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## AN EARLY-NINETEENTH CENTURY LIFE OF JOHN DONNE:

An Edition with Notes and Commentary

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**A**N inedited manuscript in the Rutgers University Library, entitled "Some Curious Particulars of the very learned and reverend John Donne" and dated 1821, has antiquarian interest, historical value in a study of biography, and significance for a full awareness of Donne's reputation. Catalogued FPR 2248, N 751, Acquisition No. 700, and entered as item 1207 in Herbert F. Smith's *A Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the Rutgers University Library* (New Brunswick, 1964), the manuscript was written by Mark Noble (1754-1827), a Fellow of the Antiquarian Society and author of various genealogical and historical works. According to an inventory of his literary estate in *Gentleman's Magazine*, CXLIII (March 1828), 252-253, the manuscript was sold in December 1827 by Mr. Evans of Pall Mall to W. Nicol for 1/13/—. It is a clean copy with an elaborate title page: there are errors of transcription, errors of English mechanics, a lack of attention to details, and spaces for information to be added later. The transcription seems to have been made in order to have a clean copy to work on, for it is not a finished biography in any sense. At one point, for example, Noble writes, "I lose chronology, nor can I gain it" (p. 5), but there is no revision of any kind in the manuscript. Whether Noble expected to

SOME  
Curious Particulars  
of  
The very learned and Reverend  
JOHN DONNE, D.  
Dean of St Paul's  
"The greatest WIT,  
"Though not the greatest POET of our Nation."

With  
Many particulars of the Family of Dr. DONNE, and also of that of  
MORE,  
From whom M<sup>rs</sup>. DONNE descended.

Taken  
From a great variety of our best Authors, as well Biographers as writers upon the Subject.  
Many mistakes of other are corrected:  
The Life of Dr. DONNE is much amplified,  
By very recent publications.  
"Twas then plain DONNE in honest Vengeance rose,  
"His wit harmonious, but his rhyme was loose."



By  
The Rev. MARK NOBLE, F.A.S. of London, Edinburgh, Newcastle, & America; and  
Rector of Bazemore in Kent.

1721.

Title Page from *Noble's Life of Donne*

work on it further is, of course, not known; the nature of possible additions and revisions is not clear, for one can see many avenues for change.

Noble may have been drawn to Donne's biography through what he seems to have recognized as a sentimental similarity in their lives. Noble, who had inherited a modest fortune (as had Donne), was indentured to a solicitor in Birmingham. His own legal activities were shortlived, for he had a greater interest in history and literature. Donne, too, studied law and wrote various items while in others' employ before entering the ministry. Noble was ordained in 1781, was married, and held various curacies and livings. He was elected F. S. A. on 1 March 1781. His first significant piece of writing was *Memoirs of the Protectoral House of Cromwell* in 1784; it brought him to the attention of Lord Leicester (later Marquis of Townshend), who became his patron. Noble was appointed his chaplain. Donne was urged by James I to take orders because of his *Pseudo-Martyr*, it is reported, and he often preached before the king. With the king's influence Donne became Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, and in a kind of parallel, Noble, through Leicester and the Earl of Sandwich, became rector of Barming, Kent, in 1786. He produced a three-volume continuation of James Granger's *Biographical History of England* in 1806. He died at Barming on 26 May 1827 and was buried in the parish church.

The Dictionary of National Biography asserts, "His ignorance of English grammar and composition renders his books hard to read and occasionally unintelligible, while the moral reflections with which they abound are puerile." This can be easily seen in his remarks on Donne. The similarity of a legal career, replaced by more or less literary activity, and the ensuing clerical life provokes approving comments. The romantic fiction that has grown up around Donne's courtship and marriage with Ann More, her frequent motherhood, and her death in childbirth strikes strong sentimental currents in Noble, an obviously doting husband. He is mawkish in picturing true love coming through all adversity and fidelity in death. He speculates—erroneously—on such purposely nostalgic acts as Donne's preaching his first sermon in the church where Ann was buried. He adds nothing essential to Donne's biography, whether fact or suggestion, for this is a cento of source material. But no bibliography or biography of Donne mentions this study, and there is in the approach to

compilation an important point, worthy of note, and in the very existence of this life a significant comment on Donne's reputation.

What Noble has tried to accomplish is to pull together many printed items dealing with Donne, his life and his works, often with citation of source, but without the expected scholarly information and without completeness or precision. Among his sources are not just the obvious ones—like Izaak Walton, his main fund of information, who continues to serve modern biographers in the same way, or like biographical dictionaries—but a number of genealogical and antiquarian books dealing often with those related to Donne. Here, because of his own interests, Noble is more explicit in describing the backgrounds, residences, lives and activities of those around the poet and divine. Donne biographers, however, could have learned much from Noble's amateurism, for today the standard biography is still Edmund Gosse's *The Life and Letters of John Donne* (London, 1899), two volumes, although a promised (and supposedly completed) biography by the late Robert C. Bald should appear soon under the editorship of W. Milgate. Gosse has given us almost no picture of the circles in which Donne travelled and has in a most unscholarly manner skipped over some of the items that Noble dwells on—like the More family and discrepancies in various accounts. More recent articles and studies have investigated specific details of the life, Bald's *Donne and the Drury's* (Cambridge, 1959) being the only item filling in an important segment to the extent that it should be. Noble's approach derives from his own activities and antiquarian interests, and he loses sight of the object of his investigation too often, but it is an important point in this compilation since it does have value for a full view of Donne's life and since it has been missing from most Donne studies to date.

It used to be commonplace to believe that Donne was not read or known during the latter part of the seventeenth century, the eighteenth, or most of the nineteenth. But Joseph E. Duncan, among others, has dispelled that idea in *The Revival of Metaphysical Poetry* (University of Minnesota Press, 1959), for he discusses Coleridge's and Browning's remarks and poems on Donne, as well as others' in the last century. Perhaps the belief grew because of the few appearances of Donne's poetry (virtually none of the prose) after 1669 and before Alexander Grosart's edition in 1872 (most scholars knowing only the edition of 1719), and because Samuel Johnson

omitted both the poetry and the life of Donne from his well-known 1779 collection of the English poets and their lives. If Noble's work does nothing else, it indicates that there had been more reading and citing of Donne and much commentary on him and his work than has been thought in these years before 1821. It indicates that he himself—one who might not be especially drawn to Donne's kind of poetry—found something of poetical interest first and then of genealogical concern. Noble remarks that "the sense in his Poetry none can deny," although his poetic preferences seem to lie in the precise heroic couplets of Edmund Waller and Alexander Pope. Noble was a rather ordinary man of his times, rather than one of the literati, despite his own writing efforts, and thus his attention to Donne suggests a more ordinary and generalized reputation and reading public than we have been led to believe.

The present edition of Noble's remarks on Donne are transcribed verbatim, with original pages, corrections, and the like in brackets, and with line numbers added for note reference. Noble's notes are appended to the fifteen-page text, also verbatim and with original pages indicated. Next follow my notes and commentary first on Noble's basic text, referred to by page and line number, and second on his notes. I have attempted to track down his sources and citations, to explicate what he says, and to correct him where necessary or supply information from the most recent research. A very few items remain questionable. Besides a complete scholarly biography, such as will undoubtedly appear under Bald's name, Donne studies need new scholarly texts of much of the prose, an edition of the letters to and from Donne (with a full discussion of them and the correspondents), a task that I. A. Shapiro has been engaged on for many years, a catalogue of life records such as J. Milton French assembled for John Milton (five volumes, Rutgers University Press, 1949-1958), a careful and complete bibliography particularly for the seventeenth, eighteenth, and earlier nineteenth centuries, and a valid evaluation of him during those centuries. It is in this latter study that Noble's "curious particulars" will prove helpful.

- [title page] SOME / Curious Particulars / of / The very learned and  
 2 Reverend / JOHN DONNE, D. D. / Dean of St. Paul's, / "*The greatest*  
*WIT,* / *Though not the greatest POET of our Nation.*"<sup>a</sup> / With / Many  
 4 particulars of the Family of Dr. DONNE, and also of that of / MORE, /

From whom Mrs. DONNE descended. / Taken / From a great variety of our best Authors, as well Biographers as writers upon other subjects / Many mistakes of other are corrected: / The Life of Dr. DONNE is much amplified. / By very recent publications. / "T'was then plain DONNE in  
 5 *honest Vengeance rose, / His wit harmonious, but his rhyme was Prose.*"<sup>b</sup> / [manuscript device] / By / The Rev. MARK NOBLE, F. A. S. of London, Edinburgh, Newcastle, & America; and / Rector of Barming in Kent. / 1821. / [three drawn lines] /

[p. 1] Some particulars of Dr. Donne, & his Family.

