

LETTERS

*To Mr. Eliezer Heywood—To the Rev. Thos. Jollie—
To Ralph Thoresby, Esq.*



THE circle of Mr. Heywood's friends and acquaintance was unusually large, and his epistolary correspondence very extensive. Had a selection of his letters been made soon after his decease, probably it would have been interesting and acceptable; but at this distance of time such an object cannot be secured, however desirable. The few that have been preserved from the ravages of time, are now presented to the Public. The first six letters in the following series, were copied from the originals by the Writer of Mr. Heywood's Life. For the remainder, addressed to Ralph Thoresby, Esq. the able and faithful historian of Leeds, the Public are indebted to W. UPCOTT, Esq. of the London Institution, and grateful acknowledgments are due for his liberality and kindness in permitting copies to be taken from the originals in his possession. The Editor of Mr. Heywood's Works, is also, in this place, desirous of acknowledging his numerous obligations to his worthy and highly esteemed Friend, the REV. ISAAC MANN, A. M. minister of the Baptist chapel, Maze Pond, London, not only for procuring copies of the last mentioned letters, but also for his valuable assistance, afforded *con amore* throughout the progress of this publication.

LETTER I.

TO MR. ELIEZER HEYWOOD.

My Dear Son,

It is now towards a fortnight, since I wrote to you and desired an answer, whether you could supply for me when I go into Lancashire, May 21st. I should be glad to have your company thither about the 15th, or 16th of May, and so come back that week to my house, because you can ride better

than I. I desired you would send my manuscript to Mr. Taylor with all speed you can. I had a letter from him, telling me if it come not shortly it will be too late, they will be gone into the country. I had another letter from Mr. Parkhurst, who is willing to print it,* only would see it first. I have a lovely company of hopeful young men, with whom I was yesterday, and preached to them. You are upon our hearts for personal concerns and ministerial. Your age calls for settlement in the world; I am full of cares for you. Our supper day is Lord's day sevensnight, the fast is the Wednesday after. I shall be glad of your company and assistance any time. You are both dear to me. My love and service to Mr. and Madam Taylor,

Your endeared father,

OL. HEYWOOD.

April 25th, 1693. The very day of
my marriage to your mother, A.D. 1655, }
38 years ago, called St. Mark's day. }

LETTER II.

TO THE SAME.

My Dear Child,

March 16th, 1697.

I received your letter this day sevensnight and am glad mine is acceptable to you, I pray it may be profitable; you are much upon my heart. Yesterday, (which was the day of my baptism sixty-seven years ago,) I spent the forenoon in secret and solemn addresses to my dear Lord, and had sweet enlargement and great encouragement concerning my own soul, sons, and the church; and as I have great comfort in you, so you may conclude I shall do any thing in the compass of my power for you. I think I shall leave you (after mine and my wife's death,) as much as your brother, through the blessing of God; though your two grandfathers entailed all upon my eldest son at my first marriage. When I have accomplished this bargain,† I shall cancel what in Little Lever your brother made to you. I need not remove to greater places for worldly incomes, I have as much as I desire, more than I expected, and contrary to what I have deserved; let mine and others learn to trust God in the way of duty, by my example. God hath given me an agreeable wife, a pleasant habitation, a competent income, an affectionate people, health of body, and a contented mind. O

* Probably his work entitled, *The Best Entail*.

† Purchasing a small estate in Holdsworth.

