

disappointed. I shall term great satisfaction in having contributed in any manner to the edification or instruction of such as are beyond the circle of my solitude.

A MONK.

Thomas Bray, the subject of the following Memoirs, was born at Manton in the county of Suffolk, 1656: he received a close application to his book, for good learning, his parents, although in rather narrow circumstances, were induced to send him to the university. Accordingly he was entered at Hart-Hall, Oxford, where he soon became a considerable proficient in theological studies, and soon after he had commenced bachelor of arts, he was admitted into holy orders: and even while a Curate in a country parish, his exemplary behaviour and extraordinary talents, his calling soon introduced him to the acquaintance of several individuals, distinguished not more by their high rank in society than by their fervent zeal for the eternal welfare of their fellow-creatures: among these was Lord Digby, who in the year 1690 presented him to the Rectory of Sheldon. Dr. Bray always esteemed it not the least honour and happiness of his life, the being preferred by such a patron as Lord Digby, who was never determined by any other consideration in the disposal of presents, than of choosing the most useful persons to serve in the church, and such as he was persuaded would make the best use of their talents, the ultimate end of their views; and he was not a little indebted to Dr. Bray's credit as well as to the favour of Lord Digby. He always spoke of his noble benefactor with a respect sufficiently discovered, not only as a patron of his obligations, but also a justly valued friend, and a possessor of those qualities which signalized him as a man of an extraordinary and peculiar distinction, and entitled him to the highest esteem. In this parish of Sheldon he began to preach, and his sermons were well received, and he was soon afterwards called to the University of Oxford, where he continued to preach, and it proved the means of introducing him into a more extensive and remarkable scene of action.

In the year 1692, the authorities in Maryland wrote to the Bishop of London (Compton) to send some experienced and unexceptionable Clergyman to fill the important and arduous office of Ecclesiastical Commissary in that Colony. His Lordship was not one moment at a loss for a fit person to model that infant church, and establish it on a solid foundation, but made proposals to Mr. Bray, who disregarded his own interest, determined in his own mind that there might