From Joseph Hunter, ed. *Letters of Eminent Men, addressed to Ralph Thoresby*

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FROM REV. TIMOTHY HODGSON.[1]

York, April 15, 1702.

I have here sent you the minutes I had drawn up of Mr. T. Calvert, who may well be put in the class of the learned: he was an universal scholar, a good grammarian, an excellent orator, an acute disputant, well skilled in the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew tongues; an able divine.

He was born in the city of York, in the beginning of the reign of King James the First; his parents were of note for religion and trade; he used oft [405] merrily to say at meals, he loved white bread: his father was a baker. He was contemporary at school, and in the University, with the learned Christopher Cart- wright. One of his father's name and trade was sheriff of York, when King Charles the First passed through it on his way to the North. He was trained up in grammar learning in this city; he was soon ripe for the University: he was admitted in Sydney College under the learned and pious divine, Mr. Bell, for his tutor: he was a diligent and pious scholar, improved his time well, and attained the end of his parent sending him thither; he performed his exercises in the college and schools with great applause: he was Bachelor and Master of Arts in that University; when he removed thence he went to be chaplain in the honourable family of Sir Thomas Burdett, in Derbyshire. March the 24th, 1637, he preached his lady's funeral sermon, printed in York, 1650, called, The Weary Soul's wish, or the Dove's Wings: Meditations on Psalm lv. 6. with the addition of elegies.

When he removed thence, he came to York, preached at Christ Church, and Allhallows in the Pavement; afterward was one of the four preachers at St. Peter's, and turned out, Bartholomew 1662.

Anno 1656 he printed at York, his lectures on Isaiah liii, called Mel Coeli, or Medulla Evangelii, 4to.; before that, in the year 1648, he printed in 8vo. his Blessed Jew of Morocco, or, a Blackamoor turned White; being a demonstration of the true Messias [406] out of the law and prophets, by Rabbi Samuel, a Jew turned Christian; written first in the Arabic, after translated into Latin, and now Englished: to which are annexed (by him) a diatribe of the Jews' sins and their miseries all over the world. Annotations on the book, with large digressions, discovering Jewish blindness, their refusing Christ, and the many false Christs they have received; (abundance of Jewish learning is in it, the book is very scarce) this got him the name of Rabbi Calvert.

After his turning out, he lived privately; yet was not idle; he was studious to the last. He reviewed many of his former labours, and prepared some for the press; but they were lost, as many of his choice sermons, &c.

He was very useful by his prayer and counsel to many troubled spirits, who came to him; and translated and printed Schola Consolatoria out of the Latin into English, with several additions and cases he resolved: 8vo. 1671.

He was a great encourager of learning, and in the year 1672, he reprinted Christianus Triumphans, Comedia Apocalyptica, by John Fox, at Basil, 1556, with a learned epistle to schoolmasters, to teach it for the elegancy of the Latin; and many here did. Printed by him at London, 1672, 8vo.

He was very poetical; wrote elegies on the death of Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Edward Bowles, and on the memory of Mr. George Wilson, his brother-in-law, who died, aged seventy years, at Easingwold, in the [407] North Riding of Yorkshire, where he had been minister and turned out in 1662; died September 22, 1671. A sheet of English and Latin verses printed, and another elegy, Latin and English, upon the much lamented death of Mr. Joseph Stopford, B.D. Rector of All Saints, York, who died in the thirty- ninth year of his age, November 3, 1695. Another piece, printed in four sheets 4to., entitled Elegiacks on the Memory of Sir William Strickland, of Boyn- ton, Yorkshire, Knight and Baronet, with a Latin Epitaph; he died September 12, 1673.

He was the maul of heretics; had several bickerings with Socinians and Formalists. Printed in 4to a little piece, but no year, The Visitation of the Sick; or the Roman Church sick of Two Chronical Diseases, the Proud Tympany of the Pope's Supremacy, and the Mass' Blasphemous Phrensy; in verse.

Heart-Salve for a Wounded Soul, and Eye-Salve for a Blind World.

Meditations on Psalm cxliii. 7, and Isaiah lvii. with an elegy on the Lady Mary Griffith, who died 1632. The second edition, printed at York, 1675. Epistle dedicated to the Lady Barwick.

He was of little stature, had a large soul in a contemptible body; he was of a most serious yet merry temper, full of witty sayings; bore all his afflictions, domestic and national, as a Christian and a minister. He was respected by all the learned here who had known him; he had a very good library, but parted with most of them in the latter [408] part of his life. He was sound in judgment, holy in life. In the Disciplinarian Controversy, he was of Mr. Ball's and Mr. Baxter's judgment and practice. He was very communicative to all that visited him. He had all senses, understanding, and memory to the last. His last sickness was very short, not above two or three days: he had been at Lady Barwick's, got cold on his return home, fell into a fever and died, Animam efflavit et corpus deposuit et ad meliorem vitam transiit, April 15, 1679, aged seventy-two, buried in Allhallows Pavement, his parish church. He left several choice manuscripts, which are lost.

Pardon this scribble, being in haste to give it you before you return. I wish you well home, and you may meet your family with comfort. I am Your humble servant,

that

TIMOTHY HODGSON.

I have of Mr. Calvert's works:---

Heart-Salve for a Wounded Soul, 8vo. 1647. Printed at York.

Eye-Salve for a Blind World, 8vo. ditto ditto. The Wise Merchant; or the Peerless Pearl, in two sermons. London, 8vo. 1674.

The Weary Soul's Wish; a Sermon preached at Lady Burdett's funeral, 4to. 1650. York.

The Black . . . . .; or History of Christ's Pas- sion, 4to. 1664. R. T.

[1] Chaplain to Lady Hewley, of York, and son of Captain John Hodgson, an old Parliamentarian officer, whose Memoirs, from his own papers, were published with those of Sir Henry Slingsby, at Edinburgh, 1806.

From Edmund Calamy, ed. *An abridgment of Mr. Baxter's History of his life and times. With an account of many others of those Worthy Ministers who were Ejected, after the Restauration of King Charles the Second. Their Apology for Themselves and their Adherents; containing the Grounds of their Nonconformity, and Practise as to Stated and Occasional Communion with the Church of England. And a Continuation of their History, till the Year 1691.* (1702)

Mr. Thomas Calvert, \* Preach'd at Alhallows on the Pavement, when he was turn'd out of the Minster. After he was wholly Silenc'd, he liv'd Privately in the City, till the Oxford Act Banish'd him, and then he withdrew to the good Lady <i>Barnicks</i> near <i>Todcaster; and in some time return'd back again to York. He was a Pious Devout Man, and a Profound Preacher. His matter was Excellent, but he was not very Solicitous as to Method. He Read and Study'd much; and had great Acquaintance with the Jewish Rabbies. He had a reach in Translating and Expounding Scripture which was Peculiar. He was Bury'd in his Study to the last; but fore broken in his Spirit, Body and Estate, by an Extravagant Son, a Merchant: And as much comforted on the other side in his Brother's Son, Mr. <i>James</i> Calvert, (of whom in his Place) he dy'd in March 1679. Ætat. 73.

\* He hath published Mel Cæli; Medulla Evangelii: or the Prophet Isaiahs Crucifix, being an Exposition of the 53<sup>d</sup> Chapter of his Prophecy: Qu. 1657. The Blessed Jew of Morrocco, or the Blackmore Made White: wherein is a Diatribe of the <i>Jews Sins and Miserys; with many things very observable, He also Reprinted a Book of Mr. Foxes, call’d Christus Triumphans; Comædia Apocalyptica: With a learned Epistle prefix'd to Schoolmasters. He also wrote a piece of Poetry against Papists, &c.

Topcliff: Mr. <i>James Calvert</i>, the Son of Robert Calvert a Grocer and Sheriff of <i>York</i>, was Born in the Pavement in that Ancient City. There also he was Educated till fitted for the University. He was of <i>Clare Hall</i> in <i>Cambridge</i>, Contemporary with the late deservedly famous Arch-Bishop <i>Tillotson</i>, bred up under Mr. <i>David Clarkson</i>. He was a Graduate; but I'm not certain how long he stay'd in the University. He had been several Years at <i>Topcliffe</i> when he was Silenc'd by the Act of Uniformity. He afterwards retir'd to <i>York</i>, and liv'd privately, but not idly: For he Study'd hard, and wrote his learned Book concerning the ten Tribes.

He was an Ingenious as well as a Pious Divine, of a meek and quiet Temper; and when he could not Conform, he submitted. He had several Colloquys with the <i>Arminian</i> Party, and the Church-Men, many of whom he by his Learning and Moderation kept from flying too high in those Points; so that they mostly fell in with Mr. <i>Baxter</i> in the middle way. Many Pious Conformists, as Mr. <i>Chr. Jackson</i>, Mr. <i>Ratcliff</i> &c. would have won him over to the Church; but he could not be satisfy'd with the Answers return'd to his Objections. So that with all his Moderation, he was a true Nonconformist: For he would never be Re-ordain'd, nor give Assent and Consent to all in the Liturgy: And yet such as were of different Sentiments Lov’d and Honour'd him. Printing his learned Tract foremention'd, in 72,\* he Dedicated it to that excellent Person Bishop Wilkins, on whom he waited at Scarbrough-spaw, together with Mr. Williams of York. He receiv'd them with much respect, [453] and encourag'd them to live in hope of a Comprehension; which is yet to come. Many after all Discouragements, yet long and wait for it, as the greatest Blessing that could befal this Nation, if the Foundation were but wide and large eno'. But 'tis more the matter of their Prayer, than their Hope, that we may come to this, before we are reduc'd to some great Extremity. About 1675, he became Chaplain to Sir William Strickland of Boynton, where he continu'd several Years, Preaching and Educating his Son, till both he and his Lady dy’d. Then he remov'd to Hull, and thence into Northumberland, to Sir William Midleton's, where he Preach'd constantly in the Chapel as Chaplain, Educated his only Son, was left Tutour to him when his Father dy'd, and was very careful in his Education, both at home and in Cambridge. He was a Man of great Reading, and a good Disputant. He dy'd in December, 1698. He left his Books, and a good Collection of Manuscripts, to his Cousin Mr. Harrison, Fellow of Sidney Colledge in Cambridge.

* 'Tis thus Entitled: <i>Naphthali; seu Colluctat. Theolog Ezekielis. de reditu 10. Tribuum, Conversione ulæorum, & Mens.</i> Lond. Qu. 1672.