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The Maddock Brothers of Nottingham: A Family of Evangelical Clergy

ROGER BECKWITH

In this bi-centenary year of the birth of the distinguished Evangelical poet and hymn-writer Henry Kirke White (1785–1806), it seems an appropriate occasion to devote a little attention to the old problem of the identity of another Nottingham Evangelical, the poet's closest friend Ben Maddock. We know from White's letters (both from those published by Southey in White's *Remains*, and from those recently discovered by Dr. C.V. Fletcher, and included in his important 1980 Nottingham PhD. thesis *The Poems and Letters of Henry Kirke White*) that White and Maddock became friends at Nottingham, that they both developed a fervent Christian faith there, under the ministry of Anglican clergy of the Evangelical school, and that they both obtained admission as undergraduates at Cambridge, with the intention of preparing for ordination. We know also that the poet died in Oct. 1806, at the beginning of his second year at Cambridge, and so was not in fact ordained but what became of his friend?

From the second part of the *Alumni Cantabrigienses*, the valuable catalogue of Cambridge students compiled by J.A. Venn, it would appear that Maddock was never at Cambridge at all! Venn does, indeed, include a Benjamin Maddock at the appropriate period, who was afterwards ordained, but conjecturally identifies him with someone of this name who was son of Henry Maddock of King's Cliffe, Northants., and attended Repton School. He gives no hint of a link with Nottingham. Henry Maddock of King's Cliffe seems to have been a London lawyer: he died in 1810 at Lincoln's Inn.¹

There were, of course, Maddock families in various parts of the country at this period, with whom it is possible to confuse the Maddocks of Nottingham. It is particularly tempting to posit a connection with another Evangelical clergyman, Abraham Maddock, who died in 1785 as curate of Creton, Northants., and who is included in Erasmus Middleton's *Evangelical Biography* (1779–86). Abraham Maddock, however, appears to have come of a London family, and his will (which was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in Sept. 1785) gives no hint of any surviving relatives of the same surname. Such further investigations as the writer has made have not shown any link between Abraham Maddock and the Maddocks of Nottingham.

If, with the help of Venn's *Alumni Cantabrigienses* and Joseph Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*, one investigates the homes of the Maddocks who, from the mid eighteenth century to the mid nineteenth, studied at the universities, one finds that individuals came from Middlesex, from Salop, and from Sandbach, Cheshire, and that a group of seven, at least six of them belonging to the same family, originated at Chester. Several members of this family were afterwards ordained: Thomas, who was rector of Liverpool from 1772 to 1783; his son Thomas, who returned to the old family home of Chester as rector of Holy Trinity church there, from 1786 to 1806; and two of the sons of this younger Thomas. One of these sons was Samuel, who died young as rector of Abdon, Salop, in 1828, and the other was Henry William, who lived until 1870. Samuel Maddock is of interest to us because (like Benjamin Maddock, of King's Cliffe, Northants.) he has come to be confused with one of the Maddocks of Nottingham.

Venn and Foster list eight other Maddocks from this period, and though only one of them is shown as having his home in Nottingham, all eight of them (so we shall find) were sons or grandsons of a single family originating there. Six of them (two sons and four grandsons) were later ordained; and there was a third son, not listed in Venn or Foster, who was also ordained. But we are anticipating.

At the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Maddock was quite a common Nottingham name. For example, in the baptism register of St. Mary's Nottingham, one finds in the early 1780s two families of children being born, to Benjamin Maddock and his wife Mary, and to John Maddock and his wife, also named Mary. The eldest of Benjamin Maddock's sons is baptized Henry John; and in the Nottingham voters' list of 1803 one finds both Benjamin (described as 'surgeon', residing at Long Row) and Henry John (now a 'gentleman' at Cambridge) among those voting. Also among those voting is Samuel Maddock, grocer, residing at Bridlesmithgate. In the Nottingham voters' list of 1820, Benjamin Maddock the surgeon (now residing at Beastmarket Hill) reappears, and so does Henry John (now a 'Rev. clerk' at Leicester), but Samuel Maddock is replaced by Robert Maddock, a 'frame-work-knitter', who resides at Back Lane. The *Nottingham Directory* for 1799 and 1814 adds the information that there was a firm of grocers named Maddock and Hickling in Chapel Bar, and the 1799 issue informs us that the John Maddock we mentioned was an inn-keeper, landlord of the Navigation Inn, Canal-side.

