

CHAPTER VIII.

REV. THOMAS SHARP, M.A.

Born October 30, 1633—Educated at Bradford Grammar School—Entered Clare Hall, Cambridge—Letter from his mother—Samuel Sharp, also a student at Clare Hall—Thomas Sharp enters holy orders—Ejected for his nonconformity—Returns to Horton Hall, for which he obtained a preaching licence—Partially rebuilt Horton Hall after his father's death in 1672—Minister at Morley, and afterwards at Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds—Died August, 1693—Inventory of his goods—Extracts from his account books—Thomas Sharp's will—Will of Faith Sharp, his widow.

The Rev. Thomas Sharp, M.A., the eldest brother of Abraham Sharp, deserves more ample treatment than was accorded him in the brief reference made in the opening chapter of this work. Both in respect to his literary ability and theological attainments, he was a fitting representative of a family which, as regards antiquity, respectability, and the eminent men it has produced, stands very high.

Thomas Sharp was born on the 30th October, 1633, at Little Horton. Born of parents whom the doctrines of religion strongly permeated, he was in early life destined by them to the work of the ministry, although as eldest son he was heir to a considerable estate, and one to whom his father, John Sharp, might naturally have looked to assist him in his

business as an extensive clothier. In good time he was sent to the Bradford Grammar School, which has been previously referred to as a noted nursery of learning, and in the year 1649 was entered at Clare Hall, Cambridge, and placed under the tuition of his distinguished maternal uncle, David Clarkson, and afterwards under Tillotson, who became Archbishop of Canterbury. Under these notable tutors, Thomas Sharp became an excellent classical scholar and mathematician.

While at college, Thomas Sharp received the following, among many letters, from his mother, Mary Sharp, or as she signs herself, "Marie," which is full of interest and is marked by that religious fervour, which distinguished the family of Clarkson, from whom she sprang. It is in a beautiful style of handwriting, and is as follows:—

HORTON, 23rd October, 1656.

DEAR SON,

It is a long time since I heard from you, and many times I am troubled that we cannot hear when Mr. Sturdy goes or comes. If you would not miss of writing by him we should know better how and when to write to you. The last we had was by young Stanhope, which was writ a good while before. I hope you will not fail to write either by our cosen, if you can spare time, or by Sturdy the first opportunity. I long to hear how it pleases the Lord to carry on his own work in your soule, which to hear would be some refreshment to my drooping spirits, which grones and moanes under a senseless and unprofitable frame of heart under my frownes and corrections, which I cannot find the fruit of as I desired and hoped for. I know it is my sin that procures evill to me, and hinders good from me, but I cannot see the great evill that is in sin, nor get my heart affected with it, to lothe myself for it as I should. Oh, that I had faith to believe for that after-fruit, and a heart to indure to the utmost, that I might lose none of that good which the Lord is willing to reach out to His chastened ones. I hope you will not fail in your earnest requests to the Lord that He would please to own our pore soules, and turn to us in mercy, from whom he hath hid his face for a long time, not coming in with those quickenings and refreshings in the enjoyment of His publick ordinances as in times past. Oh, for a heart to cry mightily to Him in private and in secret, as formerly. Oh, what a sad condition hath our sinful divisions brought us into. What can we expect but that some sad judgment is at hand, which is the fear of many. The good Lord fit us for a suffering condition, and help both you and me and all our near relations to make

our peace with God, that, what times soever come, we may be found in Christ.

Your father and I will expect you and your brother John next summer, if God grant health and peace. The last letter I had from John he seemed to be under some conviction. I should bless the Lord to hear that it might be carried on to a thorough conversion. I wish when you have opportunity you would put him in mind of that great work of regeneration that we must all pass through before we can enter into life.

If I had known in time that Cosen Wilkinson would have seen you, I would have sent you a pair of gray stockings, but will send them when they are ready. I desire to know what became of brother Sam's linen; it would trouble me to lose it. I mean his sheets, and shirts, and napkins, for I had provided well for him. If God had given him life he would have wanted no more for a long time, but we were unworthy of such a mercy, and God hath hid him from an evil which I fear is to come. God help us all that are left behind to stand in the gap and to cry mightily for redeeming grace. The good Lord pour out much of his spirit upon you, and make you an able minister of the New Testament, is the earnest prayer of

Your dear mother,

MARIE SHARP.

