

---

This is a reproduction of a library book that was digitized by Google as part of an ongoing effort to preserve the information in books and make it universally accessible.

Google™ books

<https://books.google.com>



Memorials of Luke E Mariabella Howard

1865

8344  
613.20



C8344 . G13 . 20

HARVARD COLLEGE  
LIBRARY



THE GIFT OF  
HAVERFORD COLLEGE LIBRARY  
HAVERFORD, PENNSYLVANIA







SHORT MEMORIALS

OF THE LATE

LUKE & MARIABELLA HOWARD,

OF

ACKWORTH VILLA, YORKSHIRE,

BY AN AGED RELATIVE.

---

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY.

---

LONDON:

PRINTED BY EDWARD NEWMAN,  
DEVONSHIRE STREET, BISHOPSGATE.

---

1865.



o

SHORT MEMORIALS

OF THE LATE

LUKE & MARIABELLA HOWARD,

OF

ACKWORTH VILLA, YORKSHIRE,

BY AN AGED RELATIVE.

---

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY.

---

LONDON :

PRINTED BY EDWARD NEWMAN,  
DEVONSHIRE STREET, BISHOPSGATE.

---

1865.



C 8344.613.20

✓

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY  
GIFT OF  
HAVERFORD COLLEGE LIBRARY  
JUL 9 1935

M

## SHORT MEMORIALS.

---

LUKE HOWARD was the son of Robert and Elizabeth Howard, and was born in Red Cross Street, London, on the 28th of Eleventh Month, 1772. Before his seventh year his father removed to larger premises in Old Street, then in the suburbs, a circumstance which he well remembered late in life. In his eighth year he was sent to school, at Burford, in Oxfordshire. His mother used to relate that when she questioned him about his feelings, on going so far from home and leaving her, he replied, "Mother, I think it is for my good." The little boy behaved well, and gained the good opinion of his kind master, Thomas Huntley. He was afterwards joined at school by two brothers, younger than himself; they had many companions of their own class amongst Friends.

The school was situated on the top of a bleak hill, rising from the town, but surrounded by a country affording opportunity for a great deal of healthful exercise and enjoyment to the young scholars. The nutting season was a time of great delight; the long pinafore, then worn, was sewed up so as to form a bag, for the convenience of receiving the gathered nuts.

School life was very different at that time to what it is in the present day; only one vacation, at Whitsuntide, of four weeks, was allowed in the year, and in the winter the pupils had about a week's recess at the school, when a box was regularly sent from home, containing a cake, mince pies, oranges and chestnuts; roasting chestnuts over the school-room fire was a season of great merriment.

Here seven years were spent in acquiring the usual branches of learning, including a good knowledge of Latin, in which his master was very exact with his scholars. T. Huntley was a strict disciplinarian, and he did not allow indolence or inattention in those placed under his care, but he was a kind master and a conscientious man, and his wife was very attentive to the health and personal comfort of the boys.

In his fifteenth year L. Howard left school, and soon after he was bound apprentice to Olive Sims, of Stockport, the son of an old friend of his father's, who had recently commenced business as a chemist and druggist. L. H. was his first apprentice, and, as his master was a bachelor, the family was very small, and he had many privations to endure, but, taking an interest in the business, he filled up his station as a young apprentice much to his credit. After a time the marriage of his master made some alterations, and added to the domestic comfort of the family. His work was rather arduous, and his leisure hours few, but he found time for the study of Botany, which was his principal relaxation, and, as a proof of the pleasure he had in it, as well as of his diligence, he sent home a collection of such plants as the country afforded, nicely prepared and named, which gave much pleasure to his parents and friends.

As years advanced, his good conduct and steadiness in business made him valuable to his master, and gained him the kind notice of those amongst whom his lot was cast. He had a very compassionate and tender heart, keenly feeling for sorrow and distress; and his sympathy, at this time, was often called forth by the cases of suffering with which he became acquainted in connection with the business. At the expiration of his apprenticeship he left Stockport, with the

character of "an exemplary young man," and having formed some friendships which lasted many years.