who am I that he hath brought me hitherto! J. P. is my faithful, prudent friend, and compensates the loss of his father, once kind, now a stranger, still a hearer and free contributor. I have learned Micah vii. 5. My humble service to Mr. and Madam Taylor, whom I include in my poor devotions, and bless God for their exceeding usefulness and tenderness towards you. Do not doubt their future care of you, which will be recompensed into their own bosoms and their lovely daughter's, whom I hope God will bless and well dispose of—she remembers our tantivy to Ferry Bridge. I long to come to Walling Wells once again while I live, but know not when, or how that can be. Methinks I earnestly desire your return, and long to see you. I am sorry Mr. Westby gives up house. Mr. Isaac Bates was here last week, and tells me sad stories which afflict me. He hopes you will do something for him; if you can get him a place I think you will not be discredited by him. Give my service to Mr. White; I hope the executors of Lord Wharton will make something of it in time. My poor neighbours Stocks are not fully paid for building Halifax chapel; they that should be active are slack and selfish. Hitherto they have lived upon gift-preaching: I was there the other Lord's day, but resolve to keep at home. I think by this, my little kinsman is gone to Mr. Frankland's. I have prefixed an epistle to a piece of Mr. Frankland's against Socinians; Francis Bentley will get it printed. I am to preach a funeral sermon for little John Simpson to-morrow at Warley; every day produceth new work. Young Josiah Stansfield is gone up again to London, and is in danger of losing £500. by two merchants gone off, pray inquire for him.* Money is scant, trading bad, people are breaking weekly, assessments heavy, poverty comes like an armed man; it is a wonder the country is quiet. God rules the raging sea and the tumult of the people. Buy but six oranges and six lemons since they are so dear, and send by Holmes at the *White Horse* in Cripple-gate, who comes next week, or Kershaw at the *Bell* in Wood Street. Be sure you mention not me, but direct what you send only to the shop of Jonathan Priestley, Jun. in Halifax. I hope Miss Archer, (to whom give my service) will not forget poor Mercy and her children; I have one to pay for at our school. I am glad you are so well employed, I leave my charges on you. Give my service to Mr. Burgess, and to Mr. Vincent when you see him. We are working for a Master that gives good vales, and will pay well at last. I tire you, pardon the excrescences of my love. This is all from

Your endeared father, OL. HEYWOOD.

* Mr. Eliezer Heywood was in London at this time with Mr. Taylor's family.

LETTER III.

TO THE SAME, ON THE BIRTH OF HIS FIRST SON, OLIVER.

My Dear Child,

March 14th, 1701.

I received yours dated March 8th, upon Tuesday, March 11th, and was greatly rejoiced with the contents of it, that God hath so graciously answered prayer, and brought your wife through her straits so mercifully, and brought a living, perfect child into the world, a third O. H.; the first was dead before I was born, but a gracious and now glorified saint. Your son was born about the time of the year I came into the world, for I was baptized March 15th, 1629, and guess my birth was about a week before. I was helped on Wednesday forenoon to pay vows, dedicate you and yours to God, and hope he may bear up God's name as well as mine in the world and church. God Almighty write a law of thankfulness on all our hearts! My sweet daughter knows something of the pangs of natural birth, may she know the sharp throes of one spiritual, then she is safe for eternity! My wife and I sympathize in griefs and joys, *quasi pectora copulata*. I bless God we are in tolerable health, shortwindedness in walking is all my malady, I can study as long and preach as loud as formerly. The public national fast will be on Friday, April 4th. My wife is too careful of me, and would have me to get some assistance that day. I know none I can procure except you be at liberty that day; since you are *Individuum vagum*, if not engaged and can leave your wife, your help will be very acceptable. Pray send me word in time whether you can come. This is a snowy morning and I confess summer is not come; use your liberty, I hope I can make shift, God assisting. I am glad you are sensible of an untoward heart; it is my disease and the chief spiritual malady I am pestered with. I am writing a treatise on Christ's Intercession, that is our cure, let us learn to trust in him. My dear love to your father and mother Rotherham; I am deeply obliged to them for their tender care of mine and their own. I am sorry Mr. White is so indisposed and his lady; we think of them. Pray if you see old Mr. White, give my service to him, and know the result of my letter to him which he sent to London. Thank Madam Taylor for chocolate. I doubt not but you are dissettled and uneasy till you get to your own house; so am I till I get home to the rest above. God enable us to serve our generation according to his will! I received a letter from your brother with yours on Tuesday night which

heightened my joy, that I have two sons hopeful Christians and laborious ministers; it is more to me than if you were princes, my heart is comforted in you whilst

I remain,

Your loving father,

OL. HEYWOOD.

LETTER IV.

TO THE SAME, ON THE DEATH OF HIS SON, OLIVER.

My dear Child,

June 13th, 1701.

