

Joseph John

A DITTY TO HANNAH AND PHEBE

LET haughtier Sects than our proclaim
Their glory in some vaunted name ;
Let good staunch Churchmen number o'er
Norwich¹ and Parr², and wise Miss More³ ;
Let the young Presbyter declaim
On Irving's⁴ stile, and Chalmers's⁵ fame,
And Baptists if it please them call
The world to admire their living Hall,⁶
We'll smile at all and envy none,
Whilst we possess our Joseph John.

Norwich his goodness, More good sense,
Parr learning, Hall sweet Eloquence,
Irving's warm Zeal, and Chalmers' Grace,
To adorn the simplist common place ;
Each his peculiar excellence, each
Some charm of Soul, some grace of Speech—
But oh ! ye sticklers of Desert
Your choicest favourites claims assert,
And if ye can, produce me one
Who rivals all like Joseph John.

Where's the Logician that can swim
In truth's profoundest Sea like him ?
Wheres the rich scholar that can bring
Such stores from Inspiration's Spring ?
Or Rhetorician that can vie
With his skill'd Tongue and speaking Eye ?
There's none—There's none—'tis quite absurd
On such a theme to waste a word,
Gamaliel's self his book might con
At the blest feet of Joseph John.

But peradventure ye conclude,
Tho' deeply wise and greatly good,
He holds, like some, in perfect strife
Each social Elegance of life,
Misdoubting minds ! pure taste and glee
Have not a livelier friend than he ;
Oh ye who shine at Bower and Ball
Art's sons—I do defy you all
A hand to shake or Hat to don
With half the grace of Joseph John.

Happy's the Maid who gets a seat
Beside him when the envited meet ;
Happy the gentle hands that tend
On him as their domestic Friend ;
Happy the tongues that round him talk ;
Happy the steps with his that walk ;
And oh ! thrice happy those that share
His morning call, his evening prayer
Like—But 'tis past ! the Vision's gone !
Heaven's peace be with thee, Joseph John.

JEREMIAH WIFFEN,
Librarian to the Duke of Bedford.

Written about 1820.

[added, in pencil.]

From a manuscript in the possession of Mrs. W. H. Gripper, of Tunbridge Wells. Another copy of this Ditty to Joseph John Gurney (1788-1847) is in **D.**, without name of author or date of writing. The Ditty was published in *The Evangelical Rambler*, in 1824.

Jeremiah Holmes Wiffen (1792-1836) was a Friend, of Woburn, Beds ; he was a learned writer and poet, and author of *Historical Memoirs of the House of Russell*, 1833. See *The Brothers Wiffen*, by Pattison, 1880.

¹ Perhaps Henry Bathurst (1744-1837), bishop of Norwich, 1805, with whom J. J. G. associated in Bible Society and other religious work.

² Samuel Parr (1747-1825), head-master of Norwich Grammar School, 1779 ; Prebendary of St. Paul's, 1783. His works were published in eight volumes, 1828 (*D.N.B.*).

³ Hannah More (1745-1833), acquired Italian, Spanish and Latin at her sister's school in Bristol, 1757 ; considerable writer through many years ; often mentioned in Friends' books, and visited by J. J. G. (*D.N.B.*)

⁴ Edward Irving (1792-1834), assistant to Dr. Chalmers in Glasgow, 1819-1822 ; founder of the "Catholic Apostolic Church." (*D.N.B.*)

⁵ Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847), celebrated lecturer and preacher. J. J. Gurney wrote in 1830-33 his *Chalmeriana, or Colloquies with Dr. Chalmers*, 1853.

⁶ Robert Hall (1764-1831), noted Baptist preacher and writer.

payd Garard Taylor to Geeue the beadell at Longacar who Kept
of y^e Rude boyes w^hn y^e meeting waire in y^e Streete .. o 5 o

At a Quarterly Meeting at Westminster 6th of 2nd Month 1687.

[M.M. Minutes vol. I.]

Jerrey Clarke Reportes to this meetting that y^e Widow Beachesmaides
takes away and Destroys y^e hearbes in y^e Garden belonging to West-
minster meeting howse, w^{ch} they neuer planted & Refuses to geeue
aney accoump^t by whos order

1st of 4th Month, 1687.

[From the Minutes of Westminster M.M.]