Of these various Nottingham Maddocks, it is the surgeon Benjamin that concerns us. He continued living at Beastmarket Hill until 1828 at least, as is shown by Pigot's *Nottinghamshire Directory* for that year. By the time the 1831 issue appeared, however, he has moved out to Arnold, and 1831 was the year of his death. In the

burial register for the parish of Arnold, he is shown as buried there on 15 Feb. 1831, aged 76. This would mean that he must have been born in 1754 or 1755, and a little more research in parish registers than the writer has had opportunity for might yield a more precise date. His parents are stated to have been Anthony Maddock and Mary (née Kirke), who were married at St. Nicholas' church, Nottingham, on 15 Jan. 1747.² His own marriage (probably in 1779 or 1780) does not seem to have taken place in Nottingham itself, and I have not succeeded in ascertaining his wife Mary's maiden name, though it may have been North.

The record of the children of Benjamin and Mary Maddock in the baptismal register of St. Mary's, Nottingham, is as follows: 10 April 1781 Henry John, 8 June 1782 Benjamin, 8 May 1783 Samuel, 26 July 1784 Catherine. We know that Henry John was baptized only four days after birth,³ so unless the other children were differently treated, it is likely that they too were born only very shortly before they were baptized. Catherine's life seems to have been an uneventful one, and she may have remained in her parents' home as long as they lived, and then moved back to Nottingham, where she made her home in St. James's Terrace. She died unmarried in 1838, aged 54, and was buried at St. Nicholas's church on 23 November, twelve years after her eldest brother had been buried there. Of this eldest brother, and of her other two brothers, much more information is available.

The life of Henry John is the best attested. There is the little biographical record mentioned in note 3, and the university particulars in Venn's *Alumni*. From these we learn that he went up to Trinity College Cambridge in 1800, transferred to Magdalene in 1803, graduated in 1804 and was made fellow in 1805. In 1804, after previously leading a life of pleasure, he experienced a Christian conversion, having already 'seen the transforming effects of divine grace in some members of his family'. In 1804 or 1805 he was ordained in the Church of England as a zealous Evangelical, and after helping Thomas Robinson (1749–1813), the famous Evangelical clergyman at Leicester, for some months, he became curate of Enderby and Whetstone nearby. On 2 Feb. 1808 he married Catherine (née Harvey), of Toton, near Nottingham,⁴ the marriage being mentioned in Abigail Gawthern's diary.⁵ He was a close friend of the well-known Evangelical clergyman Legh Richmond (1772–1827), and in 1814 they jointly made an extensive itinerary through Yorkshire, establishing support for the newly-formed Church Missionary Society.⁶ His health became uncertain during his ministry, and he had to resign his final post, as first incumbent of Holy Trinity, Huddersfield (built 1819), before his early death. He died, evidently of consumption, at his father's house in Beastmarket Hill on 11 March 1826, and was buried at St. Nicholas's church six days later. He was nearly 45.

He published a couple of sermons, a devotional work and a pastoral letter to his Huddersfield congregation.

He had seven children. Two of his sons went to Oxford, and figure in Foster's *Alumni*. Edward North Maddock, who graduated in 1843, is described as his third son, perhaps meaning his third surviving son, since Benjamin Allen Maddock, who died in 1836, aged 18, is also described elsewhere as his third son.⁷ His eldest son, however, was named Henry John, like his father. He graduated in 1833, and was fellow of Worcester College from 1835 to 1852. He was ordained, and concluded his ministry (probably by death) in 1883, as rector of Bonchurch, Isle of Wight. He would then have been about 73.

