

ART. XV.—*Letters of Dr. William Paley to the Rev. John Law, afterwards Bishop of Elphin, then Prebendary of Carlisle.* By SIR ALGERNON LAW, K.C.M.G., C.B.

Read at Penrith, September 16th, 1926.

THE date of these letters must be the early summer of 1775, the year of Dr. Priestley's abridged edition of David Hartley's *Observations on Man*, and of Paley's appointment to Musgrave.

John Law, great-uncle of the writer, and second son of the Right Rev. Edmund Law, bishop of Carlisle, was born May 6th, 1745, and baptized at Graystoke. He was educated at Charterhouse and Christ's College, Cambridge; second wrangler and first Chancellor's medal, 1766; and fellow and tutor with Paley at Christ's. He became prebendary of Carlisle in 1773, archdeacon of Carlisle in 1777; bishop of Clonfert, 1782, translated to Killala 1787, and to Elphin 1795. As bishop of Elphin he sat in the British House of Lords in company with his younger brothers the Chief Justice and the Bishop of Chester. A portrait of him is given in these *Transactions*, N.S. xix, facing p. 151. He died at Dublin, March 18th, 1810.

Later on, a kinsman of the bishop was curate and later still rector of Musgrave—Edmund Law, who in after years became vicar of Whittingham in Northumberland. It was he who sold the family patrimony at Bampton (Cordale, Carhullan and Measand) or rather, left it to be sold under his will. A descendant of his became mayor of Plymouth, where he had built a house which he called Carhullan.

William Paley, the celebrated author of *The Evidences*, found Musgrave too damp for his health. He was appointed to Dalston in 1776 and to Appleby in 1779,

dividing his time between the three parishes (these *Transactions*, N.S. viii, 337). Then on receiving Great Salkeld with the archdeaconry in 1782 he resigned Appleby but held on to Dalston and Musgrave. "He was at Musgrave certainly till 1777," the Rev. J. Whiteside wrote (*ibid.*), "and probably till 1779."

[EXTRACTS].

No. 1.

Dear Law,

As my letter patent contained nothing so valuable as the fiat, if that be safe all is well. My father has been here for the mere pleasure of the journey and confirms very much your account of the value of Musgrave and speaks well of the situation, though being there before a bud was sprouted, he was not so sensible of its beauty as you. The late Rector* saved £3,000 out of it in 19 years, besides keeping the best tap of ale in the county. My father never drank any half so good.

It is likely to be a very improving living as they have invented a grain called wheat in the parish about 3 years ago and also are cultivating the skirts of the hills upon the moor-sides. The most ingenious thing he ever did was making his man lie in the garret and the maid under the stairs—so interposing two stories between the attractions. He never had a fire in the parlour for a twelve-month together and then complained it grew damp. The truth is he never was happy but when he sat in the kitchen. They never were safe of him but when he was in the pulpit, and so used to shift the tithe in church-time.

I think your father [the Bishop of Carlisle] much the same, not quite rid of his cold nor quite in spirits, but pretty well in both. He was refreshed last night with a large cargo of hæresy (*sic*), Priestley on Hartley on Man, and a bitter answer to Burgh. †

Jebb ‡ has got some letters from town that the Americans have driven General Gage into the ships or the sea. § Ned || was to have come down, but his horse *failed* him, that is to say he failed buying it. The Bishop of London allows me the next turn at Whitehall, [i.e. at the Chapel Royal].

* Edward Knowsley, 1756-1775.

† There were two writers, Burgh, of that day. This is probably William (1741-1808) who wrote against Unitarianism.

‡ John Jebb (1736-1786) M.A., M.D., F.R.S.

§ Gage was superseded by Howe in 1775.

|| Edward Law, Lord Chief Justice Ellenborough, 1750-1818.

I should think that Allonby would do very well, it is like other physic, more benefit than pleasure from it.

Firebrace is here [? Cambridge] with your father—has got a *brace* of pamphlets to *fire* now *bonâ fide*. Tyrhit offered a grace on Monday to change Watson's [the famous Bishop of Llandaff] A.B. subscription into this "I hereby declare that I will conform to the liturgy of the Church of England." It was thrown out of the Caput by the officious zeal of (? Richard) Hey the Methodist. Many could not understand what conforming to the liturgy meant in people who (? like Hey) were not in orders nor ever would be. . .

I shall stay but two days at Musgrave in coming down.

Yours affec^{ly}, W. PALEY.

[Addressed to Rose Castle].

NO. 2.

[Evidently from *Musgrave* as the outside bore the post mark 'Brough.']

Dear Law,

I think with you that Musgrave is a very pretty place and some of the views from the hill equal to anything I ever saw. We have caught a fellow from Brough with a long net in the hole near the bridge at one o'clock in the morning, and he is to be prosecuted to-morrow. By all accounts, if it [? poaching] can be reduced, the fishing is the best in England.

I was inducted on Saturday by Dr. Chaytor* in the presence of *Mr. Preston of Ormside*, † Lawyer Chaytor, Mr. Justice Dean, Mr. Justice Lamb, Rev^d Mr. Highmore and the Rev^d Mr. Holmes. All there Captain Robinson had with great civility asked to a feast upon the occasion. Dr. Chaytor is a man of much breeding and politeness and seemingly with more sense than men of politeness have. Captⁿ. Robinson overpowers me with civilities so that I am afraid I shall never get him out of the house. The old horse begins to-day with leading wheat and is to carry corn instead of eating it.

I can't think how Ned can come but by Brough. Pray write and tell me when Ned is to be expected.

Yours Aff., W.P.

P.S.—We shall have early peas next week.

[Addressed to Rose Castle].

* Henry Chaytor, LL.D., vicar of Kirkby Stephen, 1759.

† William Preston, M.A., rector of Ormside, 1762, and lord of the manor of Warcop (N. and B., i, 605).