

sent me a volume written by Mr. Clowes,\* a well known advocate of Swedenborgian opinions in England. A note from Mr. Wiggins, expressing his assent to the views of Mr. Clowes, accompanied this volume, and was the commencement of a correspondence between Mr. Wiggins and myself, which I shall lay, "in extenso," before my readers.

Those who take the pains to examine that correspondence will find that, from the beginning to the end of it, I have carefully abstained from all personal matters. All insinuations, on the part of Mr. Wiggins, all invectives and attempts to divert attention from the subject in hand, I have passed by in silence. I had an official duty to perform, and that, without excitement or recrimination, or being deterred by the apprehension of consequences, I have steadily pursued.

My object, at first, was to show Mr. Wiggins that the doctrines advocated by Mr. Clowes, and to which he declared his assent, were directly opposed to those of the Church of England. When this did not appear to be denied, I urged the inconsistency of promulgating such tenets while holding office

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\* The Rev. John Clowes was born at Manchester in 1743. He was ordained by the Bishop of London 1767. Two years after, he accepted the Rectorship of Saint John's Church, Manchester, which he held for sixty two years. Four years after he accepted this living, he became acquainted with Richard Houghton, Esquire, of Liverpool, who urged him to procure and study the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg. He, in consequence, obtained a copy of the Work, "*Vera Christiana Religio*." For some time after, he neglected it; but one evening he opened it and happened to cast his eye upon the words "*Divinum Humanum*." He closed the book, and forgot it. The next morning he went to visit an old college pupil at York. A few days after his arrival, he awoke one morning, and found his mind suddenly drawn into a state of inward recollection, attended with heavenly joy. Then was manifested, in the recesses of his spirit, a Divine Glory. At the same time, he was impressed by an internal dictate that the glory was connected with the "*Divinum Humanum*." The next morning the same thing occurred again. He then felt an irresistible desire to return home and study the neglected volume. Accordingly, he made some excuse for leaving his friend's house, hastened back to Manchester, rather, as he says, with the impetuosity of a lover than the sedateness of a man who was going to consult a neglected book. He read the writings of Swedenborg—became a convert to his opinions, and ever after a zealous propagator of them. Such is the account of his conversion to Swedenborgianism, given by Mr. Clowes himself!