10 I do not know a single individual contemporary with Dr. Donne that I think had happier attainments, I wish to know more of him, and his than I have been able to obtain, all the Biographers of him have followed each other since Walton, whose excellent life is above praise. I only wish to give a sketch noticing dates as far as I can. Give what will I suppose be acceptable of Mrs. Donne's family, and add a little to that of Dr Donne's and her children.

Dr Donne was of respectable, but not genteel parentage. I have nowhere seen the baptismal name of his Father, nor whom he married. Mr Donne was a citizen of London, a merchant possessed of much property.<sup>a</sup>  
 20 Both the parents of Dr. Donne were of the Roman Catholic Church and very strenuous for their Faith. The mother survived and was extremely desirous that her son should not become a Protestant as Mr. Donne had been. Some tell us that Mr Donne was descended from a very ancient family in Wales, but they give no proof. Donne is not a Welch name. At that  
 25 time a Welch gentleman was intirely unconnected with trade. There is an ancient family named Done, but I believe they are not from Wales. It does not appear that Dr Donne purchased his coat of Arms. He bore Azure a Wolf saliant Arg. armed and langued Gules. In one of his poems he notices "A Sheaf of snakes used heretofore to [be] my seal, The crest of our  
 30 poor Family" which appears to be changed to an Anchor. Sir Daniel Donne, Kt LLD. Master of the Requests was not of Dr Donnes family. He was born to no Arms, but in Camdens Clarenceux Gifts I see that he had a grant of them in Feb. 1615, B. a wolf saliant Arg chief Azure. Having noticed Dr Donne's paternal descent I shall notice that his biographers  
 35 tell us that his Mother descended from Sir Thomas More, Chancellor of England. I have collected much of that pedigree but I find no such alliance. There are many descendants from the Chancellor's father Sir John More's the Judge Second marriage but (known not whether Mrs Donne the mother was of that blood[.]) I strongly suspect that the Biographer's  
 40 mistake the alliance of the son with a More for that of the Father.

Having cleared my way so far I shall give a slight sketch of the Life of Dr Donne from his birth until his death.

[p. 2] Dr Donne was born in London in the year 1573. His father sensible and opulent took a private tutor in his house; in his 11th year

1583 he was sent to the University of Oxford and with his younger brother Henry he was entered at Hart-Hall, it was usual to sen'd boys at 15 to the Universities but seldom so early as 9 and 10 yet these were the ages of the Donnes, a proof how well grounded in the languages they were.

5 Strict *Romanists* the parents did not cho[o]se that John should have any degree conferred upon him, that he might not take the oaths. The Catholics went to our great seminaries of learning but went away when *oath time* came. After 3 years he went in 1587 to Cambridge where he also remained

10 3 years and left it, I suppose for the same reason. In 1590 he was entered at Lincoln's Inn where he made a most rapit advance in the knowledge of the law. How the oaths here were to have been dispenced had he continued I do not know. About 1591 his father died and left him £3000 a fortune at that time equal to place a young man high in any profession, as far a[s] property could. He was then 18 years of age, a period of life

15 too early to be left to its own guidance. Donne's religion was a serious evil in a worl[d]ly sense. He did what few are able. He determined to try all things and keep to that which [was] best. A fair investigation made him a Protestant. He had left the law and he made no exchange. In this unsettled state the splendid, popular and powerful Essex invited him to sail with him to Cadiz, and the Azores: this was in 1596, he was then 23[.] For his

20 mature judgment this was a suitable age for observation: he remained with the Earl during part of 1597. Desirous of acquiring knowledge and qualified to shine in all Countries he resolved to see more of the European continent[.] he visited Spain and Italy, Madrid then was the center of dignified manners and Italy of the Arts. Donne remained some years from his Country. He returned the finished gentleman and scholar. We cannot have all. What he had obtained in Knowledge and Science he had lost in health. It was necessary to go into some line of life. He had studied the Law. This qualified him for the office of secretary to the Chancellor, Lord

30 Viscount Ellesmere. He he was most happily situated but love creeps into every station. The Secretary saw[,] conversed and loved the amiable Miss More the Chancellor's wife's niece. The attachment on both sides was too ardent to sit down and count the inconveniences which might ensue.<sup>a</sup> The Lady was well descended and allied. Her father Sir George More was living. When he knew of the reciprocal affection he became indignant

35 [p. 3] his daughter should ally herself to a man descended from trade. one too who had no perminent situation and whose fortune had been spent in acquiring knowledge. He took away his daughter from the Chancellors and kept her at his seat in Surrey. The lovers eluded all precautions. They were privately married. Sir George enraged beyond even a parent's anger prevailed upon the Chancellor to dismiss his enlighthed Secretary which he did with much reluctance declaring Donne fit rather to serve a Sovereign than a subject. Not content with this he imprisoned his son-in-law; his

40 Fellow collegian, Samuel Brook, the future Master of Trinity college, in Cambridge, who married, and his brother Mr Christopher Brook, who gave

45

the Bride away. They were sent to three different prisons. Dr Donne was first liberated. He never ceased his efforts until the other two were set free. There was another, and more arduous task to perform to obtain his wife. The law, expensive law, gave him back his excellent Bride. They loved and grieved. They had no property. Sir George More was obdurate. The consequence of the Mores was supposed to have been dreadfully wounded. Sir George could not with a Prophet's eye see the future D. D. Dean of St. Paul's.

10 The family of More was knightly. They were seated at Loseley in Surrey.<sup>a</sup>

Sir Christopher More built the seat [; ] it was remarkably large. Camden says I saw Loseley, where is a beautiful house of the knightly family of More in a Park of Oaks.<sup>a</sup> Sir Christopher was sheriff of the counties of Surrey and Sussex 24 and 31. of HENRY VIII. He bore Azure on a Cross Argent 5 Martlets. It is supposed his Ancestors came from Co. Devon, descended from the Mores. Moorhayes where they had been seated in HENRY VI. reign.

20 Sir William More his son and heir was sheriff of Surrey and Sussex 6 PHILIP and MARY. and of Surrey 21 ELIZABETH, he died in 1624. as he was knighted in 1576 he must have been aged at his death.

Sir George More. Mrs Donne's father was a very conspicuous character. educated at Exeter College, Oxford, he studied in one of [the] Inns of Law, was sheriff of Surrey 29 ELIZABETH, who knighted him in 1597, he was M P and a frequent speaker, some of his speeches were published. 25 In 1604 he was appointed Treasurer to Henry Prince of Wales. In 1610 Chancellor of the Garter. In 1615 Lieutenant of the Tower [p. 4] in the room of Sir Gervase Elways executed for assisting in Sir Tho. Overbury's murder. This knight was much esteemed for worth[,] his good sense, and his researches. He published A Demonstration of GOD in his works 30 against such as deny either in Word or life that there is a GOD. The public library in Oxford acknowledges his present of MSS.

Sir Robert More Knt was his heir: he married Frances daughter of Sampson Lennard, Esq by Margaret Lady Dacre in her own right. This knight was Mrs. Donne's brother.

35 There is no occasion to farther continue this Pedigree, I will, therefore, only add to it that CHARLES I, May 18, 1642 created Poynings More, Esq. of Loseley a Baronet. The title is extinct and the estate is gone into the family of Molyneux.

40 Returning to Dr Donne he found himself an husband and father but destitute. Some of his letters prove his extreme unhappiness. Sir Francis Woolley of Pirford in Surrey knew the worth of Donne and his wife. He opened his doors to them and behaved with the utmost kindness. He solicited Sir Geo. More to be reconciled. He was prevailed upon to give his blessing, but not open his purse. Softened a little he applied to the Chancellor to 45 restore Donne to his secretariship[.] Lord Ellesmere refused, observing



that *though he was unfeignedly sorry for what he had done, yet it was inconsistent with his place and credit to discharge and readmit servants at the request of pationate petitioners.* Such is generally the fate of all rage and revenge[.] Sir George saw his son in law destitute when if he had been kind and considerate he might have seen him high in office in some law department; happily this *ultimately* led to Donne's higher station in an higher profession.

