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Nov. 21. 1914

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SHORT MEMOIR

OF THE

Rev. ROBERT EDWARD GARNHAM.

MDCCCXIV.

Procter and Ritchie, Printers, Westmoreland Buildings, City, London.

SHORT MEMOIR,

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MR. GARNHAM was born at Bury St. Edmunds, May 1st, 1753, and was the only surviving child of the Rev. Robert Garnham, many years Master of the Free Grammar School at Bury, and Rector of Nowton and Hargrave, in Suffolk*. His mother was Mary, daughter of Mr. Benton, and sister of the late Edward Benton, Esq. secondary in the Court of King's-bench. Mr. Garnham received his school-education under the tuition of his father, who justly supported a considerable reputation for classical learning. He was removed from Bury school, and admitted of Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1770, and the following year was elected scholar. In 1774, he was admitted to his degree of B.A. which he obtained with credit to his College and himself, and was elected Fellow in 1775, and proceeded M.A. in 1777. In 1793, he was elected College-Preacher, and, in Novem-

* He was formerly Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and took the degree of B. A. 1737, and M. A. 1747. After having retired some years from his school, he died at Bury, Nov. 8th, 1798, aged 82. His widow survived him little more than twelve months, dying at Bury, Dec. 6th, 1799, aged 79. They were buried in the chancel of the parish church of Nowton.

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ber, 1797, was advanced into the Seniority. He was ordained Deacon, March 3d, 1776, in Park-street Chapel, Westminster, by Dr. Philip Young, then Bishop of Norwich; and afterwards entered on the Curacies of Nowton and Great Welnatham, in the neighbourhood of Bury. On June 15th, 1777, he was ordained Priest in Trinity College Chapel, by Dr. Hinchliffe, then Bishop of Peterborough and Master of the College. But in the course of his studying the Scriptures, he was led to distinguish between the revealed word of God, and the accumulated and heterogeneous doctrines and commandments of men. He seriously considered and weighed the respect which was severally due to divine and human authority; and the unqualified assent which every official repetition of the public service of the Church not only implied, but was understood to express. It was not, however, till after the coolest deliberation, and most entire conviction, that he determined never to repeat his subscription to the thirty-nine articles for any preferment which he might become entitled to from the College patronage, or which might be offered to him from any other quarter. Agreeably to and consistently with this state of mind, he resigned, at Midsummer, 1789, the curacies in which he was then engaged, and resolved thenceforward to decline officiating in the ministry. Mr. Garnham's health was never robust, and during the last five or six

years

years of his life, he suffered much from sickness, which prevented his residing at Cambridge, after the death of his father, in 1798, and indisposed and disqualified him from pursuing his former application to his studies. His indisposition and infirmities continued to increase, and, in the summer of 1801, he evidently appeared to be much broken. He was long sensible of his generally declining health; and so lately as the 4th of May, a few weeks before his death, he expressed this sentiment, in a private letter, to the writer of this short memoir. —"I shall never again (said he) be able to read "through an octavo volume; and I have several "times the last winter seriously thought my death "was not far distant. Perhaps, if the ensuing "summer be a favourable one, I may rally a "little; if not, I shall despair, and expect to "depart, without either feeling or occasioning a "prodigious quantity of regret." For some short time he had complained of an asthma, and on the Saturday preceding his death, was attacked with an inflammation on the lungs and breast. He continued till the morning of the following Thursday, June 24th, 1802, when he departed this life, in the 50th year of his age; and was buried in the chancel of Nowton church, on Tuesday the 29th, with all the privacy consistent with customary decency, which he enjoined his executors to observe.

