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A table of contents for *Transactions of the Baptist Historical Society* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_tbhs_01.php

Printing Ryland's Funeral Sermon.

THE following letter from Robert Hall to Mr. Joseph Gutteridge—a frequent correspondent of the great preacher's, as readers of his Letters in Vol. V. of his Works will remember, was given to me several years ago by Mrs. John James Smith. She received it from her father, the late Mr. W. Lepard Smith, who is still gratefully remembered as for many years treasurer of the Particular Baptist Fund. The letter relates to the publication of Mr. Hall's well known sermon on the death of Dr. Ryland, pastor of the Church at Broadmead, Bristol. The sermon was preached on June 5th, 1825, and Mr. Hall had apparently no intention of committing it to the press, until he was urged by friends in various parts of the country to do so. Mr. Gutteridge and Mr. W. Lepard Smith, his nephew, were among these friends, and Mr. Smith also undertook to see it through the press. The letter affords a striking instance of Mr. Hall's humility and the modest estimate he placed on the value of his work. He probably consented to the publication of the sermon on purely benevolent grounds, and in the hope of securing some benefit from its sale to the members of Dr. Ryland's family. It is curious to note that Mr. Hall was willing to leave the correction of the proofs in the hands of his friends in London. A short time after the sermon was preached the Church at Broadmead invited Mr. Hall to succeed Dr. Ryland in the pastorate. The anxieties connected with his removal doubtless interfered with the preparation of the sermon for the press.

J. STUART.

October 7. 1825

My dear Sir,

At length I send you the sermon on the death of Dr. Ryland—A number of journies and an—~~an~~ interruptions which it would be tedious and useless to explain have combined to delay it so long.

I expect ten thousand, the number mentioned by Mr. Smith will be more than will be sold. However as I renounce all interest in it I must leave this to the determination of others. I am afraid the sale will be very much injured by its late appearance—a circumstance that should be taken into the account in deciding on the number. I have done as well as I could, but am far, very far from having satisfied myself.

As the Manuscript is pretty legible I should hope it will not be necessary to send the proofs to Leicester. It would be attended with considerable delay—I should think that any person accustomed to correct the proofs would be able to do it with sufficient accuracy.

There is one circumstance I must beg leave to mention. I must earnestly request that no other Bristol bookseller's name be invested in the title page besides Mr. James's and that his be not omitted. Having found it necessary to resign his tutorship in the Academy, his income is considerably affected and I know he has little or nothing to spare—His kindness to both my sisters has been very great and on every account I feel it my duty to consult his interest. It (is) his express desire that his name may stand alone, not any other Bristol bookseller, nor do I believe there will be one the less sale on that account.

As to the London Bookseller I shall leave the choice entirely in the hands of Mr. Smith or of the gentlemen for whom he may be acting. I wish Mr. Comber of Leicester to be mentioned in the title page. He is a most worthy man and my intimate friend. He would have printed quite as cheap and as correctly as it will be done in London and it would have been convenient to me, being on the spot to correct the proofs. He is not only a bookseller but an excellent printer.

I wish it to be understood while I resign any profits that may accrue from this publication for the benefit of

Dr. Ryland's family I do not intend to part with the Copy right, as it may be of advantage to my family to possess an exclusive right in whatever I have published. I am willing to give this edition, reserving the right of publishing it hereafter on my own account.

I beg to be most affectionately remembered to Mrs. Gutteridge and to thank her for her great kindness while in London—Please to remember (me) also to Miss G and particularly to your nephew and all enquiring friends.

I am Dear Sir
with great esteem
Your most affectionate friend and
humble servant

R. HALL

P.S. I hope you will excuse the liberty I have taken of sending the Manuscript. I should not have troubled you with it had I known Mr. Smith's direction.

The interesting documents of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, which appear in this number, enable us to postpone for a few months the still more interesting documents of the seventeenth century, which were collected in 1710 into A Repository of Divers Historical Matters, used in 1738 by Crosby. Our next number will be concerned largely with these, and with Benjamin Stinton of Southwark, a distant predecessor of C. H. Spurgeon.