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STOCK AND TORSHELL ON MALACHI;

AND

BERNARD AND FULLER ON RUTH.

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A COMMENTARY  
UPON THE  
PROPHECY OF MALACHI.

BY THAT LATE REVEREND, GODLY, AND LEARNED DIVINE,  
MR RICHARD STOCK,  
SOMETIME RECTOR OF ALLHALLOWS, BREAD STREET, LONDON.

WHEREUNTO IS ADDED

AN EXERCITATION UPON THE SAME PROPHECY,  
BY  
SAMUEL TORSHELL.

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## RICHARD STOCK.



IF in writing our little Memoir of one so prominent and influential in his generation as DR HENRY AIRAY of Oxford, we felt that your wit might, not without warrant, take up Theseus's gibe, and charge us with an attempt to vault into the throne of the poet, who

. . . . . 'gives to *airy* nothing  
A local habitation and a name,'

much more are we exposed to like quotation and playing with names—though we are shrewd enough not to indicate the sources—in trying under our late light to illumine the memory of the three Worthies who now claim our attention. Two of them—Stock and Torshell—seem to have shyly sought to be of 'the *hidden* ones,' such as reckon little of the din of tumultuous praise, and rather shun than court the 'pointing with the finger' of Persius.\*

Here, as in many other instances, it is well if we are able to be for the nonce an 'Old Mortality,' taking lovingly the chisel which Gillot supplies, and tenderly sharpening therewith an effaced date under the moss; or retracing from some time-stained 'register' an overlooked entry; or following up a memorial-fact from a quaint old title-page, or chatty personal allusion in some fervid 'use,' or link of relationship in a Will. Nor is this other than we might expect. Of a 'standard-bearer' such as THOMAS CARTWRIGHT, we look for an ample 'Life;' but as in our Victories on the Battle-field the commanders carry away the renown, so in the great sacramental army of the Church Militant, it were vain to hope for definite or large record of the 'privates' in the ranks.

Once for all, then, be it understood, for us and for our fellow-labourers who are to prepare after Memoirs in the Series, 'This . . . and nothing more,' is nearly the sum and substance of what the most painstaking and persistent researches yield in relation to the vast majority of those men, who by deed and book gave venerableness and grandeur to the by-word 'Puritan.' Not in human books but in 'The Book,' will their 'record' be found. Like experience constrains us to pay the same tribute to not a few of the 'Royalists' and 'High Churchmen' (so-called). Of them—such is the 'infirmity' and *bias* of Puritan as of anti-Puritan, of Nonconformist as of Conformist—must it emphatically be said,

'The *evil* that men do lives after them;  
The *good* is oft interrèd with their bones.'

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\* 'At pulchrum est digito monstrari et dicier, Hic est.'

**R**ICHARD STOCK, by his surname gave a handle to just such verbal quip and jest as we have indicated. Upon his 'monument' there was inscribed (besides others) these punning lines, by those who loved him dearly, the 'merchants of the city, who all but adored him,' says Masson :— \*

'Thy livelesse trunk (O Reverend Stock)  
Like Aaron's rod, sprouts out again ;  
And, after two full winters past,  
Yields blossoms and ripe fruit amaine.  
For why, this work of piety,  
Performed by some of thy flocke  
To thy dead corps and sacred urne,  
Is but the fruit of this old Stocke.'†

A volume of his posthumous 'Sermons' bears in like manner for its title, 'A *Stock* of Knowledge'—none the less noticeable that the joke was perpetrated by the JAMES CRANFORD who so 'vexed' RICHARD BAXTER. All which may be placed beside the grimmer humour of the Puritans in their denunciation of the '*Wren's Nest*,' and 'the *Kitchen* as more loved than the Church'—hitting therein Bishops Wren and Kitchin : a kind of wit to which even stately Sir John Harrington condescended. ‡

Sometimes the name is spelled with and sometimes without a final 'e,' and in 'Truth's Champion'—which, *if it be his*, is perhaps, though the smallest, the best of all his writings,—it appears as 'Stooks.' In his 'Churches Lamentation for the Losse of the Godly,' to wit, the young John Lord Harrington, he himself uses 'Stock' in the title-page, and signs the 'Epistle Dedicatorie' as 'Stoche.' The name is also met with as 'Stoke' and 'Stokes.' 'Stoke' occurs repeatedly in the Tower-Records of the age of John ; and in 1370, a *Richard* de Stoke was Rector of Birdbroke (Middlesex), and another (if another ?), without the 'de,' was Rector of South Shobury, near Sheerness. § A Robert Stock appears among the founders of 'New England,'—a contemporary, but we know not if any relative. ||

RICHARD STOCK was born in the city of YORK, and is placed among its 'Worthies' by Fuller, along with St Alcuinus, martyred Valentine Freese, his equally noble brother Edward Freese, and Bishop Thomas Morton ; as more onward, Dr Nuttall adds, the Nonconformist brothers James and Thomas Calvert—the latter, author of '*Mel Cœli*,' a rich old quarto on Isaiah liii., which book-lovers covet in its rare occurrence,—and good Matthew Pool ; and still more recently, John Flaxman, Dr Conyers Middleton, Archdeacon Nares, and Bishop Porteous. ¶

Master Richard's age on entering the University, as we shall see, lets us know that he must have been born in 1568 or 1569. Of his parentage and outward circumstances, nothing has been transmitted. His portrait in Clarke's well-known folio of 'Thirty-Two Lives,'\*\* is that of a very noble-looking man, having the presence of one 'every inch a king ;' but we suspect he was sprung of 'the common people,' though of a good Puritan 'stock,' no doubt, as the after-selection of his College shewed. If YORK be now shorn of some of its grandeur, as contrasted with the proud aspirations of its famous proverb,—about which Fuller has so much characteristic *persiflage*,—in the child-time of Richard Stock it was 'no mean city.' Its noble Minster rose then as now into the azure. At the period also, it had educational advantages to offer, and, as

\* Life of Milton, vol. i. p. 41.

† Strype's Stow's 'Survey of London,' vol. i. b. iii. p. 200. The whole is given by Brook in his 'Lives of the Puritans,' vol. ii. p. 345.

‡ Torshell's Hypocrite, pp. 121, 122.

§ Newcourt's 'Repertorium,' ii. 63, 530.

|| 'Result of some Researches among the British Archives for information relative to the Founders of New England.' By Samuel G. Drake. Boston, 1860. One vol. 4to, p. 108.

¶ 'Worthies of England,' edited by Nuttall, three vols, 1840; throughout vol. ii. under Yorkshire.

\*\* 1677, 3d edition.