Mr. Garnham was well qualified, from his store of general learning, and from his excellent judgment,

ment, to have shone in the most distinguished society; but his natural temper disposed him to retirement from the busy hum of men. He was, therefore, generally reserved in mixed and numerous companies; but he greatly enjoyed the social intercourse of rational and liberal minds. With his select and confidential friends, he was unrestrained in his communications; nor was he less confidential in any trust reposed in him, than he was devoted to support every profession of friendship. His attainments, taste, and success in biblical criticism, and generally in classical literature, as also his acumen in theological controversy, may be satisfactorily ascertained by a reference to his writings. These were, indeed, anonymous; but the means of access to them will be made easy by the subjoined catalogue; and, if an ardour for truth, acuteness of discernment, soundness of judgment, and clearness of reasoning,—if freedom of inquiry, conducted with an happy mixture of wit and argument, where the subject or occasion admitted, can recommend theological literature, his writings will be read and respected wherever they are known. His private correspondence was peculiarly marked by accurate observations on the signs of the times, and happy delineations of characters which have variously figured in his day, and whose movements came within his own knowledge, or were of unquestioned public notoriety.

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His benevolence was best known to his more intimate friends; and nothing but his death releases the hand which writes this short memoir from the restriction of private confidence on this particular subject. It was in the course of our unreserved correspondence, immediately after the failure of a bank, at Bury, in 1797, which involved his father and *himself* in no inconsiderable loss, that he wrote, in reply to what I had proposed to him on that occasion . . . . . "But it will not "be in my power to accept the very friendly invi-"tation, till after the next dividend. Upon the "bankruptcy taking place, I determined, if possi-"ble, not to fail in any one of the little douceurs "I was in the habit of bestowing in the eleemosy-"nary way, to a few persons with whose necessi-"ties I am acquainted; and as it is impossible to "lose the best part of a year's income, without "making retrenchments *somewhere*, I was prompt "in deciding that the abridgment should be in "*personal* gratifications; of which the greatest "I certainly esteem, that of presenting myself be-"fore my London friends."—See Monthly Magazine, vol. XIV, pp. 89, and 193.

CATALOGUE

CATALOGUE *of his* WRITINGS.

No. 1. Examination of Mr. Harrison's Sermon, preached in the cathedral church of St. Paul, London, before the Lord Mayor, on May 25th, 1788.—1789.

2. Letter to the Right Rev. the Bishop of Norwich, (Dr. Bagot) requesting him to name the Prelate to whom he referred as "contending strenuously for the general excellence of our present authorised translation of the Bible," 1789.

3. Letter to the Right Rev. the Bishop of Chester, (Dr. Cleaver) on the subject of two Sermons addressed by him to the Clergy of his diocese; comprehending also a vindication of the late Bishop Hoadly, 1790.

4. Review of Dr. Hay's Sermon, intitled "Thoughts on the Athanasian Creed," preached April 12th, 1790, at the visitation of the Archdeacon of Bucks, 1790.

5. Outline of a Commentary on Revelations xi. 1—14. 1794.

6. A Sermon preached in the chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge, on Thursday Dec. 19th, 1793, the day appointed for the commemoration of the benefactors to that society, 1794.

PAPERS

PAPERS *in* "COMMENTARIES *and* ESSAYS," SIGNED SYNERGUS.

1. Vol. I, 1786. Art. V, p. 94—111. A Paraphrase and Notes on Romans v, 8—18.

2. . . . . Art. XI, p. 467—509. Observations on part of the viii, xi, and xii chapters of Daniel.

3. Vol. II, 1801. Art. XIII, p. 1—8. An Illustration of 1 Cor. x, 14—24.

4. . . . . Art. XIX, p. 123—252. A Summary View of the Prophecies relating to Antichrist, contained in the writings of Daniel, Paul, Peter, Jude, and John.

5. . . . . Art. XX, p. 253—267. On the Forensic Metaphors adopted in the New Testament.

6. . . . . Art. XXI, p. 268—278. On the terms Redemption, Ransom, Purchase, &c. adopted in the New Testament.

7. . . . . Art. XXII, p. 279—312. On the Sacrifical Phrases adopted in the New Testament.

PAPERS

PAPERS *in the* "THEOLOGICAL REPOSITORY."

1. Vol. V, 1786, p. 38—56, signed *Ereunetes.* Observations on Isaiah vii, 10—23; viii, 5—19.
2. . . . . p. 273—288. Observations on various Texts of Scripture, signed *Ereunetes.*
3. Vol. VI, 1788, p. 60—78, signed *Ereunetes.* On the Oblation of Isaac, as figurative of the Death of Christ.
4. . . . . p. 135—174, signed *Idiota.* On the Elijah foretold by Malachi.
5. . . . . p. 244—284, signed *Idiota.* An Enquiry into the Time at which the Kingdom of Heaven will commence.