To shew the connection of the Chancellor and Sir Francis Woolley with the family of More it is proper to mention that the 2nd of the 3 wives of the Chancellor was Elizabeth daughter of Sir William More of Losely, not George as Collins' peerage gives it[,] shew[n] as widow of Sir John Woolley, father I suppose of the benevolent Sir Francis Woolley. This good man pressed Sir George so much in favour of the young couple that at length he engaged to pay Donne 800 £ as a portion for his daughter, or in default to allow them 20 £ a quarter for their maintenance[.]

[p. 5] I lose chronology, nor can I gain it. Dr Donne married in 1602: he is said to [have] lived with the Chancellor 5 years, if so he would go to him in 1597 when 24 and to be at his marriage 29, but I do not learn how long he resided with Sir Francis Woolley.

After that event he took a house for Mrs Donne and their children at Mitcham in Surrey, and lodgings for himself at Whitehall where he was visited and caressed by the nobility foreign ministers and other distinguished persons. Some friends assisted him, though far less than his wants demanded. He had no profession. His intentions at this time lay to the law, but judge of his misery when he wrote at this time to a friend

*The reason why I did not send an Answer to your last week's letter was because it found me in too great sadness, and at present it is thus with me: There is not one person but myself well of my Family; I have already lost half a child, and with that mischance of her's my wife is fallen into such a discomposure as would afflict her too extremely, but that the sickness of her children stupifies her: of one of which in good faith, I have not much hope; and these meet with a fortune so ill provided for Physick and such relief, that if GOD should ease me with burials, I know not how to perform that[.] But I flatter myself with this hope that I am dying too, for I cannot waste faster than by such griefs—*

From my Hospital at *Mitcham*

Aug. 10. <sup>[a]</sup>

JOHN DONNE

What could Sir George the Father and Sir Robert the brother think of their kindness? Mr Seward gives us a story that Sir George was moved

JOHN DONNE

40 by a note from his son in law ANN DONNE It was the Age of conundone.

ceits but Sir George was of too stern a texture to be instigated [by] a quaint device.

Dr Donne loved Mitcham and would have been happy he said to have lived their in happy obscurity—but better things awaited him[.]

5 Sir Robert Drury[, ] rich to an extreme[, ] and powerful[, ] gave the use of one of his houses near his own great House, a most spacious one, and then the only house in the Lane, I believe. He now was [p. 6] in a most  
10 enviable situation. Majesty[, ] rank[, ] beauty[, ] fashion courted him. When in mirth he had lived in the Inn at Court not dessolute but very neat, here he was surrounded with profusion without expence, he had been a great visiter of the ladies[.] now they courted his smiles and loved his poetic praise, in fine he was the admiration and praise of all.

Sir Robert Drury took him to Paris where we are favoured with a foolish story about his seeing the ghost of Mrs Donne his wife, of his sending to learn whether she was in health, and it was found that she had been premature delivered. Such tales do now only for the Nursery.

15 Grown grave from dissappointments his mind took a bias to Divinity. In 1610 he was incorporated M. A. at Oxford. He had received the same degree at Cambridge.

In this year he published a religious tract to prove the lawfulness of all to take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy. JAMES I. had been solicited  
20 to give him some secular employment, but from this time he determined to provide for him in the church. Being informed of this Donne studied for 3 years to more particularly qualify himself for His sacred office, he was ordained Deacon and Priest by the learned Dr. King, Bishop of London, his friend.<sup>a</sup> on [space] 16 . . JAMES immediately appointed him his  
25 Chaplain. No less than 14 presentations to Benefices were offered to him in the course of one year by the distinguished persons who admired his piety and talents, but he wisely declined them, as being in the Country. It would have been highly imprudent in him to have left the Court, where Majesty was his patron. When His King visited Cambridge [space] he took Donne  
30 with him, and at the Royal recommendation he was created D. D.

The vessel seemed now to ride in peace, and to stere to a safe haven, when behold the new Divine experienced the greatest calamity he had ever at anytime known, or that ever could befall him: no sooner had he returned from Cambridge, than Mrs Donne, his most faithful companion,  
35 friend, and wife died upon the birth of her 12th child. We seldom find so much affection in wedded love as in this pair. She shewed uncommon penetration in selecting such a person as Donne in preference to some high born men who could be supposd to possess his attainments.

40 [p. 7] Mrs Donne was buried in St Clement Dane's Church. Dr Donne erected a monument to her memory in the chancel on the North side near the East end.

## ANNAE

Georgii	More de	Filiae
Roberti	Lothessy	Sorori

Wilielmi Equitum Nepti  
 Christopheri Aurator Pronepti

Foeminae Lectissimae Dilectissimaeque.  
 Conjugi Charissimae Castissimaeque,  
 5 Matri Piissimae, Indulgentissimaeque  
 xv Annis in conjugio transactis  
 vii post partum (quorum vii.  
 Superstant) dios [dies],  
 Immani Febre correptae  
 10 (Quod hoc Saxum Fari jussit.  
 Ipse prae dolore infans)  
 Maritus (miserrimum dictu) olim  
 Charae Charus,  
 Cineribus cineres spondet suos,  
 15 Novo matrimonio (annuat Deus) hoc  
 Loco Sociandos,  
 Joannes Donne.  
 Sacrae Theologiae Professor  
 Secessit,  
 20 Anno x l iii. <sup>a</sup> aetat. suae & sui Jesu  
 CICDCXVII.  
 Aug. XV.

[p. 8] Mrs Donne left says Walton "a man of a narrow unsettled state.  
 and (having buried five) the careful father of 7 children. then living; to  
 25 whom he gave a voluntary assurance never to bring them under the sub-  
 jection of a step mother, which promise he kept most faithfull, burying  
 with his tears all his earthly joys, in [his] most dear and deserving wife's  
 grave, and betook himself to a solitary and retired life."

It was most singular that he chose to preach his first sermon in His  
 30 Church where he had deposited the remains of his justly lamented partner.  
 We may well suppose the subject from the text taken from the LAMEN-  
 TATIONS of the Prophet Jeremiah.

"LO I AM THE MAN THAT HAVE SEEN AFFLICTION."

In 1617 at the end of the year he was appointed Preacher of Lincoln's  
 35 Inn.

In 1619 JAMES named him one of the persons to attend the Lord Vist.  
 Doncaster, who after became *the splendid* Earle of Carlisle, in his embassy  
 to the Princes of Germany. This must have been very gratifying to Dr  
 Donne who was enabled to visit countries before unknown to him: it sup-  
 40 plied his pressing wants and it tended to take off the edge of his very poi-  
 gnant grief.

On [space] 1621 he at length obtained a station equal to his merit. the  
 circumstances attending it were peculiar, as indeed every thing else relative  
 to JAMES I. *the wisest of all wise FOOLS*. His Majesty ordered the

Doctor to attend him the following day at dinner. When the King was seated addressing the Divine he said "*Dr Donne I have invited you to Dinner and though you sit not down with me, I will carve to you of a dish I know you love well, for knowing you love London, I do therefore make you Dean of St. Paul's, and when I have dined then do you take your beloved Dish home to your study; say Grace there to yourself and much good may it do you.*" The King was heard to say more than once "I always rejoice when I think that by my means Dr. Donne became a Divine." Yet once he suspected Dr Donne of being insincere in his religion, but sending for him, he addressed his Majesty and removed all his doubts[.]

Dr Donne had the vicarage of St Dunstan in the East being presented to it by [space] and he had another living given him.

[p. 9] From this time the Life of Dr Donne was tranquil, he abounded, and his reputation was as high as a Divine, a scholar, a Wit, a Poet and a most accomplished Gentleman could be, the Court and the City: Beauty and Literature courted his praise. One illness threatened his life, but he recovered and remained in health and vigour until he was attacked when on a visit to his eldest daughter; he returned and preached at Court when his turn came, but the poison of Death's dart sunk too deep for medical aid.<sup>a</sup>

Finding himself growing near his end he sent for a portrait painter, and having had a board made into the form of an urn, he sent for a shroud, put it on, and standing in it with only a space left for his face he was painted with his eyes closed, death never was more accurately expressed. This board exactly of the same height as himself he had placed on the side of his bed. This was an admonition to prepare for the tomb which very few would have chosen for a morning and evening sight. It remained there whilst he lived, and by his desire was what was sculptured from by his desire for his monument. The statue long unknown and unsought was a few years ago in part of the building under the modern St. Paul's church. It has been engraven.

