

THE FERRAR FAMILY.

A Sketch of the Religious Society of Little Gidding, a Tale of the SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

BY MRS. LEUDT.

CHAPTER IV.

Alice was much affected by her uncle's kind consideration for her, and she entered upon her duties with an avidity that surprised her cousins...

"To Master Nicholas Ferrar: My DEAR AND WORTHY FRIEND,—Think not I am idle, or forgetful of our long-continued friendship...

When on his return home Mr. Ferrar was seized with a fever at Marselles; his physician took him for a Knight of Malta, for he spoke perfect Italian...

Then with great confidence Mr. Ferrar said, "Let us fall into the hands of God, and not of men who have cast off humanity..."

Mr. Ferrar's attachment to the established Church was a remarkable feature in his character; he had conceived a hearty detestation of the Romish mass...

"P. S.—I grieve to say that sound pillar of a falling Church, the worthy Jeremy Taylor, has been deprived of his benefice, and is living in obscurity in Ireland."

The fame of the society at Little Gidding induced many strangers to visit the church during divine service, and one day when the usual congregation was assembled...

infatuated associates he armed, mounted, and trained himself; he was their comrade and their chief, and his ambitious mind formed, at this time, projects of aggrandizement for himself...

While travelling in Italy, Mr. Ferrar was riding over some dangerous and narrow passages of the Alps, his guide was a little way before him...

Once, during his stay at Padua, he was attacked by a severe fit of illness; the physicians, who were his friends, consulted together, and bleeding was determined on...

Another time, while at Rome, he had passed into a gallery to see the pope pass, and all the people fell on their knees to entreat his blessing before Easter...

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by Mr. John Ferrar, who was most graciously received, and his gift accepted with hearty thanks. During this year a great change had taken place in the appearance and manners of Alice Weston...

Thus lived and died Mr. Nicholas Ferrar, of whom in few words may be said, "he died the death of the righteous." His remains were deposited in a vault at the west end of the church...

Alice Weston mourned deeply for one who had been more than a father to her; and for the beloved nephew Nicholas, his sorrow was deeper still; it neither vented itself in sighs or words...

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would say, "to live longer in such times, and worse are yet to come." At this time the Archbishop of Canterbury's house at Lambeth was attacked by rioters, which, when the dying Nicholas heard, he exclaimed, "Alas! alas! God help his Church and poor England..."

The kingdom was now a scene of civil and religious wars; the king's troops were routed in every direction; Oliver Cromwell's interest daily gained ground on every side...

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