

Vice Punished, and Virtue Rewarded:

BEING THE

HISTORY

OF

Mr Thomas Thoroughgood,

AND

Mr Francis Froward,

Two Apprentices to the same Master.

Published at the Request of several
Gentlemen of the Common Council
of the City of London, for the Bene-
fit of all, especially young People.

*Abhor that which is evil, cleave to that
which is good.*



G L A S G O W,

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M D C C X C V I I I.

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T H E

H I S T O R Y

O F

Mr Tommy Thoroughgood.

A N D

Mr Francis Froward,

Two Apprentices to the same Master.

MASTER THOMAS THOROUGHGOOD, the younger son of a country gentleman, was put out apprentice to an eminent tradesman in Cheapside. The master, finding his business increase, was obliged to take another about two years after, whose name was Francis Froward.

Thomas had behaved exceedingly well, was very diligent and honest, as well as good; he used to say his prayers constantly every morning and night; he never went to play when

when he should be at church, or about his master's business; never was known to tell a lye, nor ever staid when he was sent on an errand. These rare qualifications had gained him the affection of his master and mistress, and made him a favourite in the family before Francis came to them. It was in a great measure owing to master Tommy's character in the neighbourhood, that master Froward was induced to comply with the Master's demands, not doubting but his son, in such a happy situation, and with a companion of so sweet a disposition, would one day, turn out to his satisfaction, and be a comfort to him in his old age.

Francis, in the first year of his apprenticeship, began to discover the natural bent of his inclination. He chose to associate himself with naughty boys in the streets, and seemed to place his whole delight in loose and idle diversions; he neglected the business of the shop when at home, and entirely forgot it.

it when he was abroad. These, and many more indiscretions of the like nature, Tommy Thoroughgood concealed at first from his master, tho' not without some inward uneasiness.

In the fourth year's service, our young spark, who was an only child, heir to a pretty fortune, gave farther proof of his vicious turn of mind, and frequently launched into follies and debaucheries of a more heinous nature; for now he made no scruple of absenting himself from church on the Lord's day; always staid out late, when he knew his Master was engaged in company, and at such times, very rarely returned home sober; nay, he had sometimes the assurance, to lie out of his Master's house all night. In order to deter him from pursuing this wicked course of life, Mr Thoroughgood threatened to inform his Master of his scandalous behaviour, and to acquaint his parents of his misconduct. But, alas! all these menaces proved ineffectual, and instead of
work-

working out his reformation, serv-
d only to heighten his resentment,
nd to raise daily squabbles and ani-
posities between them. Hereupon,
Mr Thoroughgood, finding all his
good offices hitherto thrown away,
t length determined no more to
needle in the affair, or even to of-
er his brotherly advice; but to leave
he unhappy youth to follow the
dictates of his own perverse will:
Being resolved at the same time, to
ake particular care, that he should
not, in any of his mischievous fro-
ics, defraud his Master, and there-
oy cast an odium upon his fellow-
rentice.

The Master was chosen Alderman
of the Ward, and Mr Thoroughgood
was out of his time in the same
year; and from his faithful service,
and unblameable conduct, had now
the whole management of the trade,
as well abroad as at home, commit-
ted to his care and inspection. This
great charge oblig'd him to keep a
stricter eye over Francis' behaviour,
who

who was just now entering into the last year of his apprenticeship, and imagined his actions were above the cognizance of one, who the other day was but his equal; and on this account would neither bear his reproof, nor hearken to his admonition; but continued to riot in all the follies and degeneracies of human nature, till his apprenticeship was expired. So true it is, "That the
" wicked hateth reproof, but the
" wise man lendeth his ear to in-
" struction."

Mr. Francis, having been for a long while impatient of a servile life, was now become his own master, and seemed eager of putting himself upon a level with his late companion. To effect this, he goes down to his father, and prevails upon him to set him up in the business, that he might trade for himself. The reins were no sooner laid on his neck, than he gave a loose to his sensual appetites, and in little more than four years, had a statute of bankruptcy

ruptcy taken out against him. The unexpected news of this fatal event, instantly broke his mother's heart, nor did the old gentleman survive her long. Hereupon, our heir was obliged to sell the personal and mortgage the real estate, to procure his liberty, and to satisfy the assignees. In this sinking situation, after the days of mourning were over, he left the house his father lived in, and returned again to London, where he purchased a handsome equipage, commenced the fine gentleman, frequented balls, masquerades, play-houses, routs, drums, &c. &c. and cut as good a figure as the best of them. But here let us leave him for a while, and turn our eyes to a worthier object.

