
**Memoirs of the Life of Mr. Josiah Tomkins, Publ. by Dr.
Montague**

Nassau James

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Author: Nassau James

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M E M O I R S
O F T H E
L I F E

O F

MR JOSIAH TOMKINS,
Late STUDENT of MEDICINE in the University
of EDINBURGH.

E X H I B I T I N G

His fatal Seduction to Vice, his sincere Conver-
sion, his awful Warnings to his Companions in
Iniquity, and his joyful and triumphant Death.

Collected by

J A M E S N A S S A U, Esq;
His Companion in Sin and Repentance.

To which are annexed
Several curious and instructive ANECDOTES.

Published from the Collector's original
By

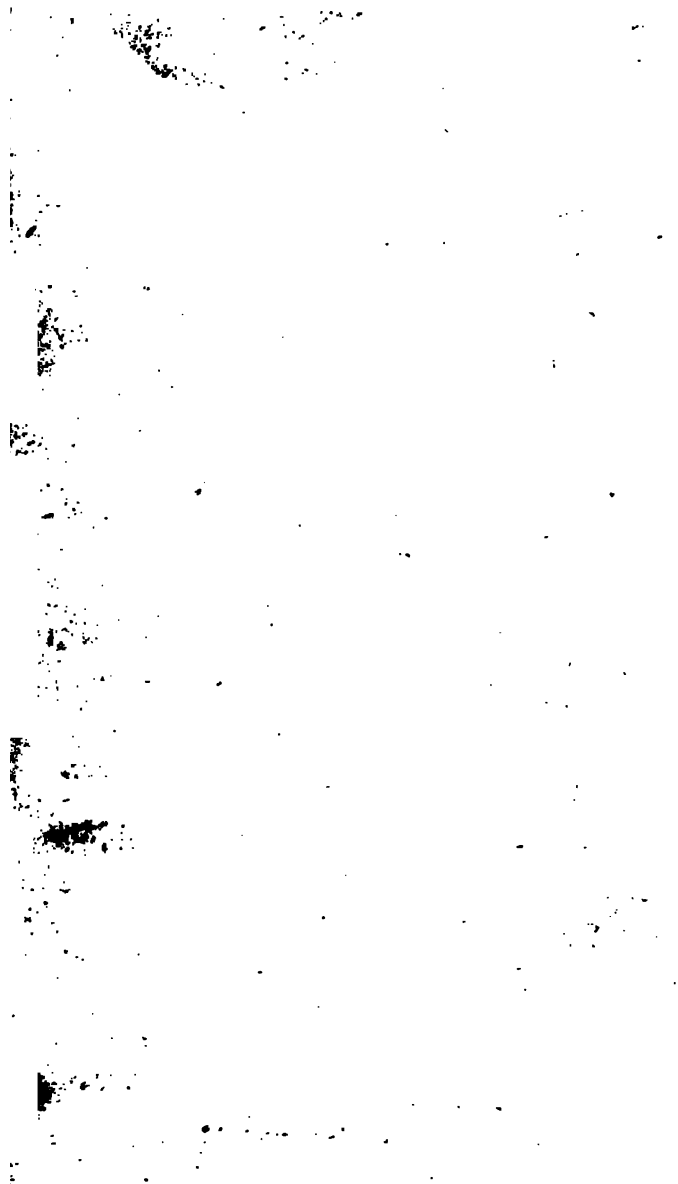
Dr M O N T A G U E, late of W——th.

E D I N B U R G H:

PRINTED BY JOHN REID.