In Hole's *Early History of the Church Missionary Society*, which says so much about Henry John Maddock,⁸ there are also several references to the Rev. Samuel Maddock, vicar of Bishop's Sutton and Ropley, Hants., who is likewise described as a son of Benjamin Maddock the Nottingham surgeon, and died in 1871 at the age of 88 (pp.283, 581 etc.). As will be observed, this age at death exactly fits Benjamin Maddock's third son Samuel, who was baptized in 1783, so Hole's information is probably reliable. The vicar of Bishop's Sutton was an early supporter of the CMS, and as such would certainly have been of the Evangelical school of thought; and this is amply confirmed by his writings, for he was quite a prolific author. His wife E.A. Maddock (who was known by her second name, Anne)⁹ also published a few books. It appears from a statement in one of his writings that he came to clear Christian convictions between about 1800 and 1803,¹⁰ and according to the earliest issue of *Crockford's Clerical Directory* (1860) he was ordained in 1811. What he had been doing previously one can only conjecture, but he would by that time have been about 28. He became curate of Long Sutton, Lincs., and greatly endeared himself to the people but not to his vicar, who dismissed him at the end of 1817 in mid-winter, with a wife and four children and no post to go to. He gives a graphic account of these events in *The Curate's Appeal and Farewell* (London, Hatchard, 1818?). He was charged with being a Calvinist, preaching extempore, expounding in private houses, taking a Bible into the pulpit (!) and adding a third service, on Sunday evenings, at which a hymn-book was used. He justifies himself with considerable ability, and adds the texts of petitions to the vicar and bishop against his dismissal, signed by over 500 parishioners. Following this traumatic experience, he was appointed in 1818 to be vicar of Bishop's Sutton with Ropley,¹¹ and continued there, preaching, pastoring and writing, to the end of his ministry.

Though Samuel Maddock's writings show him as an intelligent and well-informed man, there is reason to think that he began his ministry as a non-graduate. He does not figure in Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*

or in Venn's *Alumni Cantabrigienses*, nor yet in Burtchaell and Sadleir's *Alumni Dublinenses* (cataloguing the students of Trinity College, Dublin). Moreover, in his earlier writings, such as *The Curate's Appeal and Farewell* and *Plain Sermons for the use of Seamen* (London, Hamilton, Adams & Co., 1825), he does not claim to be a graduate, whereas in *The Uncertainty of Tomorrow* (cited in note 10) and in *Plain Parochial Sermons* (2nd ed., Winchester, Wooldridge, 1848) he describes himself as M.A. This description is greatly elaborated by the first editor of *Crockford*, who describes him as B.A. 1812, M.A. 1815, of Brasenose College, Oxford; but I have consulted the *Registrum Matriculationum* and *Registrum Examinatumum* of Oxford University, and (like Foster) they know nothing of a Samuel Maddock at this period. They do, indeed, know of a younger Samuel Maddock, B.A. 1822, M.A. 1825, who was at Brasenose, and who (as Foster's *Alumni* shows) was ordained; but this Samuel Maddock came from Chester, not Nottingham, and was one of the two ordained sons of Thomas Maddock, rector of Holy Trinity church there (to whom reference was made near the beginning of this article). It is evidently with this Samuel Maddock that Crockford has confused our Samuel Maddock, and has therefore assigned the latter to Brasenose College, and ascribed to him the degrees of the other Samuel Maddock, adjusted by ten years to make them fit. The identification is, however, impossible, not only because of the age, parentage, home-town and university-career of the younger Samuel Maddock, but also because, as Foster says, he died, as rector of Abdon, Salop, as early as 1828. This is confirmed by the obituary column of *The Gentleman's Magazine*.¹² The confusion is perpetuated in the printed version of *Brasenose College Register* (Oxford Historical Society 55, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1909), where the life of the younger Samuel Maddock is tentatively extended to 1878, and four of the publications of the Nottingham Samuel Maddock are attributed to him, including two published long after his death.

Since all this muddle resulted from Samuel Maddock the elder beginning to describe himself as a M.A., why did he do it? For the simple reason that a Lambeth M.A. was conferred on him by Archbishop Howley on 4 Aug. 1834.¹³ This was an unusual honour. The explanation may be that the archbishop was himself a former incumbent of Bishop's Sutton, and his father before him—indeed, the archbishop was born there; so this would give him a special interest in the ministry of his successor. Though the archbishop was not an Evangelical but a rather stiff High Churchman of the old school, he was evidently impressed by Maddock, and showed it in this appropriate way.

We have noted Samuel Maddock's statement that by the end of 1817 he had four children. His eldest son, Edward Knight Maddock,

went to Cambridge and graduated in 1833. His second son, Robert North Maddock, went to Oxford and graduated in 1836. From Venn and Foster we learn also that they were both ordained, the eldest son becoming a chaplain in India, later returning home and dying in 1881, aged 72; and the second son becoming principal of Mussoorie School in the Himalayas, and dying there in 1867, aged about 52.

But what of *Benjamin* Maddock, the poet Kirke White's great friend? Obviously he was not the Nottingham surgeon himself, who was of a different generation, but can he have been the Benjamin Maddock who was the Nottingham surgeon's second son? The following pieces of evidence seem to show that he was:

(i) We know from White's letters that he and Ben Maddock became friends at Nottingham. The only known Benjamin Maddock from Nottingham who was of White's generation was the surgeon's second son.