The brother "Sam" alluded to was the third son of John Sharp, father of Thomas, and was born in 1640. He also was entered at Clare Hall, Cambridge, but died in the early part of 1656, while in the sixteenth year of his age. From the tone of the letter already given, it would appear that he, too, was a young man of promise. The following letter was written to him while at College, and is full of parental love and deep piety. It is dated

HORTON, *March 14, 1655.*

DEAR SON SAM,

It is som troble to me thatt I cannott gett so much time to write as I could wish; your father expected with his to have had one from you, which I hope you will nott neglect this time, by no meanse you may not, lest he should have cause to thinke you slight his kindnes. Bee sure to write to him as often as you can, for he was one great incouragement, & put your father on to send you where you are. It seems by your letters you are where you would be, soe blessed be God thatt gives you so good health of bodie. I beseech the Lord (hee) would make you sensible of your spirituall desires &

soule wants, your miserie by nature, & your great inabilitye to extricate your self out of thatt condition thatt you & all the sons of Adam are in, till itt please the Lord to open your eies & turn you from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God. I intreat you sett som time apart to studie & seriouslye to consider of this, for whatt is learning without grace to improve itt aright, itt will butt agravate your condemnation. Therefore cry unto God thatt he would make you a new creature, & lett you see your necesite of a saviour, to deliver you from sin here, and from wrath thatt is to com hereafter, to all that is out of Christ. It is no small comfort to your father & me thatt itt hath pleased our good God to awaken your brother Thom: & to lett him see whatt he is of himselfe. The Lord awaken him more, & though itt hath been sad with him, yett our hopes are thatt our God will perfect his own worke & make him a comfort to us all. The good Lord make you & all the rest so too. Company with him as much as you can while he staves in the Colledg, for I perceive he hath an inclination to leave C for a time, the Lord direct him, & be with him, & keepe you allsoe from sin and vanitie, is the earnest request of your carefull mother

MARIE SHARP.

Continuing the career of Thomas Sharp, it would appear that after entering into holy orders, in 1660 he accepted a curacy at Peterborough, but removed to Yorkshire shortly afterwards. His uncle, the Rev. William Clarkson, Rector of Adel, near Leeds, dying, Henry Arthington, Esq., presented him to that parsonage; but Dr. Hick, the parson of Guiseley, challenged his title to the incumbency on the ground of having been ejected for nonconformity. He then retired to his father's house at Little Horton. After a time he removed to Reading, but in what capacity he resided there does not appear. In the year 1668 he married Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Bagnall, who gave birth to a daughter, and both died soon afterwards. When licences to hold religious services were granted by Charles II., in 1672, he availed himself of the opportunity to return to his own house at Horton, which he had that year inherited (with a considerable estate) on the death of his father, and there exercised his ministry, "the house being crowded with great numbers that flocked to hear him." During the year 1673 he married Faith, the daughter of the Rev. James Sale, an eminent Nonconformist minister at

Pudsey, and a man of great reputation among his party. By his second wife, Thomas Sharp had several children, but only two survived him. On taking up his residence at Little Horton, he began in 1676 to rebuild a great portion of his father's house upon a plan drawn by himself, which is now in the possession of Mr. F. S. Powell, of Horton Old Hall. After ministering for some years at Little Horton, he received a "call" to Morley, where he continued a considerable time, and then, receiving an invitation to become the minister at Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds, he accepted it and fitted up a house in that town, but still kept up his house at Little Horton and rode to and fro between the two places. He had ridden from Horton to Leeds on the 4th August, 1693, and preached. Soon after he was attacked by his old enemy, the pleurisy, which terminated his life on the 27th of the same month, in the sixtieth year of his age. He was buried at Leeds.

Thomas Sharp is mentioned as a fluent and orthodox preacher, of pious life. He was very studious, and having excellent natural abilities and great advantages of education, he became a universal scholar. He wrote, among other compositions, a work entitled "Divine Comforts, Antidoting Inward Perplexities," which obtained an extended circulation; also "Verses on Sleep," and other pieces of poetry.