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To
ALL ATHEISTS AND INFIDELS,
THE SONS OF VICE AND DISSIPATION,
THE LEWD OFFSPRING OF PIOUS OR GRACK-
LESS PARENTS,
ALL THOUGHTLESS AND SECURE SINNERS,
EVERY HATER OF GOD AND RELIGION,
AND
ALL SELF-RIGHTEOUS PHARISEES;

AND TO
ALL PERSONS UNDER CONVICTION OF SIN,
EVERY ONE DESIROUS OF SALVATION,
THE CHILDREN OF GRACE AND REFORMA-
TION,
CHRISTIANS MODEST AND HUMBLE,
TIMOROUS AND DOUBTING BELIEVERS,
AND
EVERY FRIEND TO CHRIST AND TRUTH:

THE FOLLOWING MEMOIRS,
ADAPTED TO THE CASE OF EVERY PERSON,
DESIGNED TO REPRESS LEVITY AND
LEWDNESS,
ROOT OUT INFIDELITY,
PROMOTE SINCERE RELIGION,
RECOMMEND VIRTUE AND MORALITY,
AND
ADVANCE THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST,

ARE
MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
By

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E

B Y T H E

P U B L I S H E R.

HAVING been one of the companions of Mr T—s, first in iniquity, and afterwards, I hope, in the kingdom and faith of Jesus Christ, after that gentleman's death I retired to the country, and practised medicine in a certain city. Mr N—u, who had been Mr T—s's favourite companion, became also mine; and used to visit me four times a-year, sometimes oftener, as long as he lived, staying with me several days each visit. As he took down in short-hand many speeches, soliloquies, prayers, &c. made by our dear friend during his long illness and at his death, and reduced them into the form of a narrative, with a reading of which he favoured me; I earnestly importuned him to publish the account, as I was persuaded it might be very useful for promoting the interests of religion and virtue: but I could not prevail upon him by all the arguments I could use. However, I took a copy of the manuscript, and sent it to the printer of the present work, expressly prohibiting him to publish it without my permission.

Some months before his death, Mr N—u reviewed, enlarged, and put the finishing hand to these Memoirs so far as concerns Mr T—s, with the addition of other three parts. On his deathbed he delivered the manuscript, with a large collection of papers, writings, and letters, to the Rev. Mr —, ordering him, immediately after his decease, to transmit them to me; which he did accordingly. On opening the large parcel sent me, I found a long letter addressed to me, written by Mr N—u's own hand, containing one of the two copies of his will, written by himself, in which he bequeaths to me the Memoirs, with all the manuscripts, papers, letters, and writings that belong-

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ed to him, as well those entrusted to the Rev. Mr —, as those that should be found in his repositories after his death, giving me leave to do with them what I had a mind. Soon after another large parcel was sent me by his heir and executor. He had originally given the manuscript the title of, *An account of the life and death of a young gentleman, who lately died in —*. But after correcting and enlarging it, he prefixed the title the book now bears, with a dedication and preface. The account which he had several years ago favoured me with a reading of, was not near so full, ended with the death of Mr T—s, and had the two letters that were afterwards published, with my permission, in a monthly Magazine, annexed, under the title of *Extracts of two letters, &c.* In his travels he picked up the materials of what he calls the second, third, and fourth parts. He wrote the first and second parts in one volume; and the third and fourth in another, under the title of *Memoirs of several persons of both sexes*. And he tells me in his letter, that if Providence had spared his life some months longer, he intended to have added a fifth and sixth part, under the same title as the third and fourth, from a variety of extracts and letters, which he has sent me wrapped in two parcels, one entitled, *Anecdotes and histories for the fifth part of the Memoirs*, and, *Anecdotes, &c. for the sixth part*.

From the dedication and preface it would appear that the author intended this work for the press. On perusal of the four parts, all written with his own hand, and of the materials of the other two, I could not resist the inclination I for a long time have had, to favour the world with so valuable a treasure of Christian knowledge and experience; and I cannot but felicitate myself on being the happy instrument of publishing a work which natively tends to recommend vital piety and serious religion, in the most pathetic terms, to a world lying in wickedness; and I am sure that the sole view of the writer and publisher is thereby to promote the glory of God, and illustrate his sovereign and efficacious grace in the salvation of sinners.

As the whole work will consist of three handsome volumes,

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volumes, I have allowed only the first volume to come abroad at first, resolving, if it shall meet with the approbation of the friends of religion, as I can have no doubt but it will, the other two volumes shall follow in due time, as I have now begun to compose the fifth and sixth parts from the excellent materials afforded me. The author's preface is reserved for the second volume.

