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LIFE OF THE REV. ROWLAND HILL.

Rowland Hill, the sixth son of a baronet of the same name, was born in Shropshire on the 23d August, 1745. The eldest of his brothers, Sir Richard (who afterwards succeeded to the family honors and estate) was a man much impressed with the importance of true religion; of which he gave one among many proofs in opposing the expulsion of the pious students from Oxford in 1763. At his death the succession devolved on his brother Sir John, who is distinguished in the history of his country, by having had five sons engaged in the field of Waterloo in 1815. One of whom is Lord Hill, now at the head of the British Army. Besides these he had two sisters, one of whom as we shall immediately see, was very serviceable to him in his spiritual interests. Rowland Hill, when a boy was remarkable for great buoyancy of spirits. An anecdote is told illustrative of his turn for drollery at this early age. Being brought into a room where the aged baronet and his lady, were entertaining a party of friends, one of them playfully asked him—"Well Rowly, what would you like to be?" He looked archly towards his father, who was sitting in an arm chair, and said, "I should like to be a baronet, and sit in an arm chair."—His future life, however, was the reverse of what this youthful sally might have implied. When he grew up he was sent to Eton school, and here he appears to have been much favored in having his pious brother and sister referred to above, to direct his mind in the way of true

religion. When a boy is removed from his father's house, and dwelling among new associates, good counsel from his former friends is peculiarly precious. The oldest of the family Mr. Richard Hill doubtless knew this, and accordingly we find him penning letters to his brother, urging on him with all the purity of affection, the "one thing needful." His sister also wrote to him in the same strain, and the good effects of these exertions soon began to appear,—for before Mr. Hill left Eton, we are told he was looked upon as a very pious young man. After finishing his studies at Eton, he was sent in his nineteenth year, to Cambridge, where the cause of godliness at this time was reduced to a very low pass. His sister in announcing to him his father's resolution to send him to college, urges on him the necessity of diligence in his studies—she tells him that "human learning is a most desirable jewel in order to set off the lustre of those in a sanctified heart." She warns him also of spiritual enemies. "The Lord I trust, will enable you to stand against all the fiery darts that will be shot at you at college. Fat bulls of Bashan will encompass you on every side, and you will need to be armed with the whole armour of God." At Cambridge, Mr. Hill had to encounter special contempt, because of his religion. He was often heard to say that he was such a marked and hated person, that nobody in the college ever gave him a cordial smile, except the old shoe black at the gate