I received your letter from Pontefract, dated May 26th, and was glad of your safe arrival at your own house. It is a mercy you have a centre after your various circumferences; but your best centre is above, you must pitch your anchor within the vail, Heb. vi. 19. When we think to settle ourselves we are nearest dissettlement in this world. God hath already shaken out a lovely branch of your new created family, the first breach in mine for the last forty years. This is to train you up under the cross, a wholesome lesson to keep you humble, watchful, weaned from temporal things, and engage you more to spiritual. My friends and relations praying with me and for me, is the greatest kindness they can do me. I am in tolerable circumstances; my asthmatic fits afflict me, and constant shortness of breathing, but I am studying sound, preaching sound, though not walking nor riding sound. My last and best journey will be to the up-hill city, where I long to be, but am content to tarry God's time and do his work. O for success! My wife is in tolerable plight, blessed be God! and our neighbours, in whom I have much content. Old Mr. Johnson was here yesterday, and wants some help to pay debts. What cause have I to admire divine providence to me and mine, and I hope, divine grace! I expect your brother daily to take a journey into Lancashire. Have you spoken to your brother, and appointed a time for an exercise here? Mr. Waterhouse was with us at the Lord's supper last Lord's day, and preached in the afternoon, but his voice is below us; he left me a MS. concerning justification. Enoch Halstead is at last come from Edinburgh, I doubt not much better. Mr. Noble thinks of printing his other piece upon the Apocalypse; but *nullus sum in propheticiis, et puer in dogmaticis, et nolens in*

*polemicis, sed volens in practicis; senectute jam gravidus.**
 My dear child, love God above all earthly enjoyments and relations. Give up yourself to God, maintain frequent communion with him, struggle hard with a bad heart, own grace in all, aim at perfection, and God grant we may meet in glory at last. My dear love with my wife's to you and our dear daughter.

Your endeared father,

OL. HEYWOOD.

LETTER V.

TO THE REVEREND THOS. JOLLIE.†

Reverend and dear Brother,

Oct. 21st. 1698.

My two sons came to me the other week, and brought me your book on the Surry Demoniac from your son, as a token from yourself, for which I do here give you my hearty thanks, and likewise for your kind letters sent to me, which further endear my heart to you in friendship, which first commenced at Cambridge, where you were pleased to take notice of, and take into your society, such a simple, raw lad as O. H. I oft reflect, with comfort and gratitude, on the sweet opportunities we had in your garret-chamber, and the heart-meltings under Mr. Hammond's ministry, with whom I conversed, a fortnight before he died at Hackney, whom we shall never see more in this world; and truly I despair of ever seeing you on earth, but hope ere long to meet you in heaven, in the general assembly above. I have not been a little both pleased and profited in writing a small treatise upon 2 Thess. ii. 1, which I have delivered to my son for the press, and if it come out will send you a copy. Next to meeting our dear Lord, this cheers me, that we shall meet with our godly friends with better hearts, in a better place and posture. In the meantime, there is a communion of saints, if not local yet real: we meet at the throne of grace, conversing with our God, and thereby sending to each other by the road of heaven; yet these paper messages are not insignificant. Your book (one would think) gives Z. T. his death-blow, at least shuts his mouth. Your answers and arguments are so cogent and pungent, your proofs and depositions

* I am no adept in prophecies, a child in doctrinal discussions, and indisposed to controversy, but at home in things of a practical nature; being now burdened with old age.

† See another letter to Mr. Jollie, vol. iv. page 567.

so obvious and pertinent, except he find something further to say from Mr. Carrington I could have wished that something had been forborne in his practice and your writing; but God will turn all to the best, when the devil and his agents have done their worst. I have received a long letter from Mr. Stretton, and am glad that Mr. Forbes of Gloucester and yourself have accepted a call to carry on the correspondence. I have written a large account of 19 congregations in our parts, but whether we can maintain quarterly correspondence in our large county, or send up delegates to London, I yet know not; I think letters may do. It is fit we do any thing we can, to propagate the gospel and reformation, yea, and union, though, alas, we can do little, to cool or qualify the heats in the great metropolis which bode ill to the land: of old, British contests brought on Saxon conquests. Alas, that good men should misconstrue and mistake each other! *Tantene animis cœlestibus iræ!** Will there be anger or shame at ourselves for it in heaven? Methinks Gen. xiii. 7, 8. should shame or silence us. But you and I have well agreed, and hope shall agree to the end and in the end. You are the only brother in this world of the old stock, left to

Your worthless brother,

Groaning for an exit,

OL. HEYWOOD.