A few months after his return home he entered the establishment of a large wholesale druggist in Bishopsgate Street; here he met with a very sad accident to his hand, which caused great suffering at the time, and weakened his health very much, and he was in consequence obliged to give up his connection with that business. His parents having removed to Stamford Hill, as a country house, he spent many weeks there in entire leisure from business, in the hope of recovering his health, but his time was not spent in idleness when able to be employed. One memorial of his activity was the planning, and, as far as his strength would allow, assisting in the construction of a serpentine walk through a thick shrubbery in his father's garden; it was called after him, "Luke's Walk," and it was specially enjoyed by his mother; this was his first exercise in gardening, for which he afterwards showed much taste: this walk remained as he laid it out as long as the family resided at Stamford Hill.

After L. Howard's recovery, though some of the effects of the accident were not lost for many years, his father established him as a retail chemist, in a shop, with a small laboratory behind it, near Temple Bar, opposite the well-known St. Dunstan's Church, with the two figures striking the hours. This situation, by no means a congenial one, might have answered with respect to business, but it was not very long his abode, on account of important changes which occurred.

L. Howard's parents had long been in habits of friendship with John and Mary Eliot, of Bartholomew Close; they belonged to the same Meeting, and resided, during the summer, in a country house at Tottenham; they had one

daughter, Mariabella, and about this time L. H. entered into a marriage engagement with her, after having been kept in suspense much longer than was agreeable to his ardent nature, and his sister remembers that he used to call her "a very prudent young woman." His choice had the full approval of his parents, and though his chosen friend had been long in coming to a final decision, she does not appear to have had any misgivings after the decision was once made. The marriage took place at Peel Meeting, on the 7th of Twelfth Month, 1796, a remarkably cold, dark day, in a frosty season, as uncongenial for the occasion as can well be imagined. L. Howard was just twenty-four, and his bride was three years older. The wedding party dined at Bartholomew Close, where they were hospitably entertained. Mary Weston and Ann Sherwood, cousins of the bride, were the bridesmaids. The day was spent socially, and in the evening the bride and bridegroom, accompanied by her mother, went in Robert Howard's carriage to Fleet Street, to the house where L. H. had resided a short time, and where he carried on his business.

The following week the newly-married pair received their friends, different parties coming to tea, at six o'clock, for a few evenings; and, according to the usual custom, tea was made by the bridesmaids, in the room where the company assembled—drawing-room it could hardly be called, for there was but one room of the nature of a parlour. L. and M. Howard resided in Fleet Street only a few months, for in the autumn they removed to Plaistow, in consequence of L. H.'s entering into partnership with Wm. Allen, of Plough Court, and the department of the business which L. H. undertook was the laboratory at Plaistow. Here they had a comfortable house and a piece of garden-ground, which they took great

pleasure in laying out and planting, and here their first child, Mary, was born in the Eleventh Month, 1797.

After a time they removed to a larger house, with a large garden: there was a very curious summer house in the garden, and a remarkably fine old mulberry tree, which produced fruit enough both for themselves and friends. L. H. made many improvements in the garden: the house had the disadvantage of having only one story, but there was a look-out or observatory at the top. Here their eldest son, Robert, was born in 1801. This residence brought them into very pleasant intercourse with the families of James Shepherd, Jacob Bell, Joseph Cockfield, &c. They attended the same meeting, in the old meeting-house at Plaistow, in which was an open fire-place at one corner, like a kitchen range. Robert Howard purchased a house and garden at Plaistow, nearly opposite his son L. H.'s residence, and to this house John Bevans removed from Charter House Square. J. Bevans and his wife were much esteemed by L. and M. H., and they were intimate and kind neighbours and worthy Friends.

L. and M. H.'s second daughter, Elizabeth, was born in the First Month, 1803, and another daughter, Rachel, was born in the Seventh Month, 1804.

About this time the laboratory was removed to much larger premises at Stratford, and as it was now a considerable distance from his home, L. H. used to go backwards and forwards on horseback: he was very diligent in his attendance at the laboratory, and very persevering in any experiments which could throw light on the science of Chemistry. He had a room fitted up in his own house with various sorts of instruments for scientific investigation, and this room was a very favourite resort in his leisure



hours. In course of time the partnership between L. Howard and Wm. Allen was amicably dissolved, L. H. retaining the laboratory and W. Allen the business in Plough Court.

