their force. Never have I been able to persuade
“ myself, that virtue and vice are things indifferent; that
“ religion is an idle and unprofitable thing; that the scrip-
“ tures are fables, and that there is not a reward for the
“ righteous, and a judge that will judge the world.
“ Without admitting the guidance of a Providence, I
“ cannot explain to myself by what means I have escaped
“ such numerous evils, both spiritual and physical, which
“ have beset me, and how I have been conducted to so
“ much good. I see a kind of systematic wisdom which
“ has carried me on independent of myself, and contrary
“ to my own intentions, and plans, and wishes. Every
“ thing, however mortifying and distressing to me at the
“ time, seems to have worked for my good. At this mo-
“ ment I feel an inexpressible thankfulness to that gracious
“ power, whose invisible hand has led me through the
“ rugged and devious paths of my past life, has shielded
“ from the dart of my spiritual and temporal adversaries,
“ has saved me from myself. I humbly trust that he will
“ continue his goodness to me, dispose me to be obedient to
“ his laws, to be resigned to his will, thankful for his fa-
“ vours, and submissive under such corrections as his wisdom
“ shall think fit to inflict upon me; that he will confirm my
“ belief in his attributes, as revealed to us in his Gospel;
“ take from me the fear of death, and constantly preserve
“ in me a lively hope, and an ardent desire, of immortal life.
“ I will also humbly trust, that he will permit his grace
“ to accompany me in the education of my children; that,
“ after the example of my mother, I may teach them by



“ times to love and fear God, and to be charitably disposed
 “ towards all their fellow-creatures; that these impressions
 “ may continue to influence them in their lives, when I
 “ shall have ceased from my earthly labours, and be waiting
 “ their presence in the invisible regions; and should my
 “ stay here be short or long, I will beg and hope for his
 “ blessing upon my labours, that I may be considered a
 “ good and faithful servant both of God and man; leave a
 “ fair example to those who succeed me, and, above all, be
 “ accepted by my gracious Master, and permitted to enter
 “ into his joy. O God! weigh not my merits, but pardon
 “ my offences, and accept me and my services, for the sake
 “ of him who alone is worthy, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 “ Amen.”

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