In the same space of time, which Mr Froward took to squander away a good estate, Mr Theroughgood, had, by his own industry, and from a small fortune, gained one considerably better, and was in a fair way of increasing it. The former made
plea-

pleasure his business, but the latter
made business his pleasure, and was
rewarded accordingly. The Alder-
man, who by his own application,
and Mr Thoroughgood's assiduity,
was grown very rich, had no child
now living, but one daughter, of
whom both he and his Lady were
extremely fond; they had nothing
so much at heart, as to see her well
settled in the world. She was the
youngest, and just now turned of
twenty. She had many suitors, but
resolved to encourage none without
the consent of her parents, who
would often, when by themselves,
tell her, that it was their joint opi-
nion, she could not dispose of her-
self better than to Mr Thomas, and
would frequently ask how she liked
him? For they would be unwilling
to marry her against her own in-
clination. Her usual answer was,
"Your choice shall be mine; my
"duty shall never be made subser-
"vient to any sensual passion." This
reply was not so full and expressive
as they expected; and as mothers
are

are commonly very dexterous in finding out their daughters' maladies madam had good reason to believe. from some observations made on Miss's behaviour that her affections were already fixed, and that she was deeply in love with somebody else, which was the cause of her unusual anxiety Hereupon, as she was sitting at work one evening, in a melancholy posture they called her and desired to be informed whether the husband they proposed, was disagreeable to her, it so, she should chuse for herself.

The young Lady after some hesitation, with blushes, confessed her regard for Mr Thoroughgood; which gave infinite satisfaction to the Alderman and his Lady, who were overjoyed at the prospect they had, of marrying their Daughter to a person of such prudence, integrity, and honour.

The next day, as soon as dinner was over, the Alderman and his Lady

dy withdrew, and left the two lovers together all the evening; from this interview, they became sensible of each other's approaching happiness, and about a month after were joined together, to the great satisfaction of all parties concerned. From this day, the Bridegroom was taken into partnership, and transacted the whole business himself. In process of time his Father-in-law died, and left him in possession of all his substance. He succeeded him also in his dignity, and after having served the office of Sheriff, was in a few years called to the chair.

Mr Froward, whom we left a while ago, pursuing his pleasures, and wicked inclinations, had long before this time, been reduced to poverty, and like many other thoughtless wretches, betook himself to the highway and gaming-table, in hope of recovering a lost fortune. He had followed this destructive trade with some success, above three years, without being discovered; but was
at

at length taken near Enfield, and brought to his trial at the Old-Bailey, during his fellow-prentice's Mayoralty, and cast for his life. When he was brought to the bar to receive sentence, his Lordship recollecting Mr Froward's name examined who he was, and asked if he was not the same person that served his time with Mr Alderman——, in Cheapside. This he positively denied; but notwithstanding, he used all possible means to disguise himself his person and speech betrayed him. My Lord animated with the principles of compassion and benevolence, and imagining that his design of concealing himself, in this wretched situation, might very probably proceed from shame or despair, took no further notice of it in court, but forgetting his present disgrace, as well as his former arrogance and indiscretion, privately procured his sentence to be changed into transportation for life.

The ship in which Mr Froward
em-

embarked, drove, by stress of weather, into a certain port in Jamaica where, in less than ten days, he was sold to a noted planter, and doomed to perpetual slavery. You may imagine how shocking this prospect must appear to a gentleman, who had just before, squandered away a good estate in indolence and pleasure, who never knew what it was to work, nor had never given himself time to think upon the nature of industry. However, he no sooner began to reflect upon his present wretched situation, and his late providential deliverance from death, than he also began to repent of his former transgressions; and finding himself in a strange country, unknown to any person about him, he patiently submitted his neck to the yoke, and endured his servility, with an uncommon fortitude of mind. In the first place he determined, during all the time of his labour, to offer up continual thanksgivings, to Almighty God, - for his manifold mercies bestowed on so unworthy a creature,

and

and to devote all his leisure hours to the duty of repentance. His next resolution was, to obey his Master's commands, to serve him faithfully, and, to perform whatever business was imposed on him, so far, and so long as health and strength would permit; not doubting, but the same God, who had preserved him hitherto, in such a wonderful manner, would accept the oblations of a contrite heart, and enable him to go through it with courage and cheerfulness.

The first month's service, as he himself told me, went very hard with him. His hands blistered, his feet grew sore and raw, and the heat of the climate was almost insupportable; but, as custom makes every station familiar, before three months were expired, all these grievances were at an end; and he, naturally endued with a spirit of emulation, would not suffer himself to be outdone by any of his fellow-slaves. The superintendant observing his extraordinary

ordinary assiduity, could not help taking notice of him, and would frequently give him encouragement, either by calling him off to go on a trivial errand, or by thrusting some money into his hand. He behaved in this manner near two years, when his Master was informed of his good disposition, and removed him from that laborious employment to an easier, where he had more frequent opportunities of paying adoration to that Almighty BEING, who supported him under all his afflictions. In these intervals, he was generally found with a book in his hand, or on his knees, from which practice, he received great consolation, as he often assured me.

At the expiration of three years, Sir THOMAS THOROUGHGOOD, who made previous enquiry after his fellow-prentice's behaviour abroad, sent orders to his agent in Jamaica, to purchase Mr Froward's freedom, and to advance him one hundred pounds, that he might be enabled to get his
OWN

own livelihood; but, at the same time gave strict orders to his friend, not to let Mr Froward know who was his benefactor, and to lay his Master under the like injunction. In a short time after, Mr Froward was discharged from slavery; but did not express so much joy on the occasion, as might have been reasonably expected. From the good usage he met with in servitude, and the unusual favours he received from the superintendant, as well as the planter, he had conceived a great liking for the latter, and seemed to part with him not without some inward reluctance, though with apparent surprize, which was much heightened by the additional favour, of a note for a hundred pounds, payable upon sight to Mr Francis Froward, or order, delivered to him by the same hand, soon after he received the discharge before mentioned.

During this confusion, the gentleman who really had a value for his late servant, told him, he was welcome

come to be at his house till he was settled, and that he would do all the good offices in his power, to promote his future welfare. Mr. Froward replied, "Sir, you cannot do me greater service, than to let me know, who is my generous benefactor; because it is incumbent upon me to make some acknowledgement."

The Master positively refused to do this, and turned off the discourse, by asking how he intended to dispose of himself and money. "Sir," says he, "I am not unacquainted with the nature of trade, and labour is become habitual to me, and, as I am well skilled in the cultivation of the sugar cane, I would willingly rent a small plantation of that kind, and work upon it for myself." The Planter approved of his design, and promised him assistance.

In about a month after, Mr. Froward met with a bargain, agreeable to his substance, and worked upon it as hard as if he had been a real slave

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slave, with this difference only, that he could now spare more time in the service of his all-powerful Redeemer. In the interim, his late Master procured him a wife, with a handsome fortune, who had a sugar-work of her own, and some negroes: he purchased more, and by his industry thrived amain, so that in a few years, he laid-up one thousand pounds in specie.

In this comfortable state, nothing gave him uneasiness, but that he could not come to the knowledge of his kind benefactor; never was man more anxious to show his gratitude, or more solicitous to find out his friend: One day, as he was at his devotion, a strange gentleman came to his habitation, and desired to see him. He was no sooner admitted, than he accosted him in the following manner, “ Mr Froward, “ I am commander of the Dove frigate, whose principal owner is Sir “ Thomas Thoroughgood, and am “ just arriv'd from England: By Sir “ Thomas's orders, I am to inform “ you

“ you, that his Jamaica Agent is
 “ dead, and he has made choice of
 “ you to succeed him here in that
 “ station. I have a commission from
 “ him, for you in my pocket, to dis-
 “ pose of my cargo, and to freight
 “ me again for my voyage home.
 “ He never would own it, but I am
 “ well assured, he is the person who
 “ saved your life, who redeemed
 “ you from bondage, and was the
 “ sole instrument of your present
 “ prosperity.” Nothing could give
 Mr Froward so great pleasure and
 satisfaction, as this last piece of in-
 telligence; he knew not how to
 make the Captain welcome enough,
 he kept him all night, and in the
 morning made him a present of a
 hoghead of rum. He made all
 possible dispatch in disposing of his
 cargo, and freighted him out with
 the utmost expedition. With the rest
 of the goods, he sent Sir Thomas
 ten hogheads of sugar, and as many
 of rum, as a present, with the fol-
 lowing letter.