(ii) Soon after White's arrival at Cambridge, he writes to Maddock as follows:

Your phiz over my chimney-piece has been recognised by two of my fellow-students; the one recognised its likeness to Mr. Maddock of Magdalene; and the other said it was like a young man whom he had seen with Mr. Maddock, and whom he supposed to be his brother (letter of 18 Oct. 1805).

It appears from this that Ben was related to 'Mr. Maddock of Magdalene', and was very likely his younger brother. Now, Mr. Maddock of Magdalene was Henry John Maddock, the Nottingham surgeon's eldest son, who (as we have seen) removed from Trinity to Magdalene in 1803 and became fellow of that college in 1805. So Ben was presumably the same as the Nottingham's surgeon's second son Benjamin.

The further question arises, is this Benjamin Maddock, who was the surgeon's second son and White's friend, the same as the Benjamin Maddock included in Venn's *Alumni*, who was afterwards ordained? The following pieces of evidence seem to put this beyond doubt:

(i) We know from White's letters that his friend Ben became a Cambridge undergraduate, with the intention of seeking ordination. If he is not in Venn's *Alumni*, why not? But if he is, there is only one Benjamin Maddock included, at the required period, with whom he could be identified.

(ii) We know from White's letters that his friend was 'very well settled at Magdalen College' by March 1806 (Fletcher, pp.886, 905). But this identifies him with Venn's Benjamin Maddock, who was admitted at Magdalene on 17 Feb. 1806.

(iii) There is evidence that the surgeon's second son was ordained.

We read in the 'Obituary of Rev. H.J. Maddock' that on his deathbed he told his wife 'that he wished to enumerate some of the Lord's mercies to him', and then among other things he mentions 'Receiving the Sacrament at the hands of my two brothers, with father, mother, sister and my beloved wife'.¹⁴ It appears, therefore, that he had two brothers who were clergymen like himself, and were able to administer the sacrament to him—not only Samuel, but also Benjamin.

(iv) Venn's Benjamin Maddock went on to become vicar of Tadcaster, N. Yorks. During his incumbency there, as a monument in the church testifies, he buried Benjamin Allen Maddock, Henry John Maddock's third son, who had died at York. Why was this son not buried at York, or taken home to be buried? Presumably, because the vicar of Tadcaster, ten miles from York, was his uncle.

(v) The vicar of Tadcaster is shown by his monument in the church to have died on 'December 16th, 1871 in his 90th year', i.e. at the age of 89. But, as we have seen, the surgeon's second son was baptized on 8 June 1782, and so would have been precisely 89 in Dec. 1871.¹⁵

Having established that Kirke White's great friend, the Nottingham surgeon's second son, and the Cambridge graduate who became vicar of Tadcaster, were all one and the same person, we are in a position to trace his career. We know from Venn that he removed from Magdalene to Corpus in Sept. 1806, graduated in 1810, was ordained the same year, and became curate of Prestwold with Hoton, Leics. We know from elsewhere that on 21 Aug. 1810 he married Jane (née Walker), described as daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Walker of Leicester;¹⁶ and that in 1826 he was appointed chaplain to the Duke of Rutland.¹⁷ Concurrently with this latter appointment, he evidently became the successor of his elder brother as minister of Holy Trinity church, Huddersfield, since he is described as holding both offices on the title page of what may be his only publication, *The Brevity of Human Life* (Huddersfield, Lancashire, 1829). This eloquent Evangelical discourse is a sermon preached on the occasion of the death of B.H. Allen, the lay Christian benefactor responsible for the founding of the Huddersfield church, who died during Ben Maddock's short incumbency. The following year Maddock was appointed vicar of Tadcaster, and remained there for nearly forty years, retiring only a year or two before his death, which took place at Leamington.¹⁸

By his wife Jane, who died on 31 Jan. 1848,¹⁹ he had five children. Three of them, as their mother's memorial at Tadcaster records, died young, but the other two, Benjamin and Charles, went to Cambridge. Charles graduated in 1843; but his brother, who graduated the previous year, was ordained, and after holding various curacies became vicar of Marple in 1862, where he continued for four years, predeceasing his father in 1866.²⁰

