

sent to Reading, to the care of Mr. Breach, partly for medical and partly for educational purposes; and subsequently to this period he was placed under the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Jones, Vicar of Loders and Curate of Blandford, where he made a most creditable progress in all his studies; so that he was ready to enter the University of Cambridge when he had reached the age of seventeen.

In the month of August, 1789, he entered as a student in Trinity College, Cambridge, having proved himself a successful candidate for one of the foundation scholarships, after a public examination, which lasted for three days. His different studies were pursued with exemplary diligence, and he was considered by all to be a young man of great abilities and most correct deportment; while his social dispositions, and his great fluency of speech, rendered him an object of attachment to a large college circle, many of whom maintained their attachment for him to their dying day. Lord Lyndhurst, the late Chancellor, had apartments directly under Mr. Richmond's; and as they were both reading at the same time for the degree of A. B., they often took coffee together after midnight. Through the whole of his academic course, Mr. R. embraced every opportunity of improving himself in his favourite study of music, in which he attained to considerable eminence, and was known as an original composer.

In 1796, Mr. R. seriously thought of taking orders, and of marrying on a curacy, though it was his father's wish that he should be called to the bar. About this period he wrote two letters to Dr. Richmond, which indicated considerable thought, and even conscientious feeling, defending his determination in favour of the church, and urging his father's acquiescence in the important step. The letters had the desired effect; and accord-

ingly Mr. R. was ordained deacon in the month of June, 1797, and took his degree of M. A. the beginning of July, in the same year. On the 22d of that month he was married to Mary, only daughter of James William Chambers, Esq., of Bath, and on the 24th of July he entered on the curacies of Brading and Yaverland, in the Isle of Wight. In February, 1788, he was fully ordained priest.

Prior to these events, however, it does not appear that this interesting young minister had any strictly correct views of the real nature of experimental religion. But it pleased the God of all grace, from the time of his settlement in the Isle of Wight, to commence a very powerful work of religion in his heart. Shortly after he had entered on his curacies, one of his college companions, having received from a near relative a copy of Mr. Wilberforce's invaluable work, entitled "Practical Christianity," sent it to Mr. R. with a view to obtain his opinion respecting it. Mr. R. read, reflected, prayed, wept, saw a new world bursting on his view, felt himself to be a sinner, cried for mercy, and yielded thoroughly to the conviction that, up to that period, his heart had not been right in the sight of God. He began minutely to study the Bible, entered with unspeakable ardour on the life of secret prayer, and gave himself wholly to the honour of Christ, and the spiritual welfare of his little flock.

"To the unsought and unexpected introduction of Mr. Wilberforce's book on 'Practical Christianity,'" observes Mr. R., "I owe, through God's mercy, the first sacred impression which I ever received as to the spiritual nature of the Gospel system, the vital character of personal religion, the corruption of the heart, and the way of salvation by Jesus Christ."

And as far down in his history as the year 1822, he thus writes in one of his journals, composed while in the Isle of Wight, on a Bible Society excursion: