

COWPER AND NEWTON.

IN 1784, Newton, then Rector of St. Mary Woolnoth, published his *Apologia*, being a defence of his position as a clergyman of the Church of England. To this some unknown person wrote a reply, entitled, *An Apology for Protestant Dissenters*. This was noticed in *The Monthly Review*, where the critic, stating the case between Newton and his opponent, expressed himself as follows :—

“In reply to Mr. Newton’s fourth argument, in which, in the usual cant of these reformers, he pleads,” etc.

The Monthly Review was at that time read in Olney, passing from hand to hand in a small circle of friends, Cowper being of the number. The poet marked his disapprobation of the passage by writing in the margin of the offensive page six lines, which were first printed in Storer’s *Rural Walks of Cowper* (1822), p. 22, but which have been overlooked by all editors of Cowper’s *Poetical Works*, except Canon Benham, who inserted them in “The Globe Edition,” 1879 (p. 356, note p. 526).

“These Critics who to Faith no quarter grant,
But call it mere hypocrisy and cant
To make a just acknowledgment of praise
And thanks to God for governing our ways,
Approve Confucius more and Zoroaster
Than Christ’s own servant or that servant’s Master.”

The leaf having been lent to me for the purpose by its present owner, I am enabled to offer to the Buckinghamshire Archæological Society, a photograph from the original MS. of this brief but characteristic effusion.

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