Another son, John Eliot, was born in 1807; there was also a little girl, named Mariabella: the death by whooping cough of this lovely little child, at the age of eighteen months, was the first family bereavement which L. and M. H. experienced: this infant daughter was buried at Barking. Their youngest son, Joseph, was born in 1811.

The marriage of Elizabeth Shepherd, the daughter of their friend and neighbour, James Shepherd, to Samuel Gurney, was an interesting event to L. and M. H. The young couple resided with her parents at Ham House as long as they lived, and it continued to be the home of S. and E. Gurney, to the end of their course, and Ham House, Upton, was for many years a pleasant resort for a large circle of friends.

On the decease of L. H.'s father, in 1812, he began to turn his attention to moving his residence nearer to his widowed mother, but no change took place until the summer of 1813, when he removed to Tottenham Green, having taken one of the houses built by his friend Wm. Forster: he was the first tenant. L. H.'s son Robert was then the pupil of Josiah Forster, at Southgate; John Eliot and his two sisters were under the care of their governess, Ann Lay, and Joseph was quite a little child.

The eldest daughter, Mary, soon became a great invalid, and was the cause, on this account, of much anxiety to her affectionate parents: many changes were tried, in the hope of finding benefit from them, but her decease occurred in the spring of 1816, in the nineteenth year of her age. In the autumn of the same year L. H.'s mother died at Tottenham.

About the year 1820 L. H. purchased an estate at Ackworth, consisting of a house called "The Villa," and some land.

At Ackworth they generally spent the summer, for a few years in succession, and in 1828 they gave up their house at Tottenham, and Ackworth became their settled home.

After the death of his father, L. H. was elected a member of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which brought him into acquaintance with many valuable characters; amongst these Dr. Steinkopff and Dr. Pinkerton must be specially noticed. With Dr. Steinkopff a close friendship was formed, which continued uninterrupted until his death, which took place in 1859. Dr. S. and his wife often partook of L. and M. H.'s hospitality, and the benefit of country air, both at Tottenham and at Ackworth, where their society was much valued by the family circle, and the memory of both is cherished with affectionate regard.

Dr. Pinkerton was also for many years in intimate friendship with L. H.: his public life and labours on behalf of the Bible Society, in foreign countries, Russia in particular, are well known.

On L. H.'s retirement to Ackworth, his attendance of the Committee was of course discontinued, but he retained a strong interest in the operations and success of this large and important Society, and he was a liberal subscriber to its funds to the end of his life. One of his last public acts in connection with the Bible Society, was taking the chair at the Annual Meeting of the Tottenham Ladies' Bible Association, which he did for several successive years, and it was at last declined on account of failing strength.

The cause of the poor Africans much engaged his sympathy, and the labours of Hannah Kilham were promoted by

the interest he took in them, and by his pecuniary assistance : the subject was taken up by him with an energy natural to him in a cause which he warmly espoused : he shared in the disappointed hopes connected with her efforts, but it must be added that time has proved the benefit of H. Kilham's exertions with respect to the African languages, in some degree preparing the way for the translation of the Scriptures.

The cause of Education was warmly supported by L. H., during his residence at Tottenham, and also on his removal to Ackworth.

Other philanthropic labours engaged his attention. In concert with many others, he interested himself on behalf of the Germans, after the terrible continental war, and he received some proofs of grateful recognition of his services ; some of these still remain in the family, and carry with them pleasing recollections of his widely extended beneficence.

In 1829 L. Howard's daughter Elizabeth was married to John Hodgkin, and they settled in Bruce Grove, Tottenham. Rachel was now left the only companion of her parents, but, following in their steps, she found time to give much thought and attention to the education of the children of the poor, and other objects of benevolence.

L. Howard was now at liberty from business cares ; he let the farm which he had purchased with "The Villa," and only retained in his own hands enough land to be an agreeable occupation. L. H. was much interested in the Friend's School, and on the occasion of the General Meeting he had great pleasure in the entertainment of Friends, and he kept up a warm friendship with Robert Whitaker, the superintendent, and his successor, Thomas Pumphrey.