A length this distinguished character paid Nature's death and was buried not in St Clement Dane's Church where his body ought to have mouldered to join with his beloved wife's dust and as he evidently had designed. I suppose the chapter was best pleased with his being buried in the cathedral; he might himself have changed his mind in this respect, but I should not[,] will not[,] think so.

Be this as it might he was buried in the Cathedral Church, and on the South side of the Choir. in the old church stood a white Marble statue taken from the above portrait. It stood on an urn.

The inscription upon the Monument was the composition of Dr. Henry King, of Christ's Church[,] Oxford[,] Dean of Rochester and in 1641 consecrated Bishop of Chichester: He was Executor to Dr Donne. is the latter part of the epitaph in reference to his not being buried at St. Clement's in the grave of his beloved Ann? It is it only one y<sup>e</sup> of [i.e., It is one of the] quaint ideas of the age.<sup>b</sup>

[p. 10]

JOANNES DONNE

Sac. Theolog. Profess.

Post varia studia, quibus

ab Annis tenerrimis Fideliter;

5

nec in faeliciter incubuit,

Instinctu, &amp; Impulsu Spes, Sancti,

Monitu, &amp; Hortatu Regis JACOBI.

Anno sui Jesu 1614, &amp; suae Aetat. 42.

10

Decanatu hujus Eccles. induotus [indutus]

27 Novemb. 1621.

Exutus morte ultimo die

Martii, An. 1631.

Hic licet in Occiduo Cinere,

Aspicit eum

15

Cujus Nomen, Est Oriens.

I very much regret that the Dean's body was not sent to St Clement's Church or hers brought to St. Pauls that so amiable and enlightened a pair might sleep together until the Trumpet awakened them to ascend together, to their parents skies.

20

Many of the Poets sing his praise, when earthly praise is of no avail. I will give his character by one who well knew his worth and spoke what he knew to be true.

25

"Dr Donne was moderately tall, of a strait and well proportioned Body, to which all Words and Actions gave an unexpressible Addition of comeliness.

"The melancholy and pleasant Honour were in him so tempered that each gave advantage to the other, and made his Company one of the Delights of Mankind.

30

"His Fancy was inimitably high equalled only by his great wit, both being made useful by a commanding Judgment.

"His Aspect was chearful, and such as gave a silent Testimony of a clear knowing [p. 11] soul and of a conscience at peace with itself.

35

"His melting eye shewed that he had a set Heart, full of noble compassion, of too brave a soul to suffer injuries, and too much a Christian not to pardon them in others.

"He did much contemplate (especially after he had entered into his sacred calling) the Mercies of Almighty GOD. the Immo[r]tality of the soul, and the Joys of Heaven, and would often say, blessed be GOD, that he is GOD divinely like himself.

40

"He was by nature highly passionate, but more apt to reluct at the Excesses of it, a great lover of the offices of Humanity, and of so merciful spirit, that he never beheld the Miseries of Mankind without Pity and Relief[.]

“He was earnest and unwearied in the search of Knowledge with which his vigorous soul is now satisfied and employed in a continual Praise of that GOD that first breathed it into his active Body which was once a Temple of the Holy Ghost and is now become a small Quantity of Christian Dust[.]

5 “But I shall see it reanimated.”

I do not believe that Britain had so much intelligence in any individual as was in Dr Donne, nor do I think anyone was more strictly pious or virtuous: his literary labour exceed[s] credibility, but we know what constant study will do. The period in which he lived was against that ease and grace which the learned have attained. The sense in his Poetry none can deny, but the smoothness is every where wanted; he wanted a Waller, or a Pope to soften and harmonize. It is much to the honour of his understanding that Pope has done this for some of his poetical works. Dr. Donne is justly said to be the Father of English Satirists. Dryden wished to see his works in modern language.<sup>a</sup>

15 As I shall give a Catalogue of his works printed, and in M.S. I shall occasionally make remarks upon them.

1 Pseudo Martyr, 1610. 4to This was written by the command of JA. I. and was ultimately the cause of his being directed to go into Orders. For he was won from *Coke upon Lyttelton*; he would have made an excellent lawyer, but he was still a better Divine. This is his best prose work[.]

[p. 12] 2 Poems containing *songs, sonnets, Epigrams*[,] *Elegies. Epithalamiums, Satires, Letters to Several Persons*[,] *Funeral Elegies. Holy Sonnets* 1 Vol. 12mo. 1719 with the addition of *Elegies upon the Author by several Persons*. This volume was published by his son. Most of his Poems addressed to particular persons were written to Ladies of rank. He seems ever to have loved and been a favorite of the Fair sex. Some few of his Poems when young are not free from licentiousness, but this was soon changed for real piety. The Vol. is dedicated to Francis Lord Newport.<sup>[a]</sup>

30 2 Epigrams written in Latin, translated into English by J. Maine D. D. his Friend. Ignatius' Conclave a Satire translated by Dr Maine from the Latin, which Latin Poems was found amongst Dr Donne's paper's 1653 12mo.

35 3 Three volumes of Sermons, fo. published in 1640, 1649, and 1660, a volume at a time. Dr Donne might be said to follow Dr Launcet Andrew's Bishop of Winchester as a preacher but he far exceeded him in pulpit oratory. Sermons then were formidable; one would make 6 of the present ones. Dr Andrews were larded and overlarded with learned languages and to that degree that the Roman Catholics might [have] retorted upon the Bishop for almost as much preaching to the Congregation in unknown tongues as they did in praying in one. Donnes Sermons are 150 in number.

40 4. Essay on Divinity &c. being several Disquisitions interwoven with Meditations and Prayers, before he went into Holy Orders, 1651 12mo.

45 5. Letters to several persons of Honour 1654. 4to Both these were published by his son.

There [are] several of Dr Donne's Letters, and some to him from the Q. of Bohemia, the daughter of JAMES I. the Earl of Carlisle, Archbishop Abbot and Ben Jonson in "A Collection of Letters made by Sir Tobie Matthews Knt. 1660 8vo. This I have not[,] nor do I remember it sufficiently to have used it for these notices of the Dean of St Paul's.

6. The Ancient History of the Septuagint translated from the Greek of Aristeus, 1633, 12mo. This was revised and corrected by another and printed in 1685 in 8vo.

7. BIAΘANATOS, or a Declaration of that Paradox of Thesis, that Self Homicide is not so natural a sin that it may not be otherwise. Walton his Biographer says that this is an exact and laborious Treatise "wherein all the Laws violated by that act (Self Murder) are [p. 13] diligently surveyed and judiciously censured." Such a tract should be reprinted now. Suicide is not confined to one species of self distruction but to all. The criminal whom the Law has cause to be executed is guilty of his own death. The intemperate. The violent: often by a duel. Moderation saves but excess[,] even in what other wise is laudable[,] destroys.

"A Scourge for paper-persecutors, by I. D." With an inquisition against paper-persecutors by A. H. London for H. H. 1625 4to. but these are distinct tracts[;] the Former was originally published in J.A.I.'s reign and most probably was one of Donne's juvenile works. It had a running title at the top of every page PAPERS COMPLAINT[;] in 3 sheets and an half. Wood says the copy of this had the date of the title pared off at the bottom. Probably this occasioned the following epigram in Freeman's RUN AND A GREAT CAST 1614

#### TO JOHN DONNE.

The STORME described hath set thy name afloat,  
Thy CALME a gale of famous winde hath got:  
Thy SATYRS short too soone we them o'er look,  
I prithee, Persius, write another booke.

"In M.S. he left The RESULTANCE of 1400 Authors most of them abridged and analysed with his own hand. All the business likewise that passed of any public consequence, either in this, or many of our neighbouring nations, he abbreviated in Latin, or in the languag of that nation, and kept them by him for useful memorials. So he did the copies of divers letters and cases of conscience, that had concerned his friends, with his observations and solutions of them, and diverse other matters of importance all particularly and methodically digested by him.

When we recollect Dr Donne's excellent education, his patronage and support by the highest and most enlightened persons in this kingdom[,] his travels and observations of various kingdoms in Europe; his studying both Law and Divinity. His seeing all that a Chancellors secretaryship could give. When we know him skilled in the dead and several [p. 14] living

languages and gifted with much genius we must suppose him pre-eminently fitted to shine in all companies. The learned and the wise; the Divine and the Statesman[.] The wit and the amiable of the more engaging sex: I regard him as the really most accomplished man of JAMES I's reign. I am not comparing his Muse to that of SHAKESPEARE. that was one of FIRE. I am speaking of him as a generally accomplished Gentleman[.] How much credit does it do Miss More to have loved such a man; how much honour to her to have been so tenderly regarded by him.

