

My kind & worthy Friend

some days ago I sent you my observations upon  
Genesis & Exodus, I now send you these upon the  
rest of the Pentateuch: Intreating you, as I  
did before, most sincerely, to use them, or lay  
them by, just as you shall judge them proper  
for the end proposed, or otherwise.

Such short observations may be of some use in such  
a poor place as this is, where few books of learned  
men are to be had, & for such they were drawn up,  
but I fear they may not be of that use with  
you. Whatever they are, do with them just as  
you please. I am my honored friend

yo<sup>r</sup> obliged & humble serv<sup>t</sup>

Ph. Bodin. of Man

Isle of Man  
Jan. 31

To the Right Honourable  
Mr. Auditor Harley  
at his office in Lincoln's  
- Inn  
London

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An eminently pious prelate, was born at Burton in Cheshire in 1663, and educated at Trinity college, Dublin. He was ordained at Kildare in 1686, and in 1692 became <sup>John</sup> to a son of the earl of Derby. At the same time he was offered the valuable living of Baddesworth, in Yorkshire, which he declined as being inconsistent with his resolves against non-residence. In 1697 he was, in a manner, compelled to accept the bishopric of Man, which had lain vacant four years. He was at the same time created doctor of laws by archbishop Tenson. The annual income of the see did not exceed £300, a year, and yet out of that small stipend his charities were numerous. In 1703 he obtained an act of settlement for the island, and framed ecclesiastical constitutions, which were approved of by the lay proprietors and passed into a law. In 1707 he was made D.D. by the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. In 1722. the governor of the island sent the good bishop and his two vicars general to prison for suspending the archdeacon, who had acted in violation of the ecclesiastical constitutions. After a confinement of two months they were released, and the proceedings were condemned by the king and council; but the bishop refused to prosecute his enemies. He also declined accepting an English bishopric which was offered him, being so attached to his diocese that no temptation could remove him. This apostolical prelate died in 1755, in the 93<sup>d</sup> year of his age, and the 58<sup>th</sup> of his consecration. His publications were all of a practical nature, and admirably adapted to inform the ignorant and to edify the virtuous. Since his death have been published his Sermons in 4 vol<sup>s</sup> 8vo, and his notes on the Bible 3 vol<sup>s</sup> 4to.

Life prefixed to his works. 2 vol<sup>s</sup> folio

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Yo<sup>r</sup> obliged & humble serv<sup>t</sup>

Isle of Man

Jan. 31 [1728 ?]

Tho. Sodor & Man

To the Right Honourable  
Mr. Auditor Harlay  
at his office in Lincolns Inn  
London

[Postmark] Leverpoole

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Thomas Wilson (1663-1755) Bishop of Sodor and Man; B. A. Trinity College, Dublin, 1686; studied medicine; curate of Newchurch, Kenyon, Lancashire, 1687-1692; of Sodor and Man, 1697; resided at Bishops Court, Kirk Michael; LL.D. Lambeth, 1698; built new churches and established parochial libraries; published 'Principles and Duties of Christianity, in English and Manks', the first book published in Manx, 1707; supervised translation of gospels and acts into Manx; D. D. Oxford and Cambridge, 1707; drew up 'Ecclesiastical Constitutions' for restoration of discipline in church, 1707; came into conflict with the governor, Alexander Horne, and his successors, Floyd and Thomas Horton, on questions of civil and ecclesiastical authority, 1716; accepted office of 'artistes' of the reformed tropus (one of three) in the Moravian church, 1749.

Edward Harley (1664-1735) auditor of the imprest; son of Sir Edward Harley, governor of Dunkirk; educated at Westminster, barrister of Middle Temple; acted in revolution of 1688; M. P. Leominster, 1692; published 'Harmony of the Four Gospels', 1733 (Anon).

Writing from Philadelphia on July 10th 1795, George Washington addressed a letter to the Revd. Mr. C. Cruttwell reading as follows:

Revd. Sir, It has so happened - but really I can hardly tell how - that I have been very deficient in not acknowledging, at an earlier period the receipt of your obliging favor of the 1st of May last year, accompanying a copy of the works of the venerable Bishop of Sodor and Man, which, agreeably to the Will of the late Doctor Thomas Wilson (his son) you had the goodness to send me.

A paragraph in George Washington's will reads as follows:- "To the Reverend, Now Bryan, Lord Fairfax, I give a Bible in three large folio volumes with notes, presented to me by the Right Reverend Thomas Wilson, Bishop of Sodor and Man." When the Bishop died in 1755, Washington was 23, and his Notes on the Bible was not published until after his death. His collected works appeared in 1781

"Thomas Wilson, Bishop of Sodor and Man . . . was, like Lord Halifax, a deliberate writer of aphorisms; and in his Sacra Privata and in his Maxims of Piety and Christianity we possess two large collections of pious and edifying maxims. Wilson is principally remembered - as far as he is at all remembered - by the praise given by Matthew Arnold to this holy bishop, who united, Matthew Arnold says, the most sincere ardor and unction 'to that downright honesty and plain good sense which our English race has so powerfully applied to the divine impossibilities of religion.'

Bishop Wilson's maxims have often a perfection of form which distinguishes them from the general run of pious reflections. Since aphorisms are too apt to be cynical, let us take advantage of his art to elevate our minds for the moment, by quoting a few of what Matthew Arnold described as his 'valuable precepts and admonitions of piety.'

[Reperusals and Re-collections. English Aphorists. By Logan Pearsall Smith. New York: 1937.]