

played it excepting to his intimate friends. See Wilson's *Historical Memorials*, MS., in Leeds Old Library; Whitaker's *Loidis and Elmete*, pp. 72, 145; Nichols's *Literary Illustrations*, vol. i., p. 762, &c., and vol. iv., pp. 374, 377, &c.; Watt's *Bibliotheca Britannica*; Thoresby's *Diary*, vol. ii., p. 264, &c.

—1760.

MR. THOMAS WILSON, F.S.A.,

Succeeded Mr. Jno. Lucas as master of the Charity School, at Leeds. According to Dr. Whitaker, "Wilson, a native of the parish of Wragby, was a man not easy to be described: though dull, he was indefatigably and usefully laborious in gleaming after his master, Thoresby; but, like other men of inferior education, who by pertinacious industry have attained to considerable knowledge, he was sullen, disappointed, and envious; at one time, though outwardly a conformist to the Church of England, he appears to have been in heart a Roman Catholic, but his general tone is that of a High Churchman; under every change of opinion, he was weakly superstitious. To Thoresby himself, whom he probably courted and flattered when living,* his conduct was very ungrateful; for, in his notes on a copy of the *Duc. Leod*, now before me, he has treated his memory with all the contumely which low-bred petulance and malice could devise. Had it not been for this conduct, deeply indebted as I confess myself to have been to his labours, I should have desired to tread

friend and parishioner, who desired to be interred near him, directed the following inscription to be added to a memorial of himself:—

"Oppositos intra Cancellis
Reconduntur reliquiae
Thomae Barnard, S.T.B.,
Hujus Ecclesiae Rectoris,
Doctrinâ, pietate, modestiâ, insignis,
Ne talem premat oblivio virum,
Quod nullâ ita enim ipse jussit,
Decoretur tumulus επιγραφη,
Justo amicum ornari encomio,
Atque illius juxta cineres sese deponi voluit
Antonius Oldfield."

The inscription was written by Dr. James Nasmyth, the learned editor of Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*. See also Nichols's *Lit. Anc.*, vol. i., p. 681, &c.

* In the large paper copy of Whitaker's *Thoresby*, in the Leeds Church Institute, presented by the late Wm. Gott, Esq., there is the following query in the margin written in pencil: "Is there any evidence that he was ever acquainted with Thoresby?" None whatever, that we have seen; for Thoresby died in 1725, and Wilson did not succeed Lucas till 1750; so that Dr. Whitaker's supposition is most probably unfounded.

lightly upon his ashes." Having carefully examined his Notes, we are of opinion that the charge brought against him by Dr. Whitaker is much more severe than the occasion demanded. The following is Wilson's Introductory Account of his *Historical Registers*, 2 vols., MSS., in Leeds Library:— "It pleased God to implant in me a genius truly historical, though unqualified for so spacious an undertaking, because so remote from public libraries; yet, an affectionate love to the history and antiquities of this kingdom, prompted me to the following lucubrations; because none of our writers has attempted such a thing; indeed, we have had several who have treated of our historians, &c., with learning and judgment (to whose writings I have had recourse), as Leland, Pits, Bale, Vossius, Whear, Wood, Nicholson, Hearne, &c., but they being not very methodical, I have, for the private satisfaction of myself and friends, extracted from the above said authors what in them is most material, disposing what I have collected alphabetically, according to the ingenious Mr. Collier and Mr. Bayle, in their *Historical Dictionaries*. 1. I have given a short account of their *Lives*, such as I could procure from several MSS. and choice printed books, where and when born, what preferments they enjoyed, &c., but designing brevity, because 'Ars longa vita brevis.' I refer the curious to abundance of our biographers, who have written large volumes of single *Lives*. Also, I don't attempt to give the characters of all our historians; to avoid needless repetitions, which would clog the mind of a reader, but refer to several authors where they are displayed to the life. 2. I have inserted an account of their *Works*, manuscript and printed, where the MSS. are deposited, whether in public or private libraries; if printed, the size of them, when and where printed, their several editions, and alterations, or additions; in what language originally written; if translated into any other language, I have inserted by whom, and when and where printed. Thus I have spent two or three hours each evening, for above nine years past, as a delightful amusement after ten hours fatigue in teaching a number of poor children. 'Nulla dies sine lineâ.' I say, thus I have traversed remote and desert paths through the British, Saxon, Danish, Norman, English, and foreign histories (that treat of English affairs), for the gleanings of the ancients were better than the vintage of the latter times,—the very fragments of antiquity are venerable, &c., &c.* These delightful studies

* Every ingenious fragment is venerable to the virtuoso, and always

have also secured me from the noise of a quarrelsome and contentious age, when even religious matters are almost wholly disputed into formality, and that which makes men as beasts, having no tendency to become wiser or better. Though a person be endowed with learning and natural parts, he cannot publish anything in this unhappy age but every pedant assumes the title of critic, and, like *Æsop's* cur, snarls at the performance even before it is exposed to public view; this has been the unfortunate case of some of our most polite and impartial historians in this schismatical age, &c."*

—1772.

GAWEN KNIGHT, ESQ., M.D., F.R.S.,

(For Page 173.)

An English philosopher, son of the Rev. Robert Knight, M.A., Vicar of Harewood,† where his son Gowin, or rather Gawen, was born. He was educated at Leeds (being for

pleasant to a curious inquisitive mind; but a collector should have the industry of a Hercules, and the patience of a Socrates, an eye like Argus, and a purse like Ceresus.

* *Manuscripts*, in Leeds Library, by Mr. Thos. Wilson, F.S.A., of Leeds:

1. "Chartularium Melsense," a collection of Papal Bulls, Royal and Private Benefactions to the Abbey of Meaux, in the East Riding, Ex Bibliotheca Thorntonianæ, folio, 1746.
2. "The English Historian and Antiquary's Register," containing an account of all the English *Historians* and their *Works*, manuscript and printed, also, of Foreign *Historians* that have written of English affairs, 2 vols., folio.
3. "Familie Lancastrienses," or Genealogical Descents of the Nobility and Gentry of Lancashire, from Original Records in several hands, and the MSS. of Sir John Byron, Sir G. Booth, Mr. J. Hopkinson, R. Thornton, Esq., Ralph Thoresby, and John Lucas, folio.
4. "Liber Judiciarius," or Domesday Book, for the County of York, folio.
5. "Leeds Charities." The wills of Thos. Ward, Sir W. Sheaffelde, Josiah Jenkinson, J. Harrison, Rev. H. Robinson, Mrs. M. Potter, with the grants of Jno. Harrison and G. Bannister.
6. "Pedigrees and Arms of the Yorkshire Families," from the MSS. of Jno. Hopkinson, gent., corrected by Mr. Wilson, 4 vols., folio. (West Riding, 2 vols., East Riding, 1 vol., North Riding, 1 vol.)
7. Sharp's (Abp.) Historical account of the Silver and Gold Coins in England, Scotland and Ireland, with account of his Life, by Mr. Wilson, 4to.

These valuable MSS. are all in the hand writing of Thos. Wilson, F.S.A., and were presented to the Leeds Library by his son, Mr. Joseph Wilson. See also Nichols' *Lit. Illustr.* iii., 366-72; v., 507-8, &c.

† Robert Knight, M.A., of Christ's Church Coll., Oxford, was presented to the vicarage of Harewood, by the truly pious Lady Elizabeth Hastings. He died July 2nd, 1747, and was buried in Harewood Church, July the 5th. He had a fine collection of coins, &c., which he left to his son, Dr. G. Knight.