

4. Bibliographie der Schriften

Pietas Hallensis: Being an Historical Narration Of the wonderful FOOT-STEPS OF Divine Providence In Erecting, Carrying on, and Building the ...

Francke, August Hermann

London, 1705

XIII. A short Abstract of a Letter concerning the last Passages of the Life of the most Reverend Father in God Dr. Philip James Spener.

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die Digitalisate des Francke-Portals sind urheberrechtlich geschützt. Sie dürfen für wissenschaftliche und private Zwecke heruntergeladen und ausgedruckt werden. Vorhandene Herkunftsbezeichnungen dürfen dabei nicht entfernt werden.

Eine kommerzielle oder institutionelle Nutzung oder Veröffentlichung dieser Inhalte ist ohne vorheriges schriftliches Einverständnis des Studienzentrums August Hermann Francke der Franckeschen Stiftungen nicht gestattet, das ggf. auf weitere Institutionen als Rechteinhaber verweist. Für die Veröffentlichung der Digitalisate können gemäß der Gebührenordnung der Franckeschen Stiftungen Entgelte erhoben werden.

Zur Erteilung einer Veröffentlichungsgenehmigung wenden Sie sich bitte an die Leiterin des Studienzentrums, Frau Dr. Britta Klosterberg, Franckeplatz 1, Haus 22-24, 06110 Halle (studienzentrum@francke-halle.de)

Terms of use

All digital documents of the Francke-Portal are protected by copyright. They may be downloaded and printed only for non-commercial educational, research and private purposes. Attached provenance marks may not be removed.

Commercial or institutional use or publication of these digital documents in printed or digital form is not allowed without obtaining prior written permission by the Study Center August Hermann Francke of the Francke Foundations which can refer to other institutions as right holders. If digital documents are published, the Study Center is entitled to charge a fee in accordance with the scale of charges of the Francke Foundations.

For reproduction requests and permissions, please contact the head of the Study Center, Frau Dr. Britta Klosterberg, Franckeplatz 1, Haus 22-24, 06110 Halle (studienzentrum@francke-halle.de)

bout the better improvement of the Youth committed to their Care.

The *Method* they use in Teaching is publish'd in Print for the greater satisfaction of those who desire to be more fully inform'd in this Affair.

XIII.

A short Abstract of a Letter concerning the last Passages of the Life of the most Reverend Father in God Dr. Philip James Spener.

SEeing it hath pleased God to receive into the Regions of the Blessed his faithful servant, and our dear Brother, the most Reverend Dr. *Philip James Spener*, whose constant Endeavour it was, to render himself conformable unto the Divine Will; we account it our Duty to return most hearty thanks to the Lord, who by his infinite Power hath preserved, and safely brought to Port, after so many boisterous Storms and Tempests, a Soul, which having here begun to be united into one Spirit with Him, is now swallow'd up in the infinite Ocean of His inexhaustible Goodness and Love. But as the Life of this awakening Teacher, and his whole Conduct, did most lively set out
the

the Nature of unfeigned Faith, Humility, and Love; so his very dying Hours and Speeches, and all his Behaviour, were seasoned with Power and Energy, and could not but leave a lasting impression upon the Minds of all those that were about him, tending to awaken the Soul from her natural Coldness into some measure of fervency of Spirit; and of this every one must remain persuaded, when he has consider'd the particular Marks of Divine Favour bestow'd on him, during the time of his Sickness, one whereof was the conspicuous and uninterrupted Tranquillity of Mind he constantly enjoy'd. For whereas nothing is more frequent, than to see the best and most heavenly minded Souls assaulted by the Enemy on all sides, with Doubts, Perplexities and Fears, when they are just ready to take the last Step out of this into the other World, the Lord was graciously pleased to preserve this his Servant in safety from the perturbation of the Enemy, so that no Temptation, (no not so much as a shadow of any) ever offered to disturb the Serenity and Calmness of his Mind. For although He now and then would heartily complain of *Spiritual dryness*, yet this not proceeding from impatience or want of Resignation to the will of God, it did not discompose the frame of his Mind in the least, the sensations or relishes of the Life of Grace which he enjoyed at other times, being retired for the present into the inmost Center of his Soul; the consequence whereof was, that he could not Praise God with such readiness

ness and alacrity of Mind for all his Gifts, as he wished and desired to do; where you may observe by the way, that by his own acknowledgment he had all his life long made this one part of his daily Prayer, that the Lord would be pleased to visit his Soul, *but one quarter of an Hour* before his Death, with some heavenly Infusion, and to prepare her for her Exit out of this World, which was now granted not only for a quarter of an hour, but for many days together, wherein he enjoyed a deep and lively sense of the love of God and of his gracious Presence; which he no sooner felt than readily inferr'd, that the time of his departure was at hand.

