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BIOGRAPHY.

A Memoir of the Rev. Leigh Richmond, A. M.—Author of the Dairy Man's Daughter, Young Cot-tager, &c.

THE REV. LEIGH RICHMOND was descended from an ancestry highly respectable on the side of both his parents, each of whom was related to some of the principal families in the Counties of Lancaster and Chester. He was the Son of Henry Richmond, Esq. M. D., who practised as a physician, first at Liverpool, and afterward at Bath, where he resided for several years previously to his death, which occurred at Stockport, in Cheshire, in the year 1806; of which place his father, the Rev. Leigh Richmond, had been rector.

Dr. Henry Richmond, was the fifth in lineal male descent from Oliver Richmond, Esq., of Ashton Keynes, in the county of Wilts, on which estate his ancestors had resided from the time of the Conquest.

The mother of Mr. Richmond, was the daughter of John Atherton, Esq., of Walton Hall, near Liverpool, and by the maternal side first cousin to Dr. Henry Richmond.

As some additional particulars of the family appear in the progress of this work, recorded by his own pen, any further statement in this place is superfluous.

Mr. Richmond was born at Liverpool, on January 29th, 1772. It was his privilege to have a most estimable mother, endowed with a superior understanding, which had been cultivated and improved by an excellent education and subsequent reading. In addition to her natural talents and acquirements, she was piously disposed.

This affectionate and conscientious parent anxiously instructed him, from his infancy, in the Holy Scriptures, and in the principles of true religion, according to the best of her ability; a debt, which was subsequently well repaid by her son, who became the happy and honoured instrument of imparting to his beloved mother clearer and more enlarged views of divine truth than were generally prevalent during the last generation. It seems highly probable, that the seeds of piety were then sown, which in a future period, and under circumstances of a providential nature, were destined to produce a rich and abundant harvest.*

It was in the period of his childhood, that the accident occurred which occasioned the lameness to which he was subject during the remainder of his life. In leaping over a wall, he fell with violence to the ground, and injured the left leg, so as to contract its growth, and afterward to impair its use. It is a remarkable coincidence, that somewhat of a similar occurrence befel one of his own sons, and was attended with precisely the same effects. It was in consequence of this accident, that Mr. Richmond received the rudiments of his early education under the sole tuition of his father, who was an excellent classical scholar, and well acquainted with literature in general.

In addition to his proficiency in classical and other elementary studies, he made considerable progress, during this period, in the science of music; a predilection for which, he retained to the end of his life.

The activity of his mind soon began to develop itself. Some specimens of the productions of his early years have been preserved, by the partiality of his friends; and as youthful talent generally delights to assume a poetical form, his first efforts were devoted to the Muses.

* "Could we without sacrilege enter the sanctuary of a mother's bosom, we might whisper a tale that would account for the distinguished usefulness with which God has condescended to favour some of the best of men. Many a godly mother can say—I have had peculiar solitudes respecting this child. Even before its birth, I dedicated it to the Lord; and then engaged that it should be unreservedly devoted to his glory. And when the little immortal was committed to my arms, with many prayers and tears did I renew my engagement, till it was strongly impressed on my mind, that God had heard my cry and accepted my offering.—*Spring's Life of S. Y. Mills.*

The following parody on "Hamlet's Soliloquy" is one of the earliest of his juvenile compositions.—It was written when he was only eleven years of age. The occasion of its production was the general habit which then prevailed of wearing hair powder.

"To be, or not to be in powder!—This is the question:—Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to bear The plague and torments of a powdered head, Or to take arms against a round of fashions, And by opposing end them?—To pomatum—to daub—No more;—and, by a daub, to say, We end the bickerings and chattering's Of a trifling world:—'tis a consummation Devoutly to be wished for.—To powder—to pomatum—Perchance to spoil my hair;—aye, there's the rub; For in that woful ruin of my hair What dreadful consequences may ensue! Yet, who can bear the whips and scorns of fashion! I'd spend my days beneath a Barber's hands, And breathe within a shower of falling powder; But that the dread of something greater still—The certain ruin of my auburn hair, Puzzles the will, and rack the tortured brain—Oh, dreadful thought! It sinks the rising courage, And of my pride the current turns away. Powder—pomatum—barbers—all, adieu!"

Lines written about the same period:

"Before the earth and sea to man were given, Or stars were spotted o'er the crystal heaven; The face of Nature was throughout the same—A rugged heap, and Chaos was its name; Nor any thing, but piled up heaps were there, And earth and sea were mixed with fire and air: No radiant sun by day afforded light, Nor waning Phœbe shone in midst of night; Nor the earth self-poised in fluid air was placed, Or sea, with circling arms, the earth embrac'd."

The next specimen of versification was written at the age of twelve.

ON THE MORNING.