LETTER VI.

TO THE SAME.

Reverend and dear Brother,

Dec. 21, 1700.

I received yours dated Nov. 6, and immediately transcribed and sent it to Mr. Whitaker and Mr. Dawson, according to your order, got their hands, and this week received it from your and my dear son in the gospel at Attercliffe, with a very affectionate letter to me whom he owns as his spiritual father. Blessed be God for the grace of God in him, and his singular usefulness in the church. We had sweet converse together in his last return from you, when he spent a Lord's day with us. † They all approve of the expedient for the present. I spoke to Mr. Priestley this week at my house, desired his hand, and showed him your letter; but he excused himself being a junior, and said it was fitter for senior ministers. I can-

* Can such resentment occupy celestial minds?

† See Page 315.

not but follow it with my wishes and prayers, that at last the Lord would compose the spirits of my ancient friends in Craven. We have another breach made in our parts, by Mr. Matthew Smith's preaching and printing a book against the imputation of Christ's righteousness for justification; that *articulus stantis aut cadentis ecclesie*, as Luther calls it. I am much concerned about it, because it diverts people from the main practical things to endless disputes, besides the perniciousness of his doctrine. I have charity for him, though some have not, and others admire him. I bless the Lord we have peace amongst our people. I have a gracious companion, hopeful sons, now both married and comfortably settled, my body much at ease, no violent pain, but coughing and short-windedness, yet capable of preaching in my own chapel, but stir little abroad. I often reflect on the sweet days we have had together in God's immediate presence. It grieves me to hear of your painful disease, and desire to be a sympathizer with you, and a pleader with God for you, though I doubt not but you receive that divine consolation which surmounts and drowns your bodily pains. Dear brother, when you are near the throne remember me, who have no outward affliction compared to a bad heart and too, too much distance from that God who is my life, and with whom I long to be, and would be making haste, having arrived at the age of man.

Your ancient endeared brother in the Lord,

OL. HEYWOOD.

LETTER VII.

TO RALPH THORESBY, ESQ.

Honoured and dear Sir,

Nov. 26, 1694.

Yours of Nov. 13. I received last Tuesday, and have sent yours inclosed in a letter to Mr. Newcome with whom I have some intercourse, and have re-enforced your motions to the best advantage I could, though I am heartily sorry for what my son John told me last Thursday night, that my Lady Wilbraham, where good Mr. Illingworth was last, had told him she must take another Nonconformist minister and his wife into her house, and had no occasion for two chaplains, and desired Mr. Illingworth to provide for himself, which some think he laid so to heart that it shortened his days. I do question into whose hands his books and papers are fallen, but if they can be

retrieved, you shall have them. I hear nothing yet of my brother's life, yet had a letter on Saturday from my younger son at London. I ordered him to go to Dr. Sampson about it, from whom I have the contents of a curious MS. in 26 chapters, containing the history of Nonconformity or Puritanism from the days of Henry VIII. to this day. If you have not seen it, I will send it you, and beg your encouragement in his printing it. I now bethink myself that you have not seen it, therefore I here send you Dr. Sampson's letter and draught, desiring your return of it after perusal. I have sent you Mr. Frankland's letter to me after long search, and a catalogue of my poor weak labours. I have done little concerning Mr. Sharp. You were mentioning a MS. of his upon Psalm xciv. 19; I long to see it, and wish its printing. Mrs. Sharp saith, Mr. Hickson hath it. Pray get it, and send it. I will promote it what I can. I have lately written a Treatise on a *Scriptural Fast*, being desired to do it. My son John hath it. If I have any encouragement, shall send it to the press. As for Mr. Stretton, my son hath had some letters from him. He complains that the shoemakers (I think) have taken their Hall from him, which was his Meeting-place, so he is destitute, hath been quite out of employ five or six Sabbaths, and he thinks he shall have none except he build one himself, for the people take no care. I am glad you are so well fitted with Mr. Manlove: pray give my dear love to him. My son John hath a motion to Pontefract. I know not what to advise. He is now married, and likely to remove from Ravenfield. I expect him and his wife to be with me this week. My dear love and service, with my wife's, to your wife, mother, brother, sister, &c. from

Your cordial friend, ready in all things to serve yours,
OL. HEYWOOD.*

These for his worthy and much honoured }
friend Mr. Ralph Thoresby, at his house in }
Leeds.