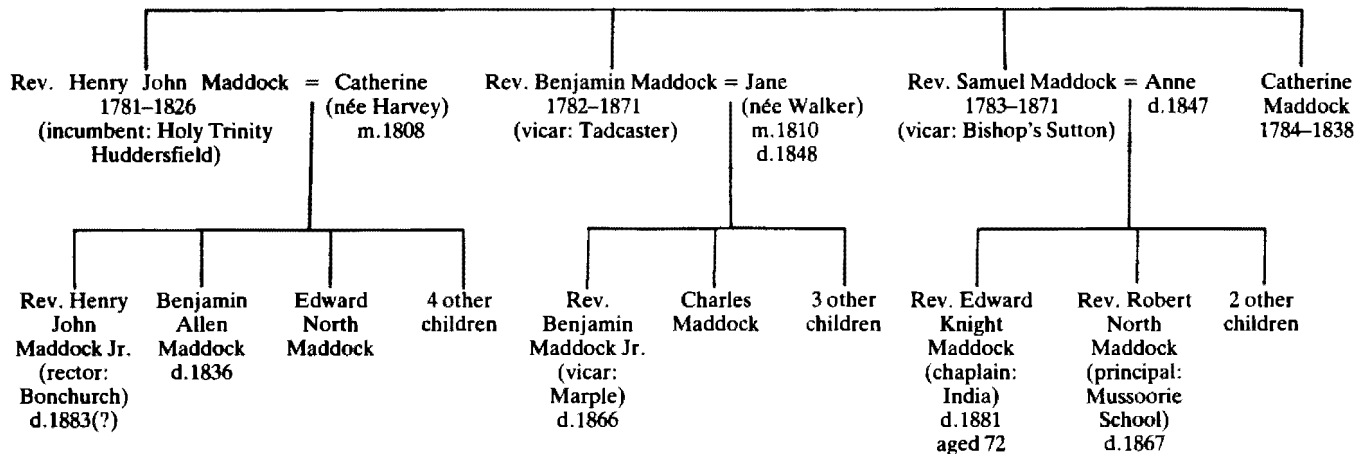
It is now possible to draw up a family tree.²¹

THE MADDOCK BROTHERS OF NOTTINGHAM

Anthony Maddock = Mary Kirke
m.1747

Edward Swann = Mary Maddock
m.1780

Benjamin Maddock = Mary
(surgeon: Nottingham)
d.1831 aged 76



The Maddock Brothers of Nottingham

The date of Ben Maddock's birth, which we have seen was probably about the beginning of June 1782, throws light on a perplexing passage in Kirke White's letters, where White, writing in April 1804, says that Ben's father was planning to resign his business to Ben forthwith (Fletcher, p.535). How could this have been the case if Ben's father was a surgeon? The explanation probably lies in the fact that Maddock was nearly three years older than White, and at this date would have been approaching 22. Though White was so much younger, he went to the university before Maddock, who was getting on for 24 when he joined White there in Feb. 1806. What had he been doing previously? Presumably he had been training to take over his father's business, and if he had been doing it at Nottingham, he had probably been acting as his father's assistant. Since Henry John had gone to University and had other aims, his father was probably relying on his second son to follow in his own footsteps. In 1804, however (to judge from the letters), Ben first became White's close friend, and White was soon influencing him to think about ordination. By the autumn, the father judged desperate measures to be needed, and sent Ben to Launceston, presumably to be apprenticed as a surgeon there; and the two friends were expecting to be parted for years, if not for ever (White's *Remains*, 1823 ed., vol. 1, p.84; Fletcher, pp.588, 590). Ben's 'tyrannical father', as White's sister Hannah calls him, would not even let Ben see White (Fletcher, p.633f.). He must, however, soon have relented, for he allowed not only Ben but his third son Samuel also to follow a call to ordination. In Henry John's last illness (twenty years later, it is true), it was a united family which gathered round his death bed to receive the sacrament, and at this period Legh Richmond writes not of his 'tyrannical' but of his 'venerable and respected father'.²²

There is something touching in the thought that, of two such close friends as Kirke White and Maddock, the former should have died as young as 21 and the latter not until he was 89. How well would the memory of a friendship of youth survive through such a long life? There seems to be only one piece of evidence on this question, and it comes in Maddock's solitary published sermon, which he preached when White had already been dead for 23 years. In this sermon, contrasting the transitoriness of earthly things with the permanence of the Christian's hope in the life to come, he quotes a couple of passages of poetry, though without naming the sources. One of the passages is a stanza from Kirke White's *Ode to Disappointment*:

What is this passing scene?
 A peevish April day!
 A little sun—a little rain,
 And then night sweeps along the plain,
 And all things fade away.