To go back to the year 1825, the marriage of L. and M. H.'s eldest son Robert, with Rachel, daughter of Samuel and

Rachel Lloyd, of Birmingham, and their settlement in Bruce Grove, was an event of much interest; as was also the marriage of their son John Eliot with Maria, daughter of William Dillworth and Deborah Crewdson, of Kendal, which took place in 1830.

In 1833 the decease of their son Joseph, after two or three years of delicate health, was a very heavy trial to them; he died at his brother Robert Howard's at the age of twenty-two. Their daughter Rachel was also in delicate health, and an object of care in consequence.

In 1836 their daughter, Elizabeth Hodgkin, was suddenly taken off in her fifth confinement, her infant dying soon after. The four little children, so early deprived of a mother's care, became objects of affectionate interest to their grandparents, and M. H.'s sollicitude was specially called forth on their behalf.

L. H.'s views differing in some respects from those held by the Society of Friends, he wished to have the connection dissolved, which was accordingly done, much to the regret of his friends, with many of whom he maintained a sincere friendship. M. H. also withdrew from the Society. They afterwards established a meeting on their own premises, in which some of their neighbours joined them, and it is believed that the simple form of worship in which they united was to edification, and the satisfaction of their own minds. During this time L. and M. Howard continued to devote much time and attention, and pecuniary means, to benevolent objects, and the village of Ackworth partook largely of their care. L. H. also continued to give some attention to scientific and literary pursuits.

After the death of their daughter Rachel, which occurred at Tottenham in 1837, L. and M. H. spent the winters at

Tottenham, in a small house in Bruce Grove. The time spent at Ackworth was cheered by the company of their children and grandchildren, and the visits of their friends, and they still had much enjoyment in the country.

While strength permitted, L. H. spent much time out of doors, and occupied himself in making improvements in the grounds, and he greatly enjoyed rural sights and occupations, as they came round in their season. As a country gentleman, he was very willing to lend his aid in all undertakings for the good of his neighbours, and he was a kind master to all employed by him.

In 1852, while in their winter residence at Tottenham, Mariabella Howard finished her earthly course, in the eighty-third year of her age. Her decease took place unexpectedly : until a very short time before the end, though her bodily strength had been failing for some time, the clearness of her mind, and the activity of her faculties, enabled her to keep on with her usual employments almost to the last day of her life. After the decease of his valued wife, L. H. continued in the same house until he went into Yorkshire, accompanied by some of his family. He afterwards took up his abode at his son Robert Howard's, where he had comfortable accommodation, society, and every kind attention, both from his children and his old servants. Some attacks of illness seemed to render his long continuance not probable, but he was spared for several years. These latter years were rendered as comfortable as extreme age, weakness and infirmity would allow. He was able, though with difficulty, to go out in his carriage until within a week of his death. His decline was rapid at the last ; he was only confined to his room one week, and on the 21st of Third Month, 1864, in the ninety-second year of his age, he most gently departed this life, to enter

upon the life that knows no death, and to be for ever with the Lord.

The funeral took place on the 26th, at Winchmore Hill, according to his own wish, and with the full acquiescence of Friends. The remains were followed to the grave by his children and grandchildren, and many friends who wished to manifest their regard for his memory. The time spent at the grave was a quiet and solemn occasion, leaving the impression on the minds of those present that a good man had been gathered to his rest, after a longer pilgrimage than is usually allotted to man.

---

It seems due to the excellent and valuable character of Mariabella Howard, to introduce into this narrative a short sketch of her early life.

She was the only surviving daughter of John and Mary Eliot, her sister having died in childhood, but she was the constant and beloved companion of her brother, John Eliot, who was rather younger than herself. They were both educated at home, and enjoyed their studies and their times of relaxation together.

In their youthful days their father had a country house at Pickhurst, near Croydon, which afforded great opportunity for rural enjoyment. Their minds were alike disposed for the observation of natural objects, and they were accustomed to go out together into the country. The taste for rural scenery, thus early acquired, M. H. always retained.