LETTER VIII.

TO THE SAME.

Worthy and dear Sir,

Nov. 25, 1695.

I received your letter of Oct. 8, some time after its dating at Mr. Hough's, and that rich treasury of papers, which

* Appended to this letter, is a List of Mr. Heywood's Works in Mr. Thoresby's handwriting, the same as is given in the Edition now presented to the Public, in which is included the "Life of the Rev. Nathaniel Heywood," as Mr. O. Heywood's own production.

you were pleased to favour and honour me with, of worthy Dr. Sampson's: and my daily pressing occasions have compelled me to detain them longer than I was willing, but now send them back to you by J. Baxter after perusal, and am glad the Dr. proceeds in his resolution to print so incomparable a work. Mr. Reyner's is well done, and that little of Mr. Bowles's I believe to be true, but I question whether it be convenient to descend to the particulars of diary. I had got something out, of my reverend father Angier's, which the London ministers expunged. I can say little of Mr. Ward: I spoke to Dr. Cotton, but he doth nothing: nor of Mr. Newcome. As for Mr. Sharp and Mr. Illingworth, your intelligence transcends mine. All I can say is in my MS. of Mr. Sharp's funeral sermon, in Mr. Jollie's hands. I am reading his Treatise on Psalm xciv. 19. If I can retrieve any thing of Mr. John Leaver, Mr. Roger Baldwin, Mr. Henry Pendlebury, worthy your acceptance, I shall communicate it to you, that you may hand it to Dr. Sampson, to whom give my humble service when you write to him. I am glad you are so well employed, and do humbly present this small Treatise of a *New Creature* to you, hoping for your candid acceptance and furtherance of its sale by John Whitworth. My cordial love and service to your dear wife and mother-in-law; from

Your servant in the Lord,

These for Mr. R. Thoresby, }
at his house in Leeds. }

OL. HEYWOOD.

LETTER IX.

TO THE SAME.

Honoured Sir,

March 2nd, 1696.

Your kind letter I received by the hands of J. Baxter, and thank you for the intelligence therein contained. But I suppose the Parliament will find other work to do now than to pick quarrels. My son in London has sent me a full account of this hellish confederacy, and I may truly call it devilish conspiracy which will be such a divertisement as to beget an employment, if they know their own and the nation's interest. But my son at London signifies, there are eighty of them will not join in association for the king; some whereof are Yorkshire blades, but doth not think fit to name them. It is astonishing to find so many Jacobites. Tuesday morning, closet prayers have already produced good success. I am no politician, but a

poor petitioner at the throne of grace. The Lord reigneth let the earth rejoice! God has graciously prevented the plot, for which I hope a day of public thanksgiving will be appointed. God's ministers and people had agreed to devote every Tuesday morning, an hour to secret prayer, as foreseeing this by divine instinct some months before, and all men see the open answer. Let us bless our prayer-hearing, all-seeing, wonder-working God, and act answerably. I could wish Mr. Manlove may remember his promise to me, for a meeting of ministers at Mill-hill in convenient time. My love to you and yours, I am in haste,

Your real friend,

O. HEYWOOD.

LETTER X.

TO THE SAME.

Dear Sir,

July 19th, 1697.