Calamy said of the Rev. Thomas Sharp—"He was every way a great man, and yet cloathed with humility. He was very laborious in his work, full of self-denial, exceeding temperate and mortified to all earthly enjoyments, and of a peaceable, catholic spirit. He was excellent in prayer, and a fluent preacher. His sermons were elaborate and accurate; and all his performances were exceeding polite and scholar-like."

From an inventory of the goods and chattels of Thomas Sharp now before us, it appears that their value in his house at Horton amounted to £149 18s., and at his house at Leeds to £134 17s. 4d. Many of the items are interesting, but the

full inventory is too long to publish entire. From it we cull a few items, viz. :—

At Horton Hall.

	£	s.	d.
His purse and apparel	15	0	0
<i>In the Hall—</i>			
1 large table... ..	2	0	0
1 square table, one long settle, and one watch chair...	1	3	0
<i>In the Dining Room—</i>			
1 round table and carpet	2	10	0
1 square table and 1 seeing glass	2	0	0
12 chairs with backs, 2 seats set work	4	10	0
6 arch chairs, covered with set work	1	10	0
4 pictures, large map, and weather glass	6	0	0
<i>In the Little Parlour—</i>			
1 stand bed, 1 half-headed bed... ..	2	0	0
<i>In the Great Parlour—</i>			
1 bed with hangings	3	10	0
1 clothes press and 7 chairs	1	13	4
<i>In the Best Chamber—</i>			
12 arch chairs and 1 table	2	11	0
1 pair bedstocks, one feather bed, and bedding—with hangings	5	0	0
6 chairs covd. with set work, and couch chair	4	10	0
1 buffet and stool, 1 screen	0	13	4
<i>In the Study—</i>			
4 maps that hangs up, a colln. of other maps, and the library	80	0	0

As already stated, John, the father of Thomas Sharp, M.A., died on Whit-Sunday, 1672, and in the possession of a considerable estate. The following extracts from the Rev. Thomas Sharp's notebook, in the possession of Mr. Hailstone, gives a tolerably clear impression of the value of that estate, and of how it was administered by his eldest son :—

MY FATHER'S ESTATE.

Land himself never esteemed above	£80	0	0
Goods in inventory	190	15	0
The total of all he dyed possesst	£1790	15	0

CHARGE UPON IT.

Funeral Expenses £16 5 0

Debts—To my Lady Maynard 114 5 0
 To Ester Clarkson... .. 50 0 0
 To Robert Clarkson 24 15 0
 Wormall's debt in ye book, and for goods 11 4 0
 Isaac's funeral expenses 15 0 0
 To Capn. Dixon for poles, and Rawnsley for stones... .. 0 18 0

£216 2 4

Legacies and Portions—

To Bro. John 150 0 0
 To Sister Martha 200 0 0
 To Bro. Abraham 160 0 0
 To Bro. Robert 140 0 0
 To Mr. Waterhouse 0 10 0
 To hired servants 0 5 0

£650 15 0

Debt to Mr. Waterhouse for tythe wh. my mother
 will satisfy 5 0 0

Leaves £888 3 2

Out of which must be deductd. for Lady Maynard... .. 60 0 0

Leaves £828 3 2

Before my father's death I pd.—

To Bro. Isaac, Aug. 10, 1670 100 0 0
 And upon his request to increase his stock 40 0 0
 A debt at my father's reqt. 75 0 0
 Brother William 20 0 0
 Bro. Abraham (indenture) 20 0 0
 Bro. Robert... .. 60 0 0

£315 0 0

*Charges which I have been at about my brothers, and in
 fulfilling of my father's will, reckoning till this,
 Sep., 1675—*

Paid my Bro. Isaac's portion 140 0 0
 Paid Wm. apprenticeship money 70 0 0
 Paid Abraham's apprenticeship 20 0 0
 Paid Robert's apprenticeship 60 0 0
 John's portion 150 0 0
 Martha's portion 200 0 0
 My Lady Maynard 50 0 0
 Isaac's funeral expenses—to John 15 0 0

To Capn. Dixon, 13s. ; Rawnsley, 5s.	£0 18 0
Debt in ye book to Wormall's	10 0 0
Pd. of ye funeral expenses for father	3 0 0
Paid ringers 2s. 6d., Clerk & Vicar 3s. 4d., for Mortuary 10s., Sermon 10s.	1 5 10
Debt of my father, which my mother knows... ..	75 0 0
Debt to Wormall's for goods, £11 15s.—my father's part came to £5 4s., whereof £4 was his legacy	1 4 0

£756 7 10

Remaining still to be paid—

Abraham's portion	160 0 0
Robert's portion	140 0 0
To Coz. Robt. Clarkson	24 15 0

£324 15 0

Will of the Rev. Thomas Sharp, M.A.