Man (soon discuss'd)
Yields up his trust,
And all his hopes and fears lie with him in the dust.²³

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NOTES

- 1 *The Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. 80 (1810, pt. 1), p.496.
- 2 As is pointed out by J.C. Warren, 'Henry Kirke White', in *Transactions of the Thoroton Society*, vol. 10 (1906), p.88. Warren is actually speaking of the parentage of Mary Maddock, the future wife of Alderman Edward Swann, but according to the very instructive genealogy of the White-Neville families which was contributed by Sir Richard Neville to Dr. Fletcher's thesis, she was Benjamin Maddock's sister.
- 3 His birthday was 6 April, as is made clear by the 'Obituary of Rev. H.J.Maddock' in *The Christian Guardian*, 1826, pp.272-80.
- 4 *The Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. 78 (1808, pt. 1), p.169.
- 5 *The Diary of Abigail Gawthorn of Nottingham 1751-1810*, ed. Adrian Henstock (Thoroton Society Record Series, vol. 33, 1980), p.135. The diarist remarks that 'he is Mr. Maddock, the surgeon's eldest son', a statement confirmed by the 'Obituary' cited in note 3.
- 6 A full account of this journey is given in *The Early History of the Church Missionary Society*, by Charles Hole (CMS, London 1896).
- 7 *The Gentleman's Magazine*, new series, vol. 5 (1836, pt.1), p.334; monument in Tadcaster parish church. I am grateful to the Rev. D. Burnett, vicar of Tadcaster, for kindly transcribing for me the Maddock memorials in the church.
- 8 See note 6.
- 9 This appears from her obituary notice in *The Gentleman's Magazine*, new series vol. 27 (1847, pt. 1), p.451. She died on 8 March that year, aged 61.
- 10 He speaks of the 'doctrines which I have been permitted, for so long a period, to preach among you; which have been my consolation and joy for nearly forty years' (*The Uncertainty of Tomorrow* (Hamilton, London 1839), p.6).
- 11 *The Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. 88 (1818, pt.1), p.637.
- 12 Vol. 98 (1828, pt.2), p.473.
- 13 See William Stubbs, 'Lambeth Degrees', in *The Gentleman's Magazine*, new series, vol. 16 (1864, pt.1), pp.633-8, 770-2. These articles list all Lambeth graduates up to 1848.
- 14 P.279 of article cited in note 3.
- 15 Venn, by a second mistake, makes Benjamin Maddock 90 when he died, not 'in his 90th year'; but this conflicts not only with the date of his baptism, but also with the fact that Henry John was their parents' eldest son (a fact attested by the baptismal register and by the explicit statements of Abigail Gawthorn's diary and Henry John's 'Obituary', as cited in notes 3 and 5).
- 16 *The Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. 80 (1810, pt.1), p.184.
- 17 *The Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. 96 (1826, pt.1), p.559.
- 18 This statement is based upon his memorial at Tadcaster. Had he not retired a little before his death, he would have been vicar for more than forty years, since we know from *The Clergy List for 1841* and from the first issue of *Crockford* (as well as from Venn) that he was appointed vicar in 1830.
- 19 See Venn's and Foster's *Alumni*.
- 21 Those who have consulted the valuable genealogical table of the White-Neville family mentioned in note 2, will note some differences. Sir Richard, however, tells

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me that the relevant part of his table is one of the less certain parts, and that he is inclined to accept my conclusions. For advice and help in the preparation of this article, I would like to express my thanks not only to Sir Richard, but also to the Rev. J.S. Reynolds (the distinguished church historian) and to the courteous staff of the Nottinghamshire Record Office.

- 22 T.S. Grimshawe, *A Memoir of the Rev. Legh Richmond* (4th ed., London, Seeley & Burnside, 1828), pp.564–6.
- 23 Kirke White's *Poems* have long been out of print, but an edition of them, with Southey's life of Kirke White and careful annotation, running in all to about 200 pages, is appearing this year. It is available through booksellers or direct from the publishers, Latimer House, 131 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7AJ, at £3, plus 50p postage. A more general account of White's Evangelical connections is given in the introduction to this work.