There is an original portrait of Dr Donne in Hart-Hall, Oxford.

10 We have these engravings of him.

Prefixed to his Poems 12 aet. 18, 1591. engraved 1635 by Will. Marshall

Prefixed to his Sermons aet. 42. fol. 1640. W. Merian, jun.

Prefixed to his Letters 1654 4to by P. Lombart.

There is one by D. Loggan.

15 In his winding sheet 4to M. Dro(eshout)

Malcolme in his London has given the Dean from his late found monument and this has been copied in the Gentleman's Magazine. The idea is not new or at least it is not peculiar. Lord and Astley are so represented in Maidstone Church and no doubt others. The appearance can never be pleasing.

20 I have a print of Dr Donne without any Artist's name.

I should suppose that there may be portraits of Dr Donne is some private seats—I believe Loseley would not have received one—yet the Mores ought to have thought it an honour to admit him amongst Knights and Baronets of their family.

25 [p. 15] We know almost as little of Dr Donne's posterity as we do of his Ancestors.

His son and heir was the very reverse of his father[,] a vain foolish fob[,] despised and ridiculed by most he was.

30 John Donne, LLD. educated at Westminster School from whence he went in 1622 to Christ Church in Oxford. He was sent a tour upon the

Continent, but he did not profit by that or any other advantage. I suppose he studied at Padua where he obtained his Doctor's Degree, returning to

35 England he was admitted to the same degree in June 1638 at Oxford. He published some of his father's works. He should have stopped there. Wis-

dom appeared in them, in his own—the reverse. There are several of these disgraces to the name, but I believe the only one remembered is that in-

40 titled "The humble Petition of Covent Gard[en] against Dr John Babre a Physitian 1662." It is probable that this Gentleman[,] the LLD[,] re-

sided as well as Baber in Covent Garden. He died in 1662 and is buried in the cemetary of St Paul's in Covent Garden. I do not know that he married.<sup>a</sup>

45 His oldest daughter, Constance[,] was second daughter of Edward Alleyne Esq. founder of Dulwich College who died in 1531. She remarried Samuel Harvey, Esq. [of] Avery Hatch in Essex to whom she brought



a considerable fortune[,] Mr Alleyne having left her £1600, besides Jewels. One [i.e., on] one of the Organ-Pipes at Dulwich are the Arms of Alleyne impaling Azure a wolf rampant Ermine. It should have been Azure a wolf saliant, Argent. It was at Avery Hatch that Dr Donne was  
 5 later ill of that complaint which brought him to his grave[.] The Harveys descended from Tho. Harvey Gent of Folkstone in Kent who had 7 sons[.] the very oppulent citizens in London. Sam. Harvey, Esq. was the son of one of them.

10 Another of Dr Donne, the Dean's daughters married Thomas Gardyner Esq of Camberwell. The Gardiners as the name was afterward spelt long remained at Camberwell.

### [NOBLE'S NOTES]

[title page] <sup>a</sup> Dryden. <sup>b</sup> Dr. Browne on Satire.

[p. 1] <sup>a</sup> Amongst the gentry of Surrey in 1433 were Thomas and John Donne, both of Coveham[?], in that county. We are not told when the Donnes became settled in London, Mr Donne *might* be descended from *John Donne*, Mercer of London who in 1472 left 2 tenements the rent of which was pay for ringing bells of Bow-bell Church.

[p. 2] <sup>a</sup> Dr Donne was married [space] 1602.

[p. 3] <sup>a</sup> Loseley House was built in 1561 or 1562 & finished in 1568: there is a gallery on the 1st floor 121 feet by 18. The Hall 42 by 25. Loseley House still remains[;] it is now large yet some part of it has been taken down[.] it is the seat of the Molyneux family[.] Q. ELIZABETH often visited it. The principal portraits are those of Q. ANN Boleyn, by Holbein[.] the Chancellor Sir Thos More. Sir Will More with a long white beard & his Lady. Sir George, Sir Robert and Sir Poynings More. Nathaniel who married Miss Booth & his Lady[.] [continued bottom of p. 4] Sir Tho. Molyneux who married one of the 2 coheirs of the Mores. Eliz. her sister who died single. Sir More Molyneux his lady & their 11 children in one large piece in the Hall. In the Gallery whole lengths of JAMES I. & his consort and a 3 quarters one of EDW. VI. dated 1549. In the Gallery are gilt needle-worked chairs with cushions worked by ELIZABETH. Other Sovereigns have visited Loseley. When the late Mr Strode occupied this mansion, he had a chapel consecrated at Loseley. The silly Will Fowler secretary & Master of the Requests to Q. ANN of Denmark wrote some foolish lines upon a Horologe of the clock at Sr George Moores at his Place of Loseley 1603. See Lodge's Illustrations of British History.

[p. 5] <sup>[a]</sup> Dr. Donne seldom gives dates[;] in a letter to Sir H. G. he notices being at Mitcham with the Knight Aug 15, 1607.

[p. 6] <sup>a</sup> Bishop King had been Chaplain to Chancellor Ellesmere when Donne had been secretary; it does great credit to Lord Ellesmere to have singled out 2 such men.

[p. 7] <sup>a</sup> in Seymour's Survey of London &c the age is given: xxiii. which could [not] be true. She had been mother of 12 children & she was

the same age as Dr Donne, who is said to have been born in 1573 but by this it would appear that he was born in 1574. Lee Neve in his *Mon. Anglicana* has the age xxiii: it is evidently wrong. The mistake [may] have been the sculptor's.

[p. 9] <sup>a</sup> Dr Donne's last sermon, it being lent was "To the LORD belong the issues of Life and Death. ["] Ps. lxxviii.v.20. It was printed in 1633, under the title "DEATH'S DUEL, or a consolation to the Soul against the dying life and living Death of the body; being his last sermon, and called by his Majesty's Household THE DOCTOR'S OWN FUNERAL SERMON." <sup>b</sup> I did not recollect St Dunstan's in the East—the idea is not very wise, there was no reason for burying him there but there was the greatest to have interred him in St Clement's Church with his beloved & lamented WIFE.

[p. 11] <sup>a</sup> Bishop Hall exceeded Donne as a satarist, he is smoother & more finished. "Donne though he lived s[o] many years later, says Warton was susceptible of modern refinement, & his asperities were such as wanted and would bear the chisel."

[p. 12] <sup>a</sup> Here must be some mistake. My copy of this book is dedicated to Will. Lord Cravon. by John Donne: but the Dean's son died in 1662 & Moun[t]joy Blount, Earl of Newport died in 1665, the 3 next, his sons, Geo. died in 1675-6 Cha. 1676 & Hen. in 1681 when the title became extinct.

[p. 15] <sup>a</sup> John Donne LD died in affluence. The Heralds attended his funeral as appears by the Funeral certificate[.] The Arms used in the Escucheon was Azure a wolf saliant Azure charged with an Ermin spot, but why I am to learn.

## NOTES AND COMMENTARY ON TEXT

### Page 4

- 2-3: From John Dryden, Dedicatory Letter to *Eleonora*; the quotation should read "best poet."

### Page 5

- 4-5: From a poem erroneously attributed to Sir Thomas Browne, author of *Religio Medici*. Noble apparently took the reference from James Granger's *Biographical History of England* (London, 1779), I, 260, as well as the Dryden quotation.
- 6: *F. A. S.*: Fellow of the Antiquarian Society.
- 18: His father John was warden of the Ironmongers' Company. He died on 16 January 1576; his will was proved on 8 February.

