

During his absence his father embraced the faith of Friends, and showed by his pious behavior that he had not acted inconsiderately.

Robert, at the age of nineteen years, became a member of Friends, and grew so zealous and valiant in the doctrine he professed that he became a public minister. He often engaged in disputes with the scholars of the day, not only verbally, but also by writing, and was ever able to encounter the learned with their own weapons.

His principal literary work was his *Apology*, which takes up different subjects of religion, and discusses them from Friends' point of view.

Of worship he says, "The great advantage of this true worship of God, which we profess and practice, is that it consisteth not in man's wisdom, arts or industry; neither needeth the glory, pomp, riches, nor splendor of this world to beautify it, as being of a spiritual and heavenly nature, and therefore too simple and contemptible to the natural mind and will of man, that hath no delight to abide in it, because he finds no room there for his imaginations and inventions, and hath not the opportunity to gratify his outward and carnal senses."

Of baptism he speaks thus: "The professing of faith in Christ, and a holy life answering thereunto is a far better badge of Christianity than any outward washing."

Caroline Fox, in her journal, says: "There is a shelf in the Oxford Library which is the receptacle of all works opposed to the Church of England, which are placed there to be answered as way may open. Barclay's *Apology* and Barclay's *Apology* alone, remains unanswered and unanswerable, though many a time has it been taken from the shelf controversial, yet has always quietly slunk back to its old abode."

Robert Barclay died in the year 1690 "A man of sound judgment, but strong in argument and cheerful in sufferings. Besides, he was friendly

and pleasant, yet grave in conversation, and well fitted for settling differences. He really lived up to what he professed, being of an unblamable deportment, truly pious, and loved by all with whom he became acquainted."

He was but forty-two when overtaken by the short illness from which he died at his home in Ury, Scotland.

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### KINDNESS.

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Ferguson says "Kindness is the real law of life, the link that connects earth with Heaven, for all it touches it turns into gold—the true gold—where-with we purchase contentment, peace and love." He also says, "Kindness is the music of goodwill to men, and on this harp the smallest fingers in the world may play Heaven's sweetest tones on earth."

Is there any better way in which we can make friends, than by doing kind acts and saying kind words? What sunshine they bring, and how their influence is felt on all around. To do a kindness it is not necessary to give large sums of money, or fine clothes, but a gentle word to the one who is distressed, or a warm clasp of the hand.

It is found that kindness is the most powerful instrument in the world to move men's hearts, a word of kindness will often do more towards gaining an end than any amount of angry arguing.

True kindness cherishes and promotes ways for doing good in its own time, and in the future we see the same spirit working for others happiness. It is the kindly disposed men who are the active and wide awake men of the world, and the selfish generally the idle men. In the social world little acts of kindness do more towards winning and preserving affection than anything else, and he who neglects these rarely has many friends. How much pleasure we can give elderly people by affectionate looks and kind acts of attention.

Little kindnesses like these are really great after all, for they drive away sad-