"Behold, the earth is clad in sober gray, And twinkling stars foretell the approach of day. The hare runs timid o'er the bladed grass, And early shepherds on the meadows pass. In splendid majesty the morning star Welcomes Aurora, in her rosy car. The lark, the early herald of the morn, Whose tender sides soft gentle plumes adorn, Flies from her nest above all human sight, And to the skies sublime she bends her flight. Her pleasing notes the ambient hills repeat, And ddy o'er half the world resumes its seat; The splendid sun's ethereal light appears, And Nature wipes away her dewy tears."

The following lines in imitation of Pope, may be considered as no unsuccessful illustration of the poet's rule:

"Tis not enough, no harshness gives offence, The sound should seem an echo to the sense.—"The line should soften when the bleat of sheep, And gentle zephyrs sooth to placid sleep; When din of rattling thunderbolts is heard, The roughest words to softer are preferred. When purling rivulets translucent glide, The liquid letters then should form a tide. Within a labyrinth, the line seems vast, Mazy, inextricable, and perplexed. But when the rougher storms fierce rage on high, And heave the angry billows to the sky; When rattling rain comes hissing down in showers, Aad to the whirlpool in a torrent pours; The line should rage, and every letter move, As if great Jove was storming from above."

In 1784, when Mr. Richmond was twelve years of age, he was placed under the care of Mr. Breach, of Reading, for the purpose of obtaining further assistance on account of his lameness, as well as to pursue the course of his education.

Mr. Richmond was subsequently removed to Blandford, under the care and tuition of the Rev. Mr. Jones, vicar of Loders and curate of Blandford; and having made a very creditable proficiency in his

studies, and completed his education at school, he was finally sent, in the year 1789 being then seventeen years of age, to the University of Cambridge.

CHAPTER II.

Comprising the period from his entrance at the University, till his marriage and acceptance of the curacy of Brading in the Isle of Wight.

MR. RICHMOND was entered at Trinity College, Cambridge, in the month of August 1789. The following particulars have been communicated in a letter from the Rev. A. J. Crispen, vicar of Renhold, Bedfordshire, a contemporary of his in the University, and with whom he formed an intimate friendship, which continued to the period of his death.

"I perfectly well remember, that our dear departed friend came to Cambridge for admission about Midsummer, in the year 1789. I was just one year his senior. It was then the custom at Trinity College, that one of the under graduates should take the candidate for admission to the dean, and to one or two others, and then to the master, for examination. It fell to my lot to perform this office for Leigh Richmond, and thus our friendship commenced.—He came into residence, according to the usual plan, in the following October; we were both among the candidates for foundation scholarships, and after a public examination of two or three days, we were happy on finding our names among the successful candidates; and as we afterward dined every day at the same table, the bands of our friendship were drawn still closer.

"I can with perfect truth affirm, that during the under-graduateship of Mr. Richmond, he applied himself closely to his studies, and was considered and acknowledged by all, to be a young man of great abilities and correct conduct."

A letter from Mr. William Tate, Chaplain of the Dock-yard, Portsmouth, and tutor of the Naval Academy, contains a further and more detailed account of Mr. Richmond's residence at College.

Mr. Richmond and myself were of the same year at Cambridge, and had the same college tutor, the Rev. Thomas Jones. We were not, however, in the same lecture room till within a year of our going out A. B.; hence, our intimacy did not commence till about the beginning of 1793. Mr. Richmond came to college with a high character for his proficiency, both in classics and mathematics. In fact, I have often heard him spoken of as likely to be one of the third or fourth highest wranglers. At the annual college examination in May, he was each year in the first class, and consequently was a prize-man. I do not recollect that he ever was a candidate for a University prize; indeed, I think that although he was an extremely good classic, he did not consider himself sufficiently practised in writing Greek or Latin verse, to venture a competition in this respect with the distinguished men from the great public schools.

"That he had a great fondness for social life is not to be wondered at, as he who was so well informed on most subjects, and had such a fluency of language that conversation with him never flagged, and his company was generally acceptable. He visited at the Lodge, Dr. Postlethwaith being then master, and was noticed by some of the senior fellows, in consequence, I presume, of their having been friends of his father, Dr. Richmond, who had himself been a fellow of the college, and whose name stands in the 'Tripos' as having been the tenth senior optime, in January 1764.

"Mr. Richmond's great recreation was music, in which I suppose you are aware he was eminently skilled. He always had a piano-forte in his room, and played on the organ also. To any tune he could, as he played, make an extempore thorough bass. His musical talents gave rise to a great intimacy and friendship with the late Dr. Haguo, the professor of music, and also with Dr. Jewett, then tutor of Trinity Hall, who used to have frequent musical parties at his apartments, at which I believe Mr. Richmond was generally present. He