In the name of God, Amen. I, Thomas Sharp, of Little Horton, in the County of York, clerk, being weake in body but of good understanding and perfect memory, doe make this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following. First, I freely resigne up my soule into the hands of my glorious Creator, firmly hoping for salvation through the merits of my blessed Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ, and my body to be buryed at the discretion of my executors hereafter named. And as to my temporal estate,

Imprimis, I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Martha Sharp, and her heirs for ever, All that my messuage, house, lands, and farms in the occupation of John Boyse, of Bradford, as also all that farm in the occupation of Thomas Mountain, formerly in the occupation of Samuel Lister, with all their appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging.

Item, I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Elizabeth Sharp, and her heirs for ever, All that my houses, lands, and farms called Breckon Hill, in Great Horton, now in the occupation of John Dixon, with all their appurtenances, as also a piece of ground called Moor Closes, fifteen days' work more or less, as also my Close adjoining to the New Meeting Place, called Higher End, being five days' work more or less, both in Little Horton, with all their appurtenances, also my two Paddocks, in the occupation of Jeremiah Rhodes, as also my parcel of ground called the Gooselands, in the occupation of the said Jeremiah Rhodes, with all its appurtenances.

Item, I give and bequeath unto my sonne, John Sharp, and to his heirs for ever, All those my houses, lands, and pastures at Holme Top, at Little Horton, in the occupation of the said Jeremiah Rhodes, with all their appurtenances; also my house and land at Bradford Town End, now in the occupation of John Murgatroide; also my lands called

Langsides, in Horton, in the occupation of Samuel Stansfield, with all their appurtenances. And it is my will and mind that my sonne John shall enter into the above when he shall attain unto lawful age.

Item, I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife, Faith Sharp, my houses, land, and farm at Beeston, in the occupation of John Atkinson, with all their appurtenances; also my housing at Leeds Towne End, in my own occupation, now being with all its appurtenances to be sold for the discharge and payment of my lawful debts.

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said dear and entirely beloved wife all my personal estate whatsoever, and it is my will and mind that the houses and lands bequeathed to my two daughters be at the sole management of my dear wife for their education.

Finally, I doe hereby constitute, ordain, and appoint my said dearly beloved wife, Faith Sharp, sole executrix of this my last Will and Testament, and I doe hereby revoke and disannull all former wills and testaments. In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale, this twenty-sixth day of August, A.D. one thousand, six hundred, ninety-three.

THOMAS SHARP.

Sealed, signed, published, and declared this to be my last Will and Testament, the day and year above mentioned, in the presence of Elizabeth Wilson, Bryan Dixon, Ralph Thoresby, Dorothy Ingham.

Will proved Jan., 1694.

Faith Sharp, the relict of the Rev. Thomas Sharp, survived her husband for some years, during which she resided at Horton Hall with Abraham Sharp, her brother-in-law. She died in June, 1710, aged fifty-nine, the following being a copy of her will :—

Will of Faith Sharp.

In the name of God, &c. I, Faith Sharp, of Horton, &c., bequeath all that tenement, &c., in Farsley, in the possession of Richard Goodall, a messuage at Wheatley, to Mr. Abraham Sharp, my late husband's brother, and after his decease to Elizabeth Stansfield, my daur., until such times as Faith Stansfield, my grandchild, shall attain the age of 21 years. Also messuages at Stead and Burley-Woodhead in Wharfedale, and Horsforth. And my will is that Elizabeth Stansfield, my dau., and Faith Stansfield, my grandchild, and their heirs shall, out of the profits thereof, pay yearly, so long tyme as the Chappel or meeting-place at Horton shall be tolerated by law, and supported and kept up for a place of worship in any part of that township, unto the preaching minister there

for the time being, the yearly sum of forty shillings, in testimony of my desire for its continuance. And I doe further will and charge my said daughter, Elizabeth Stansfield, and her heirs to pay out of the profits of the said premises to distribute and pay yearly during such tymes as the capital messuage at Horton, wherein I now dwell, shall be uninhabited by the owners thereof, the yearly sum of forty shillings amongst the poor of the town of Horton, yearly, in the winter season, according to the discretion of my brother, Abraham Sharp, during his lifetime, and after his decease according to their own discretion. &c., &c.

FAITH SHARP.

Witnesses—

ISAAC SHARP,
MARTHA LISTER,
JOHN MIDGLEY.

Pedigree of Francis Sharp Powell, Esq., M.P., of Horton Old Hall.

[DRAWN BY COURTHORPE, PURSUIVANT OF THE COLLEGE OF ARMS.]



ARMS OF POWELL: Arms quarterly of Six. *First and Sixth*.—Sable, three escalloons argent, each charged with a boar's head erased of the field, langued gules, all within a bordure or.—*For POWELL*.—*Second*.—Per pale indented azure and gules, a chevron between three doves argent.—*For WADE*.—*Third*.—Or, a cross voided sable, in the centre point a leopard's face *passant de lis* of the last.—*For BRIDGES*.—*Fourth*.—Ermine, a lion rampant sable, upon a canton of the last three mullets or.—*For STAPLETON*.—*Fifth*.—Azure, a pheon argent, on a bordure of the last charged with eight torteaux and cross crosslets gules alternately.—*For SHARP*.

CREST: On a wreath of the colours a lion rampant sable langued and armed, gorged with a double chain or, therefrom pendant a pheon argent, the sinister forepaw resting upon an escoccheon also cr, charged with an eagle's head erased azure.

MOTTO: *Omne Bonum Dei Donum.*

CHRISTOPHER SHARP, of Horton, born some time before 1480, died in 1543, possessed of considerable property. Had a brother (or near relative) James, witness to his will in 1541, presumed to be the father of James Sharp, of Woodhouse, N. Bierley, grandfather of Archbishop Sharp. Left an only son=

JOHN SHARP, = ISABEL,

his executor, who on his father's death was assessed in £20 in goods, and from whom sprang the Sharps of Tong. Like his father, was buried at the Church of St. Peter, Bradford. Will dated 9th February, 1557; proved April 27th, 1558.

THOMAS SHARP, = ELIZABETH,

called the elder, yeoman and clothier, of Little Horton, to whom his father, in 1557, left "one thing of the best of every kind of vessel accustomed to be occupied at his house at Horton." Purchased of the Laies in 1589, with three others, 250 acres of the moors and wastes of Horton. Buried at Bradford Church. Will dated 23rd April, 1607; proved 16th July following. Settled on his younger son, John, a portion of his estates.

JOHN SHARP, of Tong,

Will proved 1613.

CHRISTOPHER SHARP, of Little Horton,

Will proved May, 1608.

THOMAS SHARP, junior, = MARGARET.

son and heir, of Little Horton, yeoman, witness in 1607 to the will of his uncle, Christopher. Released to his brother John his interest in a portion of his estate. Buried at Bradford Church. Will dated 16th August, 1636; proved 5th April, 1637.

ISAAC.

JOHN SHARP, = SUSAN,

yeoman, of Little Horton, a distinguished Royalist, who never suffered his beard to be shaven after the execution of Charles I. Married in 1606. By various indentures his father settled on him a portion of his estates, to which he added by purchase from his elder brother Thomas. Buried at Bradford, 2nd June, 1658. Administration granted to his daughter October, 1662.

MARY,

only daughter. Married to Michael Waterhouse, of Shelf, Skircoat, gentleman.

JOHN SHARP, = MARY CLARKSON,

the noted Parliamentarian, and daughter of Robert Clarkson, of Fairgap, Bradford. Married in 1664.

ISAAC SHARP, = ELIZABETH,

Born 1613. Lieutenant of Joshua Rhodes, of Miricompany of Foot, by field.

THOMAS SHARP, of South Kirkby,

Conveyed his estates in Horton to his