I received the papers you sent me by J. Baxter, and heartily thank you, that I am yet within the lines of communication; for though Dr. Sampson do not write his letters to me, but to you, (because he thinks you are more able to be at charges) yet I have the benefit of them, but am sorry for the death of so many good men. As to what Mr. Stretton writes in your case, (I had a letter from him on another account last week,) I can say little, not understanding what oaths are requisites for aldermanship, but I have so much charity for you, that I presume you will do nothing, but what you have good warrant to judge lawful, yet I must caution you, (as I love you) to consult pious christian friends—take God's word for your rule—pray devoutly to God—renounce sinister ends—and design ultimately the glory of God, and you shall see God will lead you in the way that you should choose. Walk close with God, maintain daily communion with him and a sense of his omnipresence, and mortify affections to the world's triangular baits. I confess your parts and piety may both fit you for, and render you useful in a more public station, and I shall be glad to hear of your fair entrance on, and faithful management of such a degree, but high places are tickle, *et magistratus virum indicat*. The wise God direct you when such a case falls out, and I judge myself bound to put you among the clients I am advocate for at the throne of grace. But our Lord Jesus is chief advocate in the court of heaven, retain him, and you will not miscarry.

I make bold to enclose these few lines by you to Dr. Sampson, and commit you to the protection of the Almighty, with hearty love, and my wife's to you, resting,

Your obliged friend,

O. HEYWOOD.

LETTER XI.

TO THE SAME.

Dear Sir,

Aug. 9th, 1697.

I am ashamed that I have not returned to you the enclosed before this; having been abroad and busy the two last Mondays, I forgot to write by J. B. till it was too late, for which I crave pardon. I now return it with thanks, and oft think of Dr. Sampson, though I know him not: it would satisfy my curiosity to know how many meeting-houses there are in London, and also in England. I would contribute what I know, if the Doctor would do something. It would greatly tend to God's glory, in raising up such a number of young men as would supply the breaches made. If you be alderman and mayor of Leeds, I hope you will not forsake your old friends, or forget that concern you have espoused. I am not able to advise, but be sure you keep faith and a good conscience—act by scripture rule—walk uprightly—maintain communion with God and his people—and aim at God's glory; and God Almighty bless you and yours!

So prays your obliged friend,

O. HEYWOOD.

LETTER XII.

TO THE SAME.

Dear Sir,

April 9, 1698.

Yours I received some time ago. Pray, sir, give my service to Mr. Manlove; tell him I have redoubled solicitations from Mr. Frankland to put us on, in Yorkshire, in addressing the king; I have written to Mr. Whitaker, but *al-*

tum silentium. I am willing, but cannot travel. My dear love to you and yours. From

Your cordial friend,

O. HEYWOOD.

P. S. I am mightily pleased with Mr. Manlove's book on the *Immortality of the Soul*; pray give my service and thanks to him. I am sure you have a great blessing in so worthy a man.

LETTER XIII.

TO THE SAME.

Dear Sir,

Jan. 8, 1699.

I am now in a capacity to perform my promise, having last week received a parcel of the books from Mr. Parkhurst, and send you one as a token of my affectionate respects to you. I hope you received my brother's life, which I sent you, and if in any thing else I be able to please or pleasure yours, you shall command me. I have not found the letters you desired. Pray give me notice, if you can, whether Dr. Sampson will print the *History of Puritanism*. I want time to enlarge, only give my dear love and service, with my wife's, to your wife,—

Resting your obliged friend.

O. HEYWOOD.

LETTER XIV.

TO THE SAME.

Dear Sir,

Feb. 5th, 1699.

I had notice by brother Baxter, that a leaf was wanting in Dr. Sampson's book; I know nothing of it. I have enquired of Mr. Priestley to whom I lent it, and to his father, and his brother Nathaniel. They remember there was a leaf loose, but think none was lost in their hands. Sir, I am busy with some lives of ministers, late of Yorkshire and Lancashire, but am hindered by other occasions, but hope within this fortnight or three weeks to send them. I want some help about Mr. Cornelius Todd, where he was minister when he died. Mr. Abm. Sharp hath had his brother's book and memoirs to tran-

scribe two months; hasten him. My soul desires your best good. With service to you and yours,

Your observant friend,

O. HEYWOOD.

LETTER XV.

TO THE SAME.

Dear Sir,

Feb. 27th, 1699.