- 22: That is, prior to his marriage to Elizabeth Heywood, sister of the Roman Catholic martyr Jasper Heywood. They may have been married in the mid-1560's.
- 23-24: The Welsh connection was started by Walton. Edmund Gosse notes possible but uncertain Welsh relations, I, 4-5.
- 27-28: Donne's coat of arms (listed for "Dun" in 1606) and used by his son (see Noble's remark, p. 15, note) was an azure field with a silver wolf standing up, its shoulder showing an ermine spot. The "charging" of an ermine spot, in the description on p. 15, note, is used to distinguish the specific heraldic arms from those of others named Donne. The coat of arms described here by Noble was used by a Don (or Doon) and by Sir Daniel Donne cited below. This coat of arms has an azure background with a silver wolf rising up, its fangs showing in a different color, and its red tongue displayed.
- 28-30: Referring to a Latin poem entitled "To Mr *George Herbert*, with one of my Seales, of the Anchor and Christ," first published in the 1650 edition of the *Poems* along with an erroneous anonymous translation, of which these are the first two lines. The new arms depicted Christ upon an anchor; they were first used on a letter to Sir Edward Herbert, dated 23 January 1615, the day that Donne took Anglican orders.
- 33: 1615: error for 1605. *Camden*: William Camden, the Elizabethan antiquarian.
- 35: Sir Thomas More's sister Elizabeth married John Rastell and from them descended Donne's mother.
- 43: 1573: the birth date is uncertain, but it seems to lie between 24 February and 19 June 1572. *His father*: that is, his stepfather, Dr. John Symmings, President of the Royal College of Physicians, whom Donne's mother had married about five months after his father's death in 1576.

## Page 6

- 1: 1583: the dates of Donne's attendance at Hart Hall (absorbed into Hertford College) were 1584-1587.

- 5-8: In essence Roman Catholics had to renounce allegiance to Papal authority, for at this time an oath of allegiance to the Queen and the State Church was required.
- 8: *Cambridge*: the source is Walton, who says that Donne went to Trinity College, but there is no documentary evidence of this. He may have been abroad with the army in the Lowlands fighting for Dutch independence from Spain during this period.
- 9: *1590*: rather, 1592. He entered 6 May 1592 and left during late 1595 or early 1596.
- 12: *About 1591 his father died*: Dr. Symmings, who died on 7 July 1588; his mother's third marriage to Richard Rainsford before 7 February 1591 probably accounts for the inaccurate date. Donne was admitted to share in his stepfather's estate on 23 June 1593.
- 19: *Essex*: Robert Devereux, the Earl of Essex, whose two expeditions against the Spanish took place in June-August 1596 and July-October 1597.
- 24: *he visited Spain and Italy*: direct evidence is lacking. Donne spoke and read Spanish, and probably visited the mainland at some time before settling down in England in autumn 1597. There is a portrait painted by William Marshall, in which he is dressed in soldier's garb with a Spanish quotation from Montemayor beneath; however, it seems to have been executed ca. 1591. It is conjectured that Donne may have been in the Lowlands with the army, fighting the Spanish, ca. 1587-1591. The visit to Italy was alleged by Walton, and there may be corroboration in the Italian titles of two epigrams in the O'Flaherty MS in the Houghton Library, Harvard, and the Westmoreland MS in the Berg Collection, the New York Public Library.
- 25: *some years*: this is incorrect. The source is Walton, who wrote: "But he returned not back into England till he had staid some years. . . ."
- 27-28: *he had lost in health*: his apparent self-descriptions (see, e.g., *Elegie: His Picture* and *A Valediction of my name, in the Window*, ll. 23-24) and recurrent illnesses (e.g.,

in 1608 and 1623) suggest this. His illness may have been the continuing result of typhoid fever or malaria.

- 29-30: *Lord Viscount Ellesmere*: Sir John Egerton, Lord Chancellor of the Exchequer.
- 38-39: Noble follows Walton's romantic account; Ann's appearance in London after this time makes suspect the implication that she was incommunicado.
- 45: *married*: that is, who performed Ann and John's marriage ceremony. Samuel Brooke later became chaplain, in turn, to Prince Henry, James I, and Charles I.

Page 7

- 1: *prisons*: Donne was sent to the Fleet briefly in February 1602. The marriage was ratified by the Archbishop of Canterbury on 27 April 1602. Christopher Brooke was interned at Marshalsea, remaining there about two additional weeks; his brother Samuel's place of confinement is unnamed.
- 14: 24 and 31. of *HENRY VIII*: that is, Sir Christopher became sheriff of Surrey in the twenty-fourth year of Henry VIII's reign (1532) and of Sussex in the thirty-first (1539). *He . . . Martlets*: the arms consisted of an azure background, with a silver cross in the middle and five [black] birds placed on it.
- 18-19: 6 *PHILIP and MARY*: 1558.
- 19: 21 *ELIZABETH*: 1578.
- 22-23: *one of [the] Inns of Law*: the Inner Temple, which he entered in 1574.
- 23: 29 *ELIZABETH*: 1586.
- 24: *some of his speeches were published*: perhaps in official documents; the remark probably comes from Anthony Wood, *Athenae Oxonienses* (London, 1721), I, 492: "He had written . . . Parliamentary Speeches,—and other things which I have not yet seen."
- 26: *Garter*: the important order of knights.
- 26-27: *in the room of*: in replacement of.
- 27-28: *Overbury's murder*: a scandal involving Lady Frances Howard, recently divorced wife of the Earl of Essex,

and her new husband Robert Carr, Earl of Somerset. Overbury had objected to their marriage, which later took place on 26 December 1613, and promptly found himself in prison in the Tower on 26 April 1613. Lady Frances and the Earl, with the perhaps unwitting help of Sir Gervase Helwys, had Overbury poisoned on 14 September 1613, but were found out in July 1615 and brought to trial. Their conviction was finally set aside by the king in 1621.

- 29: *A Demonstration of GOD in his works*: published in London by J. R[oberts] for T. Charde in 1597 and reissued in 1598.
- 30-31: *public library*: the Bodleian; the manuscripts were presented in 1604.
- 39: *father*: his daughter Constance was born in 1603; his son John, in 1604.
- 40: See, e.g., Nos. VI and XX in the 1651 edition of *Letters to Several Persons of Honour. Sir Francis Woolley: Ann's cousin*.

#### Page 8

- 1-3: Noble quotes directly from Walton.
- 6-7: *an higher profession*: the clergy.
- 19: *he . . . Woolley*: roughly three years, 1602 to 1605.
- 21: *Whitehall*: Walton locates him "in London, near to Whitehall"; actually the lodgings were in the Strand.
- 24: In 1605-1607 Donne was secretary to Thomas Morton, who offered help if he took Anglican orders. He decided against the clergy at this time, but he also showed no tendency toward resuming law.
- 26-37: Not included in the 1651 edition. Gosse conjectures it was sent "Probably to Sir H. Goodyer."
- 28-29: *lost half a child*: apparently referring to a miscarriage, which must have occurred in 1605-1606 since children were born in May 1605, January 1607, August 1608, and December 1609. The Donnes resided at Mitcham from 1605 through 1609.
- 36: *Hospital*: so labelled because of the family illnesses.

- 39: *Seward*: William Seward (1747-1799), author of *Anecdotes of Some Distinguished Persons* (1795-1797), to which Noble refers, I, 267 (London, 1804, Ed. 5). The "quaint device" is reported by Walton to have appeared in a letter to Ann some years before after he had been dismissed by Egerton.

## Page 9

- 1-2: Walton, Noble's source, is romanticizing. Donne was not happy at Mitcham, and he was frequently at Twickenham, the home of his patroness Lucy, Countess of Bedford, in 1609-1610.
- 8-9: *he . . . ladies*: an oft-quoted remark from Sir Richard Baker in *A Chronicle of the Kings of England* (London, 1643), p. 156.
- 11: *took him to Paris*: they were in France and the Lowlands, and for a brief time Germany, from July 1611 through September 1612.
- 11ff.: Taken from Walton, who uses it to illustrate ll. 33-36 of *Song*: "Sweetest love, I do not goe." The stillborn birth was in January 1612.
- 16-17: He received an honorary M.A. from Oxford on 17 April 1610 and was incorporated at Cambridge the next day. The practice of granting a recipient the same degree from the sister university was common.
- 18: *a religious tract: Pseudo-Martyr. Wherein this conclusion is evicted that those of the Romane religion ought to take the oath of allegiance*. London: W. Stansby for W. Burre, 1610.
- 21-22: This is not explicit in Walton, and seems to be Noble's inference. Donne was apparently not in Drury's employ from September 1612 and he took Anglican orders on 23 January 1615. During this little more than two-year period he was a Member of Parliament from Taunton, Somerset (5 April to 7 June 1614). He had previously been MP from Brackley, Northampton, in 27 October-19 December 1601. Noble's comment may derive from *Biographia Britannica* (London, 1750), III, 1727: "but

Mr Donne, being desirous to qualify himself for the sacred function by a closer application to the studies of Divinity and the learned languages, deferred his compliance with the King's instances, till about three years after, when he was ordained both Deacon and Priest. . . ."