But that he might improve this Divine Gift to the best advantage, he would not wholly rest in those heavenly sensations; but still made use thereof to increase his Store of Christian Graces, and especially of Humility and Resignation, well knowing, that all Celestial visitations ought not only to be enjoy'd, but also to be improved to a greater Purification of the Soul, and the increase of all heavenly Vertues. He gave indeed many proofs of his Humility and Patience during the time of his Sicknes, being to a good degree transformed into that Meek and Lamb-like disposition so much wanting among Christians now a-days. Most part of his time he spent in Prayer and Praise, offering up to God both his own concerns and those of Christ's Church here on Earth.

'Twas about a fortnight before his Death, when he entred upon his 71st. Year, and then
he

he supposed the Lord would be pleased to make that day, whereon he was Born into this World, the Day of his Departure into the other. When the Clock struck Five in the Afternoon, (this being the Hour wherein he was Born) he with a loud voice Praised the Lord for all his Favours conferred on him, which was attended with a flood of Tears, and a most affectionate Confession of all his Sins, the pardon whereof he most earnestly implored. All this while a deep sense of Humility and Self-abasement might be discovered in him, and altho' he had been a great Proficient in the Practice of Humility, during the whole course of his Life, it now became much more conspicuous in him upon several accounts. That which most affected me, was to hear Him express *how unprofitable a Servant he had been, and how small a part of his Life he had consecrated to the service of God.* This made by so much a deeper impression upon my Heart, by how much the better I knew how willingly he offered up himself as a daily Sacrifice to be spent in doing the Will of God, and how free he was from that Tincture and Allay of Self-love, which is too apt to intrude into the most Spiritual actions of a Christian. But it is no great wonder, to see any one, who hath made some discoveries of the Riches of Divine Grace, undervaluing himself, and sinking lower and lower into a sense of his own *Nothingness*, as he perceives the Life and Power of Grace springing up, and advancing higher and higher in his regenerate Soul.

He

He most heartily Prayed for the King, especially near the approach of His Death. The day before he dyed he caused the 17th. Chap. of the Gospel according to St. *John* to be read to Him three times together: And indeed it was one of his favourite Chapters; but yet no body could ever prevail with him to Preach upon it, saying *he did not understand it*. On the same day he talked much of *Simeon's* departure, but his Voice was then already so low, that we lost many of His Words, which might otherwise have been treasured up for our Edification. That day he grew so weak, that we every Hour expected the happy conclusion of his Life; however he did not forbear in few words to Bless all those that came to see him. Towards Evening he fell into a sweet slumber, which continued upon him for the most part till next Morning, being the 5th. of *February* 1705. And when he waked, He saluted them that were about him, and called for a little Cordial; after which, at His own request He was set up in a Chair, but within a little while as they were endeavouring to put him into his Bed again, the Thread of his life snapt asunder, and he suddenly expired under the Hands of his Lady, without any great Pangs or violent conflict of nature.

Some days before his Death, he gave order that nothing (no not so much as one Thread) of black should be in his Coffin: For says he, *I have been a Sorrowsful Man these many Years, lamenting the deplorable State of Christ's Church Militant here on Earth; but now*
being

being upon the Point of retiring into the Church Triumphant in Heaven, I will not have the least mark of Sorrow left upon me, but my Body shall be wrapt up all over in white, for a testimony that I die in expectation of a better and more Glorious State of Christ's Church, to come even upon Earth. His Funeral Text was Rom. VIII. 10. And as Humility had been the chief Ornament of his Life, so his care now was to Preach up the practice thereof even after his own Death, by forbidding any of His surviving Friends either to compose any *Elegy* upon him themselves, or to accept of any if it should be sent to 'em from any other place.

Thus the Servant of the Lord is gone to his Rest; having left a numberless Spiritual Offspring behind him, among whom his Name will be as fragrant Ointment, and the remembrance of of his truly Christian Conversation, a daily Excitement and Encouragement to press forward, and with Patience to run the Race, that is set before 'em.

F I N I S.