I have taken some pains, (more pleasure) in transcribing the lives of these worthy men. I know I am defective in giving a full account of them, but hope these short hints will perpetuate their memory. You may please to adopt what you think fit, and transmit them to Dr. Sampson, who I hope will make haste to print his history. Some draughts of Mr. Frankland's life are designed to be printed with his funeral sermon, preached by Mr. Charlton; I have helped what I can, yet doubt nothing worthy of him, he having left us no memoirs under his hand. You know Mr. Sharp better than I. I sent his treatise long since to his brother to transcribe, but I perceive he makes no haste. I have enquired of the fate of Dr. Sampson's book, but can hear nothing of it. I am for sending two young men to Mr. Manlove next week. One is a nephew of mine, very hopeful, must follow them with my prayers. When you write to the Dr. give my service to him. Mine, and my wife's to you and yours, from

Your willing servant,

O. HEYWOOD.

LETTER XVI.

TO THE SAME.

Dear Sir,

Oct. 2nd, 1699.

I received yours, and thank you for your kind invitation, but I am almost superannuated for distant journeys. Most of my work lies in my study, pulpit, or about home. I am concerned much for a fit man for Mill-hill, and hope you put to your helping hand, and hope your heart is there though

your body be not always present with them. I cannot forget you, for your dear father's sake, and your own, to whom I am so much indebted, and endeared. Be sure you keep close to God in spirit, wherein much of the life of religion consists.

I have this day made myself busy in transcribing these two lives. Short memoirs are most proper, else I could have enlarged. Pray when you write to Dr. Sampson, give my service to him, tell him I doubt his book will not antedate his death, except he make haste. I long, long for it. My dear love with my wife's to you and yours,

Your assured friend,

O. HEYWOOD.

LETTER XVII.

TO THE SAME.

Dear Sir,

Dec. 11th, 1699.

I had intelligence that after the All-wise God had thought fit to lay his afflicting hand upon yourself, and second, and had graciously removed it from you, it pleased the Lord to renew his witness against you and laid his afflicting hand upon your children, and as I was informed plucked two out of your bosom. I was much troubled at the tidings, having felt the experiment of rending such members from my own body. I hope God supports you and your dear companion. Yet that must not be all, but a sanctified use of the hand of God is necessary, which consists in, 1. Reflecting on what we have done amiss, or been short in our duty to God and men: and then, 2. Importunately begging a pardon sealed to our consciences in the blood of Christ. 3. Renewing our covenant of better obedience, and more close walking with God in christian exercises, and in the communion of saints. And, 4. A heart more mortified to things below, elevation of our spirits to divine objects, preparatory for death and eternity. Dear sir, I think I did send you the short memoirs of Mr. Hawden's life; if you have any thing considerable from Mr. Sampson on Mr. Stretton, pray communicate it, as I shall freely do to you what is worth my writing or worthy your reading. I wish I were in a capacity to visit Leeds, but I am prevented from travelling, being so exceedingly shortwinded that I have much ado to get up stairs; being superannuated, I must confine myself to my study and pulpit till laid in the dust, and am longing for celestial views, having

had my glut of days, travels, and difficulties in this lower world. I desire your prayers for me and mine; my dear love to you and yours,

Your cordial friend and servant,

O. HEYWOOD.

LETTER XVIII.

TO THE SAME.

Dear Sir,

Jan. 18th, 1702.

I received your letter, whereby I perceive you have been at our metropolis, and conversed with the grandees for nobility and learning, who I doubt not have greatly added to your soaring and profoundly searching speculations, which possibly are edifying to you, but not much to me; though delightful to know *omne scibile*, as it is said of Jerome. Your acquaintance with great personages I do not envy; I read what you write, but *to me, one hour's communion with God, and my improving my poor talent to gain souls for Christ, is all*. I thank you for Mr. J. Calvert's life, it came seasonably; for I was sending up to Mr. Calamy the Yorkshire and Lancashire ministers' lives to be appended to a book he prints of Mr. Baxter's life, connected with the rest of the Nonconformist ministers in England, all which I got copied out of my MSS. for I perceive Dr. Sampson has committed his lives and papers to Mr. Tong of Coventry, who lets them lie by him, and frames not to arrange them. This book is in the press, and will be out shortly, and this life of Mr. Calvert came but just in season, which I have sent up last Tuesday by the carrier. I got the same hand which copied out the former, to transcribe these, which I now send by J. B. for I suppose you have not seen them, because their deaths were of a later date. Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Pendlebury, Mr. Newcome, Mr. Seddon, all ancient, eminent ministers dead in one years time, which made a great breach in that Salford hundred. God Almighty fit us for that hour, that we may be followers of them that, through faith and patience, inherit the promises. My dear love, with my wife's to you and yours, ends this trouble from

Your cordial friend,

O. HEYWOOD.

LETTER XIX.