- 23: He took Anglican orders on 23 January 1615. *Dr. King*: John King, father of the poet Henry King and chaplain to Sir Thomas Egerton during Donne's secretarial years.
- 24-25: He was appointed chaplain to James I in 1602.
- 25: Again Noble's source is Walton, who said that Donne "had fourteen advowsons of several benefices presented to him." Donne had become Vicar of Keyston and Sevenoaks, Kent, which Noble seems to be ignorant of (see ll. 14-16).
- 29-30: Donne received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity from Cambridge in April 1615 through the king's action. John Chamberlain in a letter dated 16 March 1615 in John Nichols' *The Progresses, Processions, and Magnificent Festivities, of King James the First . . .* (London, 1828), III, 60-61, makes clear that there had been objections. In his next letter (31 March) Chamberlain wrote: "John Donne and one Cheke went out Doctors at Cambridge, with much ado, after our coming away, by the King's express mandate; though the Vice-chancellor and some other of the Heads called them openly *filios noctis et tenebriones* [sons of the night and darkness; i.e., ignorant thieves], that sought thus to come in at the window when there was a gate open [a paraphrase of John x on the wolves in sheep's clothing]. But the worst is that Donne hath gotten a reversion of the Deanery of Canterbury, if such grants could be lawful; whereby he hath purchased himself a great deal of envy, that a man of his sort should seek, *per saltum* [through such a slight opening], to intercept such a place from so many more worthy and ancient divines" (pp. 61-62, note). Perhaps Chamberlain confused Donne's vicarage and the deanery, both being in Kent. Charles Fotherby received the Deanery of Canterbury.



33-35: By following Walton, Noble telescopes the time gap and thus makes many errors in the ensuing remarks as a result. Ann died in childbirth on 15 August 1617, having borne another child, Elizabeth, before in June 1616.

Page 10

Translation:

	Ann	
George	More of	Daughter
Robert	Loseley	Sister
William	Knight	Granddaughter
Christopher	Lord Treasurer	Great Granddaughter

The most excellent and beloved woman, / The most precious and chaste wife, / The most dutiful and indulgent mother / who fulfilled fifteen years of marriage, / [and was] carried off seven days past the birth of her twelfth child / (of whom seven survive) / by a fierce fever / which bid this stone speak, / itself a child by reason of sorrow. / Once the loving husband (most miserable word) / of the beloved, / he pledged his ashes to those ashes, / through a new marriage (God grants) / accompanying those to the grave. / John Donne, Professor of Sacred Theology, / retired unto himself. / In the [thirty-third] year of her life and the 1617th of her Savior, / August 15. /

1-22: Noble makes minor errors in his transcription; he also omits "xii" after "vii post." The final year date should be "(1)" or 1000 plus 617; see discussion of Noble's note.

29: *first sermon*: Noble has again followed Walton. The sermon referred to was the first delivered after his wife's death, and preached at St. Clement Danes on the text of Lamentations iii.1: "I am the man that hath seen affliction by the rod of His wrath." Donne's first sermon, which does not survive, was preached at Paddington. The first surviving sermon was delivered before the Queen on 30 April 1615 at Greenwich.

34-35: He had been appointed Reader in Divinity to the Benchers

of Lincoln's Inn in October 1616, a position he held through February 1622.

- 36-38: The conciliatory mission to Germany lasted from 12 May 1619 to December 1620. See also Donne's poem "A Hymne to Christ, at the Authors last going into Germany."
- 39: *before unknown*: he had visited Germany with Drury when Princess Elizabeth's marriage with the Elector of the Palatinate was arranged. See also Donne's poem "De Libro cum mutuaretur, Impresso, Domi à pueris frustatim lacerto, et post reddito Manuscripto."
- 42: *On . . . 1621*: Donne was appointed Dean of St. Paul's on 19 November 1621. Noble's anecdote comes from Walton.

Page 11

- 11: *St. Dunstan in the East*: rather, St. Dunstan in the West, in March 1624. The error is curious since Walton gives it correctly; in fact, this was Walton's own parish. *by [space]*: Richard, Earl of Dorset, Donne's friend and patron. Walton gives this information immediately after citing St. Dunstan in the West.
- 12: *another living*: Noble seems to follow Walton, who says, "By these, and another ecclesiastical endowment which fell to him about the same time, given to him formerly by the Earl of Kent. . . ." The reference is to the vicarage at Keyston and Sevenoaks.
- 16: *One illness*: that near-fatal illness in the winter of 1623, during which the *Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions* were written.
- 18: *a visit*: in August 1630. *eldest daughter*: Constance (Mrs. Samuel Harvey) of Aldborough Hatch, Essex.
- 18-19: He preached "Death's Duel" before the king on 25 February 1631 and died in London on 31 March 1631.
- 20ff.: This engraving became the source for the frontispiece to "Death's Duel."
- 29: It is still there. Noble refers to William Dugdale's en-

graving of it and the inscription in *The History of St. Paul's* (London, 1658), pp. 62-63.

29-30: *It . . . engraven*: see below for inscription.

34: *chapter*: the regular assembly of church members.

42-44: There is, of course, no such pun involved; instead there is the antithesis of "Occiduo" and "Oriens" (a name for Christ) such as underlies "Goodfriday, 1613. Riding Westward." Omitted after "Regis JACOBI" is "Ordines Sacros Amplexus" ("entered holy orders").

### Page 12

#### Translation:

John Donne / Dr. of Sacred Theology / after various studies which from the earliest years / he pursued faithfully and not without success / under the influence and instinct of the Divine Spirit / and by the exhortation / of King James, entered holy orders / in the year of his savior 1614, and of his own age 42. / Here in the west, reduced to ashes [dust] / one may behold him / whose name is Oriens. /

21: *one*: Walton; the quotation ending Walton's *Life* is not accurately transcribed.

40: *reluct*: show dislike, revolt.

### Page 13

11: *the smoothness . . . wanted*: Ben Jonson's similar comment, given by William Drummond in the *Conversations*, was often reiterated: "That Done, for not keeping of accent, deserved hanging." Waller and Pope, of course, were well known for their smooth and metrically exact rhyming couplets.

13: *Pope . . . works*: Pope rewrote the second and fourth satires in rhyming couplets; they were published respectively in 1735 and 1733 (anonymously). Thomas Parnell versified the third satire and published it in Pope's *Works*, 1738.

13-14: I have not discovered an explicit source for this state-

ment; it is implied in many comments on Donne, however, for example, by Granger, *op. cit.*

- 14-15: "Donne alone, of all our countrymen, had your talent [the Earl of Dorset's], but was not happy enough to arrive at your versification; and were he translated into numbers [metrical lines], and English, he would yet be wanting in the dignity of expression" ("Discourse Concerning Satire," prefaced to Dryden's translations of Juvenal, 1693).
- 18-19: Walton expressly charges James with commanding Donne to write this answer to the disputes against the Oath of Supremacy and Allegiance, and states flatly that the king tried to persuade Donne to enter the ministry because of it.
- 20: *won from Coke upon Lyttelton*: that is, dissuaded from becoming a lawyer. The reference is to *The First Part of the Institutes of the Lawes of England: or, A Commentarie upon Littleton authore E. Coke* (London, 1628). It had been entered in the Stationers' Register on 5 March 1620, and was republished three more times in 1629, 1633, and 1639. This basic law digest by Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634) comments on Sir Thomas Littleton's *Tenores novelli* [*New Tenures*; i.e., "Lawes"], first published in 1481.
- 22ff.: The first edition of the *Poems* was 1633 by M[iles] F[lesher] for J[ohn] Marriot. John Donne, Jr., apparently had nothing to do with this edition, but did oversee the revised and augmented second edition of 1635 also by Flesher for Marriot. A copy of the 1635 edition is in Special Collections of Rutgers University Library. Further editions (or issues) came in 1639, 1649, 1650, 1654, and 1669 (the latter also owned by Rutgers University Library). Noble's comment on the verse letters is not accurate: seventeen letters are addressed to men and eleven to ladies; one has no addressee. Although some addressees are represented only by initials, the greater number of men should have been recognized. The problem of dedications which is raised is probably explained

by the fact that *Paradoxes, Problemes, Essayes, Characters* (1652) was dedicated to Francis Lord Newport, but the edition of 1719, which follows the edition of poems in 1669, was dedicated to Lord Craven as Noble notes. Noble seems to be following some biographical source, probably inaccurately.

