

One of Philip Henry's descendants, Mr. John Ireland, editor of Hogarth's works, was introduced to Dr. Johnson as a descendant of Philip Henry, on which that great man remarked, in his emphatic manner,— *

"Sir, you are descended from a man whose genuine simplicity and unaffected piety would have done honour to any sect of Christians, and as a scholar he must have had uncommon acquirements when Busby boasted of having been his tutor." †

One is inclined to regard the nonconformists of the time of Charles II. as somewhat narrow-minded in their religious zeal. And lest the reader might be tempted to think that the pre-eminent nonconformist Henry was prone to think all damned who were not of his mind in religious matters, I cite a passage from his diary :

"In those things wherein all the people of God are agreed I will spend my zeal ; and wherein they differ I will endeavor to walk according to the light that God hath given me, and charitably believe that others do so too." Those of us who are tolerant are hardly aware that at times ours is the greatest intolerance in the world when we feel and express our impatience at the narrow mindedness of an intolerant man. In proportion let us admire and esteem broad-mindedness. We read with satisfaction John Wesley's ‡ comments on "the disputatious temper of some as to opinions and externals." He adds, "But I do not include that venerable man Mr. Philip Henry nor any that were of his spirit, in this number. I know they abhorred contending about externals. Neither did they separate themselves from the church. They continued therein till they were driven out, whether they would or not."

An example of Philip Henry's broad-mindedness is related in a short biography of him, published by the Religious Tract Society :

"One day when he and many of his followers were at Whitewell Chapel, the clergyman tried to prove in his sermon that all dissenters were in a state of damnation. When Henry was about to preach in the afternoon he said, 'perhaps some of you expect me to answer the severe charge that has been brought against us ; but truly I have something else to do,' and then he preached to them Jesus Christ and Him crucified. With his large liberal heart he could neither bear narrowness of mind in others, nor allow it in himself."

It is remarkable that the life of the incumbent of a small living in Flintshire, whose mouth was stopped and public work suspended for some of the best years of his life should still be remembered, when thousands of others of his day and generation are forgotten. His descendants have never ceased to remember with pride the simple piety, true orthodoxy, and high attainments of their common ancestor. If anyone is industrious enough to count the number of persons named "Philip Henry" in the genealogical list now published, he will be satisfied that even to the present day men boast of a lineage, noble in a true sense.

Miss Anna Swanwick, (see p. 27), the most eminent person of any of those now living, mentioned in these pages, told me of an interesting petition presented to Parliament by Lord Macaulay, and signed by 110 descendants of

*Sir J. B. William's life of Philip Henry, p. 9.

‡ Philip Henry was born a century before John Wesley

† There is a portrait of Busby with his favorite pupil at Christchurch, Oxford.