

CHRISTIAN LIFE.

PHILIP HENRY'S LIFE AND WRITINGS.

I. LIFE.

The biography of Philip Henry, father of the famous commentator, is described by an old divine as 'a beautiful delineation of primitive Christianity and the power of godliness, where social religion and personal holiness are drawn to the life and eminently manifested.' It is, indeed, the biography of a man of great simplicity of mind, but most remarkable as showing the influence of religion in the moulding of family character. It has also an interest from the light it throws on the troubled times of the seventeenth century. The historian finds that it is from such biographies that he gets some of the best glimpses of the real facts of history.

Philip Henry was born at Whitehall, on the 24th of August, 1631. His father, John Henry, was a native of Wales, and had been in the service of the Earl of Pembroke. He was now Keeper of the Royal Orchard at Whitehall, an office conferred on him by the Earl of Pembroke on his being appointed Lord Chamberlain. Though the Henrys were Nonconformists, they were devoted to the cause of the Stuarts. John Henry was afterwards Page of the Back Stairs to the King's second son, James, Duke of York. This brought young Henry much into the company of the King's sons Charles and James, who often came to his father's house, had games with him, and used to tell him what wonderful preferments he would have when they were grown up. John Henry continued at Whitehall all the time of the war, though his income had en-

tirely ceased. When the King was passing his door on the way to his trial at Westminster, he asked for his old and faithful servant John Henry, who gave the King his blessing, and prayed that he might be delivered out of the hands of his enemies. For this manifestation of loyalty he narrowly escaped rough treatment from the guards.

Philip Henry's mother was a very devout woman, and to her he evidently owed his Puritan character. "She," Henry's biographer says, "was altogether dead to the vanities and pleasures of the court, though she lived in the midst of them." Philip remembered his having to learn, when quite young, the "Six Principles," by the famous William Perkins. He was early sent to school, first at St. Martin's Church at Westminster, where he was taught Latin, and afterwards to a school at Battersea. In 1643 he was admitted to Westminster School, of which Dr. Busby, renowned for the use of the rod, was at that time the master. Busby never beat Henry except once, and he confesses that he justly deserved it, for he had told a lie and been found out. The usher of the school was Thomas Vincent, afterwards eminent as one of the Puritan confessors. Both of his masters, as well as his mother, took great care that he might be well instructed in the principles of religion.

Whatever may be our verdict on the proceedings of those who came into power during the Long Parliament, it cannot be denied that the age was one of great religious earnestness. It was during Henry's time at Westminster School that the great assembly was held, which framed the standards still used in the Church of Scotland. A