- 30-33: The epigrams are considered spurious. Jasper Maine's translations were published in *Paradoxes* [etc.] (London, 1652), pp. 88-103. Although *Ignatius his Conclave*, included in this volume, is said on the title page to be translated by Maine, it really was a reprint of an anonymous edition in English first published in 1611 after two Latin editions in the same year; further English printings came out in 1626, 1634, and 1635. *Ignatius* has a subtitle dated 1653 in this edition, and the title page with purposive misrepresentation reports that it was "found lately amongst his own Papers."
- 34ff.: These volumes are *LXXX Sermons*, 1640; *Fifty Sermons*, 1649; and *XXVI Sermons* (actually twenty-three), 1660.
- 35: *follow*: be inferior to.
- 39: *retorted*: levied a counter charge.
- 41: 150: there are at least 153 authenticated sermons.
- 42-43: The *Essays in Divinity* were probably written during 1615-1619, although the title page (which Noble is quoting) says "Before he entered into Holy Orders."
- 44-45: The *Letters* were first published in 1651; Noble has used the 1654 reprint.

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- 1-4: There are thirty-eight letters to or from Donne in this collection; there are various correspondents.
- 6-8: This was translated by a "J. Donne," but not the poet and Dean of St. Paul's. Indeed, Donne's knowledge of Greek was not very strong. The reviser of the 1685 edition is anonymous.
- 9: *Biathanatos* was published ca. 1646 and again in 1648.
- 18: *I.D.*: not Donne, but John Davies of Hereford. *A Scourge*

for *Paper-Persecutors by J. D., with a Continu'd Inquisition by A [braham] H [olland]* was printed for H[enry] H[olland] and G. G[ibbs]. Davies' work had first appeared as *A Confession of Christian Religion*, printed by J. Barnes at Oxford in 1609; only one copy in the Bodleian is listed in the *STC*.

- 23: Wood: op. cit., I, 556: "The running Title at the top of every Page is *Paper's Complaint*, in three sheets and half in qu[arto]. The Date in the Title pared out at the bottom."
- 24-25: Referring to Thomas Freeman's *Rubbe, and a great cast: Epigrams [Book 1]; Runne and a Great Cast. The Second Bowle* (London, 1614). Persius (l. 4) was a well-known Roman satirist; Freeman says Donne is superior to him.
- 31ff.: The whole paragraph comes from Walton. No such manuscript or commonplace book is known, although holograph letters are extant. Wood reported that "an extract of near fifteen hundred authors" had been held by Bishop King until his death in 1669.

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- 9ff.: Noble's comments on the portraits need further investigation:
- a. perhaps that now in the National Portrait Gallery. It is a bust, looking left, with ruff and pointed beard.
  - b. from an unknown painting done between January-June 1591; the engraving was used in the 1635 *Poems* and other editions.
  - c. 1616, at age 44, by M. Meriam, used in *Sermons*, 1640, after a miniature by Isaac Oliver.
  - d. 1612 (?), at age 40 (?), by Pieter Lombart; used in *Letters*, 1651 and 1654.
  - e. no engraving by David Loggan (1635-1710?) is given in Keynes' *Bibliography*, and the Dictionary of National Biography says that Loggan does not seem to have painted portraits. Noble's authority is Granger, I, 356.

- f. after the stone effigy in St. Paul's, or the original drawing by Martin Droeshout, used in "Death's Duel" in 1632.
- g. not mentioned by Keynes or Gosse. Reference is to James Peller Malcolm in *Londonium Redivivum, or an Antient History and Modern Description of London . . .* (London, 1802-1807), III, opposite p. 61.
- h. it seems impossible to identify this since it should not be the same as any of those listed above, and no prints of the few remaining likely portraits are known.
- 11: *aet.* 18: at age eighteen.
- 17: *Gentleman's Magazine*, LXXVIII (Part 2, 1808), 1073, engraving No. 7.
- 18: *Lord and Astley*: perhaps this is a manuscript error for just "Lord Astley" or for "Lord and Baron Astley." Sir Jacob Astley, Baron Astley (1579-1652), a notable figure in the Royalist cause during the Civil Wars, was imprisoned by the Cromwellian government and died at the old palace of Maidstone. He was buried in the chancel of All Saints' Parish Church, where a stone was placed over his crypt and a tablet on the wall. I find no notable person named Lord in Maidstone.
- 21: One cannot speculate which engraving this might be; it may be spurious.
- 28ff.: Perhaps Noble alludes to the scandal surrounding John Donne the Younger's temper. He had beat a boy of five for startling his horse, and when the boy died two weeks later he was tried for manslaughter. He was acquitted, left Oxford, and went to Italy until the scandal died down. Rumors also surrounded him later that he had stolen three manuscripts entrusted to Henry King by his father. His truthfulness has been questioned in his remarks about his father's work; he published, perhaps unwittingly, some spurious items. Shortly before his death he published *Donnes Satyr; containing a short map of Mundane Vanity, a cabinet of Merry Conceits, certain*

*pleasant propositions and questions, with their merry solutions and answers.* It is frequently obscene. Early notices of John Donne, Jr., tend to imply the picture Noble gives us without further real evidence.

- 38: *Babre*: Sir John Baber (1625-1704), M.D., who resided in King Street, Covent-Garden. He was knighted on 19 March 1661, and was physician to Charles II. Donne's argument with Baber arose from the latter's "protectorship at court of dissenting preachers."
- 41-42: It is not definitely known whether he married. He may have been the John Donne who married Mary Staples at Camberwell on 27 March 1627. His sister Bridget married into a Camberwell family; see below.
- 45: Samuel Harvey was a grandson of Sir James Harvey, a London alderman, to whom Donne's father had been apprenticed. Harvey lived at Aldborough Hatch, pronounced "Abury" and so called by Walton.

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- 3-4: The arms show a wolf standing up on its hind legs with the coat in azure and half in white with black spots, divided by a diagonal line. The arms Noble suggests show the wolf rising up and the lower half in silver. Neither arms are listed in Berry's *Encyclopedia of Heraldry*.
- 9-11: Bridget married Thomas Gardiner of Burstowe, son of Sir Thomas Gardiner of Camberwell, around 1633.

#### NOTES AND COMMENTARY ON NOBLE'S NOTES

- Page 1: *Coveham*: modern-day Cobham.
- Page 3: From William Camden's *Britannia: or, a Chorographical Description of the Flourishing Kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland . . .* (London, 1806), trans. Richard Gough, Ed. 2, with additions, I, 242.
- Page 4: Will Fowler was a Scottish poet, who served as secretary to James I's wife, Anne, from 1590 on, and as her master of requests from 1603 on. The manuscripts of his unpublished poetry can be found in the Library of Edin-



burgh University. The poem is given by Edmund Lodge in *Illustrations of British History, Biography and Manners* (London, 1791), III, 169-170, as well as Nichols, I, 251.

- Page 7: *Seymour's Survey of London*: John Stow, *The History and Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster . . .* (London, 1754), ed. R[obert] Seymour and J[ohn] Marchant, II, 685; this has in error "xxiii" and the death date which Noble exactly copies as "CICDCXVII." "Seymour" was the pseudonym of John Mottley.  
*Lee Neve*: John Le Neve (1679-1741), antiquarian author of *Monumenta Anglicana, being Inscriptions on the Monuments of several eminent Persons deceased in or since the year 1700 . . .* (London, 1717), I, 62; he gives the age correctly as "xxxiii." Ann's age is given as "xxxiii" in the inscription.
- Page 9: The text was "Unto God the Lord belong the issues from death." The first edition was 1632; it had been entered in the Stationers' Register on 30 September 1631, by T. Harper for L. Redmer and B. Fisher. A second edition by B. Alsop and T. Fawcet for B. Fisher appeared in three issues in 1633.
- Page 11: Bishop Joseph Hall (1574-1656) wrote *Virgidemiarum sixe Bookes. First three bookes of Toothlesse Satyrs* (London, 1597). *Warton*: Thomas Warton, *History of English Poetry* (London, 1871), IV, 396, first published in 1774-1781.
- Page 12: John Donne, Jr., died at the end of January 1662 in his house in Covent-Garden, and was buried on 3 February at St. Paul's, Covent-Garden.