Honour-

Honoured Sir,

Transported with joy, and drowned in tears, I send this testimony of my esteem, of which I humbly hope your acceptance, as well as those small tokens of my gratitude, with which it is accompanied. Next under God, 'tis to you, dear Sir, that I owe my life, my liberty, and my all. Happy me, had I listened to your advice in my non-age; happy still, as by your means, I have been directed to the paths of virtue. 'Tis to you I am indebted for my present comfortable situation, and the dawning prospect of future happiness: The bills of lading, &c. are sent by Mr —, and all your business here, with which I am intrusted, shall be executed with the utmost diligence and fidelity. I have only to add my prayers for the continuation of your life and health, who have been so beneficial to many, but more particularly to,

Honoured Sir,

Your most humble, most obliged,
tho' most unworthy servant,

FRANCIS FROWARD.

Sir,

Sir THOMAS was highly pleased with the purport of his letter, tho' he rallied the Captain for letting him know to whom he was obliged for his freedom. The same ship was sent the next season on the same voyage, when the Captain was ordered to pay Mr FROWARD the full price for the rum and sugar he had sent to the Knight, and to deliver him the following letter.

Mr F R O W A R D,

SIR,

I thank you for the acknowledgement you made for the good offices I did you, and shall ever esteem the present as it was intended; but have neither power nor inclination, to rob you of any thing you have acquired by dint of merit. My design is, to add to your acquisitions, and not to diminish them, as you will experience; only, persevere in your present course of life, and you will make me ample amends for all I have done, or can do for you. I am, Sir,

Your real friend,

T. THOROUGHGOOD.

Mr

Mr Froward, who was uneasy that his friend refused his present, continued in a thriving condition several years. And now his wife died without issue; he, grown very rich, and advanced in years, disposed of the sugar-work, and left off all manner of business, except that of Sir Thomas Thoroughgood's. At length he himself was seized with a pestilential fever, and carried off in a few days. He bore the torture of his distemper with exemplary patience, and met his approaching destiny with an intrepidity of soul scarce to be paralleled.

That you may the better judge of his sentiments of gratitude, I have herewith sent a copy of his last will.

In the Name of God, Amen. I Francis Froward of —, in Jamaica, being of sound mind and memory, do hereby make my last will and testament, in form and manner following, that is to say,

Imprimis.

Imprimis. I bequeath my soul to Almighty God that gave it, hoping, and fully trusting, that I shall be saved and made eternally happy by the merits of my dear Redeemer Jesus Christ, who suffered for me and all mankind.

Item. As the poor convicts in prison, where I had once the misfortune to be confined, are not attended, and instructed as they ought to be, by persons who seek their eternal salvation; I do give and bequeath fifty pounds a year, to purchase for their use, such books as the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, and Sheriffs of London and Middlesex shall think proper to put into their hands.

Item. As the laws of England, however wisely constructed, have made no provision for poor people born in distant parts, and become miserable there, but left them to perish in the streets, lanes, and public places; I do give and bequeath
five

five hundred pounds a year, to be laid out for their relief, in such a manner as shall seem most agreeable to the Lord-Mayor of London, for the time being, and to the trustees that shall be nominated by my executors.

Item. And as many poor tradesmen and labourers are artfully seduced and persuaded, to enter themselves on board merchant ships, for this and other colonies in his Majesty's dominions, and are afterwards at sea, unwarily drawn in to indent themselves servants to the owners of the vessel, and from that moment commence slaves; and as such are sold in the public markets of the colonies, and generally ill-treated; I do give and bequeath five hundred pounds a year, for the redemption of such unhappy people, and for the prosecution of those who have been the abettors and contrivers of their ruin.

Item.

Item. As gratitude is of all obligations the greatest and most acceptable, I do give and bequeath to my dear friend Mr Thomas Thoroughgood, Merchant in London, who saved me from an ignominious death, and redeemed me from slavery, all the rest and residue of my real and personal estate; and I do nominate and appoint him, and his heirs and executors, my heirs and executors for ever. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this third day of May, 1740.

FRANCIS FROWARD.

Witness

Thomas Williams,

John Wilson,

Richard Jones.

F I N I S.