

# THE CHRISTIAN REGISTER.

ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARDS MEN.

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*Sketch of the Life and Character of*  
**ROBERT RAIKES, of Gloucester, the**  
*Founder of Sunday Schools.*

[Principally from the Gentleman's Magazine.]

The outlines of a character so distinguished in the annals of this country as that of Mr. RAIKES, cannot fail to engage the attention of the reader. In proportion as he feels himself interested in the welfare of mankind, he will interest himself in every particular which concerns this bright example of philanthropy.

Mr. Raikes was born in the city of Gloucester, in the year 1735, of as worthy and respectable parents as any in the city which gave him birth, or in any other. His father had for many years distinguished himself as the editor and sole proprietor of a weekly Journal, which, as it was remarkable for the judicious selection of its contents, was of course very extensive in its circulation, and very generally approved; the *Gloucester Journal*, for a considerable time, stood unrivalled, extending itself through the counties of Gloucester, Somerset, Hereford, Monmouth, and even the farthest part of South Wales.

The education which this excellent man received was liberal, and well adapted to his future designation. At a proper time of life he was initiated into the employment of his father, which was not limited to the business of a *journalist*, but extended itself to other branches of typography; and though I will not compliment my hero by com-

paring his literary attainments with those of a *Bowyer* or a *Franklin*, yet I will venture to pronounce, that he entered on his line of business with acquirements superior to the nature of his employment; which, however has always been considered, when conducted by men of science and education, as very respectable; and was not less remarkable for his accuracy, than for his fidelity and integrity in every part of his conduct.

The first object which drew forth the exertions of this friend to mankind, was the wretched state of the county of Bridewell, within the city of Gloucester, (which being part of the county gaol, the persons committed by the magistrate out of sessions for petty offences, associated, through necessity, with felons of the worst description; with little or no means of subsistence from labour; with little, if any, allowance from the county; without either meat, drink, or clothing; dependent chiefly on the precarious charity of such as visited the prison, whether brought thither by business, curiosity, or compassion.)

We shall not wonder to find the Father of the poor exerting himself in behalf of those forlorn and destitute creatures, in order to render their situation supportable at least, if not, in some degree, comfortable. He was earnest in his solicitations through the channel of his paper, and in personal applications to his friends, for money to procure them the necessaries of life, and published several remonstrances; me-