TO THE SAME.

Dear Sir,

June 1701.

I must confess my fault, and crave pardon for not answering your last letter some weeks ago. My multiplicity of business, and multitudes of letters received and answered, if known to you, would plead for me. I am satisfied about my son John's allowance; he has been here since. I have not yet found the lost letters. I suppose we shall hear in a little time of Mr. Tong's making something of Dr. Sampson's papers. Good sir, study the word of God, gospel mysteries, and the treachery of your own heart; maintain secret communion with God, and close fellowship and profitable improvement of communion with saints. My dear love with my wife's, to you and yours, from

Your obliged friend,

O. HEYWOOD.

LETTER XX.

FROM MR. J. HEYWOOD RESPECTING HIS FATHER'S LETTERS
AND LIFE, TO MR. THORESBY.

Dear Sir,

I received the money you remitted by Mr. Reyner's son, and thankfully return you the receipts as you desire. We have not yet had time to look over dear father's MSS. and bundles of letters, so cannot furnish you with any valuable autographs, but when we do, assure yourself, I shall not be unmindful of obligations and promises. I am doing what I can to forward my father's life, but necessary and unavoidable occasions retard, nor do I find it so easy to do it to purpose, as at first sight it might seem to be. I forwarded yours to Mr. Croister, and now offer sincerest service to your good lady,

I am, Sir,

Yours to my power,

Sept. 27th, 1703.

JOHN HEYWOOD.

LETTER XXI.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.


Dear Sir,

I thankfully received both what you sent to me, and your kind letter. I am indeed a poor crippled prisoner, having by a fall dislocated the cap of my right knee; whereby I am laid aside as a vessel in which God has no pleasure, and of no use, which is very afflictive, though I hope but for a season, and the believing prayers of you and christian friends may forward a cure. My present lameness, (being confined to my bed) and severe indisposition under which I have laboured all this winter, have very much taken me off my design of finishing dear father's life. The hopes of obtaining any of Q. E's. autographs, I doubt are quite vanished, the opportunity being irretrievably lost. However mine, and my wife's sincere dues to you and yours concluding this from, Sir,

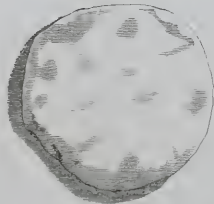
Your afflicted servant,

April 3rd, 1704.

J. HEYWOOD.


 Harlotte Comtesse Dowager of Derby, Arm and Undoubted Patronsse of the Vicarage
 of Wormscliffe in the County Pallatine of Lancaster unto the he. th. th. Commission &c
 for approbation and admission of Publicke private & Gentile Ministers in o. Lord God &c
 Everlasting. I doe present unto you to bee admitted into the Vicarage of Wormscliffe aforesaid -
 beinge now void my wellbelov'd in Christ Nathaniel Heywood Minister of Gods word
 humbly desiringe that the said Nathaniel Heywood may be by you admitted unto the
 said Vicarage wth it Right members and app'tance And that you will be pleased to doe
 what soever shall be requisite in that behalf: for the makinge him the said Nathaniel -
 Heywood Vicar of the Church of Wormscliffe aforesaid according to the Stat. Ordinance
 in that Case made and provided **In witness** whereof I have subscribed wth
 my hand and Seale this Twentieth Day of August in the year of o. Lord God -
 One thousand Six hundred th. Eight and Six:

In test. Ego c. do
 octobris coram
 Jo. Henshaw Sec.



Edw. D.

326 — 50

The simile of the Original Presentation in the possession of J. W. Heywood Esq. of Wakefield
 one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the West Riding of Yorkshire & a descendant of the Rev. W. Heywood