

One of my earliest recollections is of such a face, that of my "Aunt Annie" Ponton. Surely a pride of ancestry and of family that serves only to increase one's longing to do and to be something better and more like those whom one has learned to love and revere has in it nothing priggish or ignoble.

To trace one's descent from the Reverend Philip Henry and to spend time and labor in doing so, may seem a foolish toil to those who know not and care not who their great grandfather was or to those who trace their origin from royal ancestry.

But a descent from such an eminent and truly admirable Christian as Philip Henry can never fail to be of interest to those whose family pride is like that of the greatest poet of the home and of the domestic affections, who declared ;

" My boast is not that I deduce my birth
 " From loins enthroned and rulers of the earth ;
 " But higher far my proud pretensions rise,—
 " The son of parents passed into the skies." †

Religious history is soon forgotten, and so Philip Henry is now little known to a generation that is still familiar with the work of his great son, the commentator, Mathew Henry.

It is interesting to read the latter's notes on Titus, chap. III., v. 9.

" But avoid foolish questions and genealogies and contentions and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain."

" There are needful questions to be discussed and cleared, such as make for improvement in useful knowledge ; but idle and foolish enquiries tending neither to God's glory nor the edification of men, these must be shunned. And genealogies of the gods say some, that the heathen poets made such noise about ; or rather those that the Jews were so curious in : some lawful and useful enquiries might be made into these things, to see the fulfilling of the scriptures in some cases, and especially in the descent of Christ the Messiah ; but all that served to pomp only and to feed vanity, in boasting of a long pedigree and much more such as the Jewish teachers were ready to busy themselves in and trouble their hearers with even since Christ was come, and that distinction of families and tribes had been taken away, as if they would build again that polity which now is abolished ; these Titus must withstand as foolish and vain."

Perhaps the most famous passage in Matthew Henry's commentary is his note on Genesis, chap. II., v. 21.

" The woman was made out of a rib out of the side of Adam ; not made out of his head to top him, not out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved."

Philip Henry's wife was a beautiful character, and indeed her personality adds much to the charm of his biography. The following interesting anecdote is related of her. Her father was much opposed to her marriage, urging that although Mr. Henry was a gentleman and a scholar, and an excellent preacher, he was quite a stranger and it was not even known where he came from. " True," replied Miss Matthewes, " but I know where he is going to, and I should like to go with him."

† Cowper. " On the receipt of my Mother's Picture."