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L I F E O F W I C L I F .

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JOHN WICLIF was born in the year 1324. The place of his birth was a village of the same name, some five or six miles from Richmond, in Yorkshire. From the Conquest, to the end of the sixteenth century, a family, taking the name of the place where they resided, were lords of the manor, and patrons of the rectory; and it is generally believed that the Reformer was one of its members. No records of this, indeed, is found in the extant documents of the household of the Wiclifs; but this may be accounted for, by supposing that, when he put himself in opposition to the dominant head of the Western Church, his relations, if they went not with him in his more enlightened views, would feel themselves disgraced by the connexion, and would, as far as possible, endeavour to destroy all evidences of its existence. One of his latest biographers, (Dr. Vaughan,) quotes from his writings what certainly seems very much like an indirect allusion to a fact with which the writer was feelingly acquainted: "If a child yield himself to meekness and poverty, and flee covetousness and pride, from a dread of sin, and to please God, they say that he shall soon become a man, never cost them a penny; and they curse him *because he liveth well, and will teach other men the will of God to save their souls.* For by so doing, the child getteth many enemies to his elders, and they say, *that he slandereth all their noble kindred, who were ever held true men, and worshipful.*"

But whatever was the parentage and early education of Wiclif, he becomes first known to us as a scholar of Queen's College, Oxford; a seminary which was established in 1340, partly from the munificence of Philippa, the Queen of Edward III., and partly from that of her Chaplain, Robert Eglesfield, a native of Cumberland. Wiclif was