

# **MEMORIALS OF JOHN FORD**

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Memorials of John Ford by John Ford & Silvanus Thompson

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**JOHN FORD & SILVANUS THOMPSON**

**MEMORIALS  
OF JOHN FORD**





I am thy affectionate friend  
John Ford

MEMORIALS  
OF  
JOHN FORD.

EDITED BY  
SILVANUS THOMPSON.

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SECOND EDITION.

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YORK:  
WILLIAM SESSIONS, 15, LOW OUSEGATE,  
1879.

## INTRODUCTION.

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Amongst the instructions left by my beloved friend John Ford were the following relating to his Journals, bearing date 26th of Eleventh-Month, 1873.

“I wish my private Manuscripts of all kinds to come under no other eye than that of my dear friend Silvanus Thompson, until they have undergone his revision and selection.

“I have Journals kept at intervals from the Sixth-Month, 1820, to the present time. I have at various periods reconsidered and recorded my reasons for the practice so long continued. Primarily the benefit to myself has been the motive. This benefit has been continually associated in my mind with the words of the Psalmist, lxxvii. 10, ‘I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High.’ The reading over at times of these records of answered prayers—of constraining, restraining and directing grace—of help in extremities—of counsel in difficulties—of deliverance and blessings—of times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord—of heartfelt, personal love for a personal,

ever-present, living Saviour—recurrence to these has often refreshed my spirit and cheered me to hold on my way. More especially at this late period of life, with fast failing bodily powers, these memoirs kindle feelings of lively gratitude for the unnumbered mercies and blessings of the past, and help to cherish the confiding trust, that the same loving-kindness, which has followed me all my life hitherto will keep me to the end. For these reasons and for others occurring among the memoranda I do not feel at liberty to destroy these memoirs and manuscripts.

“In addition to the foregoing, most of my memoranda are the records of efforts directed to the conscientious fulfilment of professional duties, in dependence upon Divine counsel and direction sought in earnest prayer, heard and answered, and followed by grateful, heart-felt acknowledgment. With these thoughts I leave the disposal of these Manuscripts to the judgment of my dear friend Silvanus Thompson and to such friends as he may incline to take into counsel, after careful revision by himself.

“In coming to these conclusions, my desire is that whatever use may be made of the records whether private or more public, they may tend to promote the interests of Christian education and to the encouragement of all engaged in the solemnly responsible work.

“JOHN FORD.”

I believe that the records of John Ford's professional career are well calculated to cheer and

encourage others who are labouring in the same deeply important occupation, a calling in which trials and discouragements arise such as can be fully apprehended by those only who have had personal experience of them. It has appeared to me that the Journals also contain much that is valuable in the record of the strife maintained in the daily battle of life, by one in whom the work of Divine Grace was eminently conspicuous in toning down and bringing into subjection much that betokened human infirmity.

Some readers may be disappointed that the extracts from John Ford's Journals do not contain more of the *details* of his professional life. It may be said in explanation that he was in the habit of keeping a separate "School Journal;" but as this necessarily contained much of a personal nature respecting many now living, he destroyed a great portion of these memoranda a year or two before his decease.

It will be noticed that the extracts of the Jour-

nals consist largely of records of mercies and "times of refreshing" rather than of failures or mis-steppings. In reference to this point John Ford writes: (4 mo. 23, 1865)

"I dare not indulge in a morbid anatomy of thoughts and feelings, by a record of temptations yielded to or resisted. I know them but too well. But the loving-kindnesses of my Lord through all the past, I am too apt in the cloudy day to forget, and thus to live below the privileges even of a poor, erring, sinful believer such as I am; and so I record them still."

I have felt deeply the responsibility thrown upon me by my dear friend as to the disposal of his private papers. It has been my earnest desire to let him speak for himself, and to add only such brief explanatory and narrative matter as seemed needful. My acknowledgments are due to various kind friends and correspondents for valuable letters and other contributions that enrich the volume.

SILVANUS THOMPSON.

1, ST. MARY'S, YORK,  
9th mo. 26th, 1877.

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