It may not be improper to observe with regard to Mr T——, that while he lived in ——, he lodged in a retired place of the city; that his landlady was an ancient widow lady, very deaf, as was also her maid; and that they knew very little about him, except that he was sick, and apparently dying; that a few days before he was seized with his fatal fever, he gave out that he was soon to return to his own country; that falling sick in the middle of September, he languished till the beginning of April; that no body knew of his illness, or visited him, but his most intimate companions, except one gentleman, who a little before his death went to America; so that his condition never became the subject of public talk or speculation. After Mr N——'s departure to the country in the beginning of his illness, some one of his companions was almost constantly with him. For my part, out of the endeared regard I had for the worthy gentleman, I staid many hours with him every day; and after Mr N——'s return, visited him daily. I regret that I did not take down many excellent speeches and exhortations he delivered to me and others, which were not a whit inferior to those recorded in this volume. But though they are now irrecoverably lost, I am sure every serious reader will bless God for those here preserved, which cannot fail to have a happy influence on the interests of piety, so warmly recommended by the dying gentleman.

I shall only further take notice, that, according to my last accounts, as well as by letters found among Mr N——'s papers, all Mr T——'s intimate companions are yet alive, settled in different places of the kingdom, and that they continue to shew the warmest attachment to the cause of religion, and to adorn
their

their Christian profession by a holy conversation. The gentleman who desired to be present at Mr T——s's death, as related p. 246. some years after took orders among the dissenters, and is now a very famous and successful preacher of the gospel. Mr T——s and his lady died about a twelvemonth ago. The sons are comfortably settled, and the daughters married to their own relations, as has long been the custom of the family. Mr N——u left each of them a legacy, as he did one to me. I can give no account of the gentleman and lady, nor the famous Mally, from whose letters of correspondence he extracted the second part of the Memoirs, though it would appear I was acquainted with the lady when in a disguised habit. Nor can I give any account of the other persons who make a distinguished figure in the other parts, the author taking no notice where they lived.

I shall conclude with remarking, that whether all the initial letters of the names in these Memoirs are real or fictitious, as I believe they are of the latter character, the narrative is genuine, and intended, both by the author and editor, for the noblest purposes, those of advancing the glory of God, and promoting the best interests of mankind, in opposition to that lewdness and lewdness, and that deluge of wickedness and unconcern about eternity, which overwhelms the present age. And that it may be accompanied with the divine blessing for the benefit of every reader, is the hearty prayer of

June 10.
1767.

The EDITOR.

The

Extract of a letter from a Clergyman in the country, dated June 17. 1767.

— I was intimately acquainted with the writer of the following Memoirs. He was a gentleman of solid judgment, great knowledge, and sincere piety. He had for about fifteen years spent the summer-season in visiting all the noted towns in the kingdom, where he became acquainted with the most eminent clergymen, and the most judicious Christians of every denomination, especially those among the dissenters; with whom he maintained a religious correspondence; so that a week seldom passed without his receiving and writing very large packets. In his travels he collected a great number of very instructive anecdotes, many of which I have heard him repeat with great pleasure. Mr N——u had, from his infancy, been troubled with a weakness in the lungs, and of late years with a cough, which threatened a consumption. He was very sickly all the last winter, and had the sentence of death in him. He then put the finishing hand to the first four parts of these Memoirs, and collected and arranged the materials of the fifth and sixth. He indulged me with a reading of the first four parts; which afforded me a most rational and religious entertainment, as containing the best and most accurate account I had ever read of a work of conviction and conversion, of a life of faith, of the glorious displays of grace in salvation, of the most forcible persuasives to a religious life, and of the most joyful and triumphant death; together with a series of the most striking anecdotes and entertaining histories, relating to the important interests of mankind, that are to be found in any language. A little before his death, which happened in the beginning of last month, he gave me the copy of these Memoirs,
with