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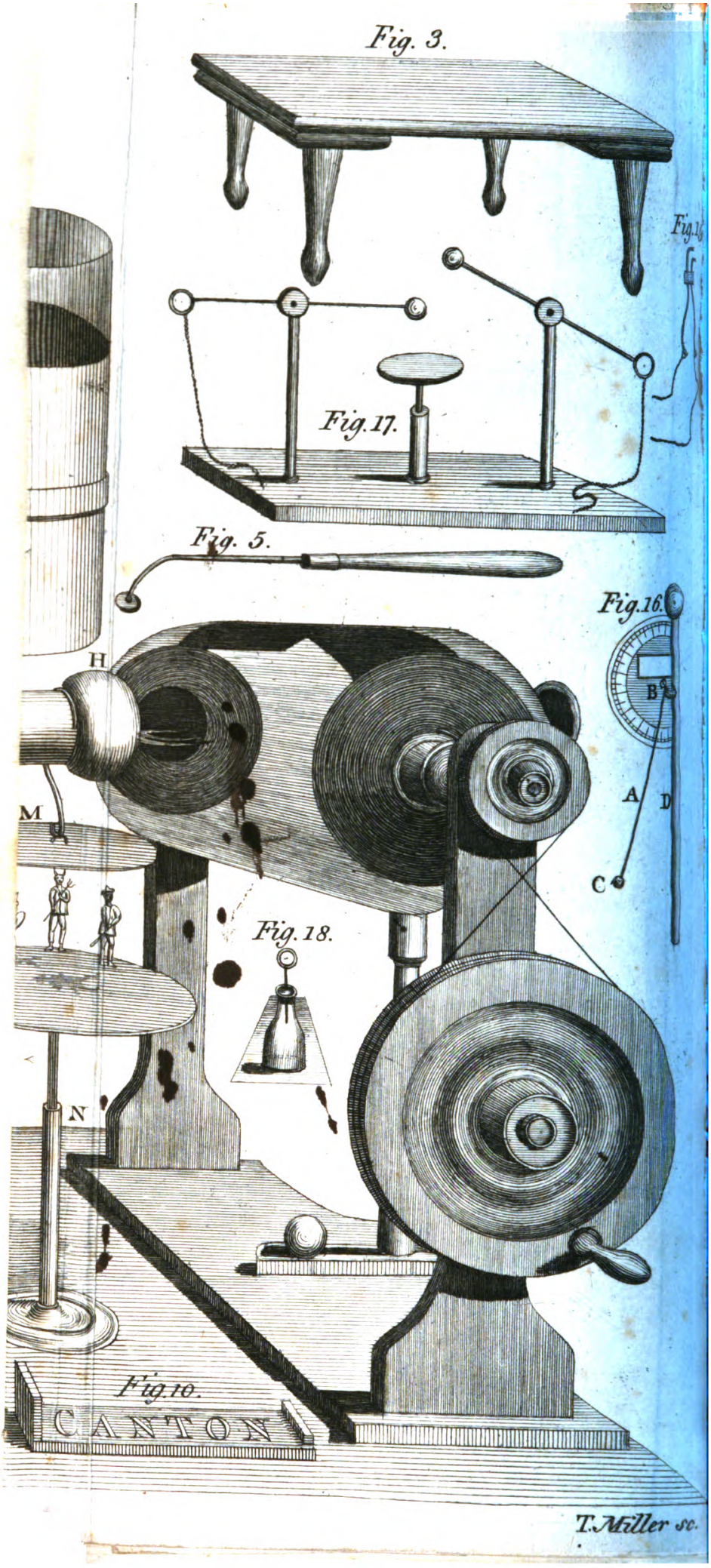
Fig. 3.
Fig. 14.
Fig. 17.
Fig. 5.
Fig. 16.
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Fig. 10.
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