When the country house at Pickhurst was given up, and one at Tottenham substituted for it, some change was made in their mode of life; but the brother and sister were still companions in their walks, their mother promoting such



recreation, as being beneficial to health. The house at Tottenham was spacious, and adjoining it were a large garden and orchard. M. H. was privileged in having a mother who united to a religious character a kind and judicious manner of training her children, which closely attached them to her, and as they grew in years she became the confidential friend of her children, as well as a revered parent. Their father was a man of rather reserved character, but he had a kind heart, and he was much interested in the welfare of his children, and in after life his son was not only his companion in his cares and pursuits, but his fellow-helper in his religious and philanthropic undertakings. The death of these beloved parents occurred not far apart; Mary Eliot died in 1812, and her husband the following year.

Though M. H. had neither uncle, aunt nor first cousin; her father's only sister, after whom she was named, having died before she was born, yet she had more distant cousins, with whom she was very intimate. One of these cousins was named Mariabella, and it was agreed, by way of distinction, that the cousin should be called Maria and herself Bella, and by this name she was known to many, rather than by the longer one.

Her father's house was the resort of many Friends, not only at the Yearly Meeting, when there was a large influx, but at other times a very friendly intercourse was kept up with many, so that there was no want of agreeable and improving society.

M. H. wrote a beautifully neat and clear hand, which she kept up to the last: she had the advantage in her youth of being carefully instructed by one of the first writing masters; she was also very exact in keeping her accounts.

After her marriage with L. Howard, in 1796, the events of

her life are of course interwoven with his, and as many of them have been already mentioned in the foregoing sketch of his life, it is only intended to advert to a few circumstances connected with her own occupations. M. H. superintended the early education of her children, but when her sons were placed at school, and her daughters had a governess, she devoted much of her time to various benevolent objects. She was interested in the endeavours of Hannah Kilham to ameliorate the condition of the poor Irish children in St. Giles's. The distress which at that time prevailed in Ireland, and which occupied much of H. Kilham's attention, also claimed M. H.'s kind consideration, and that of several others. Sophia Vansittart, the sister of Lord Bexley, was at the head of an association for relieving this distress, and it was thought that by employing young women and girls in embroidery work, which was then much used for dresses, a source of relief would be opened: this continued to be the case while there was a call for the work, and though the demand at length ceased, it was not until many of the poor Irish had been benefited by the exertions of these English ladies.

The distribution of properly selected tracts was another object that engaged much of M. H.'s attention, and in which she evinced great interest during the remainder of her life, when in the neighbourhood of London. To effect this object a depôt was established in London, and a committee formed, to read tracts, and to add such as were approved to the stock, from which, besides purchases by those who were inclined, grants were made, on application, to persons interested in this kind of work.

In speaking of some of M. Howard's numerous engagements in the service of others, her persevering efforts for the right education and training of the children of the poor must

not be omitted: to this work she devoted her time and her thoughts in no common measure, and after the death of her daughter Rachel she superintended the school at Ackworth, which had been established by her daughter, and many of the children trained in that school, now no longer children, have cause to remember both the mother and the daughter with much gratitude.

The death, in 1830, of her beloved brother, at the age of fifty-eight, was a great trial to her; but she had the comfort of knowing that, after a life of eminent usefulness, he died in the faith and hope of the Gospel.

The latter years of M. Howard's life were much enlivened by her grandchildren, and she took great pleasure in having them gathered around her occasionally, even to the last baby, in the small house in Bruce Grove. She evidently enjoyed their innocent amusements, and she liked to see the elder ones engaged in useful pursuits.

M. Howard was very exemplary in the different relations of life; as a wife, a mother, and the mistress of a family, she sought, in humility, to adorn her Christian profession, and there are many who were brought within the sphere of her influence who can testify to her truly Christian and upright walk.

M. Howard's last illness, as before stated, was very short. She died on the 24th of Second Month, 1852, and on the 28th her remains were interred at Winchmore Hill, where four of her children were interred, also her parents and brother.



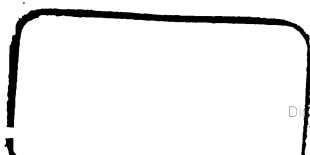








17



Widener Library



3 2044 078 909 447

