

**PUBLICK SPIRIT ILLUSTRATED IN THE LIFE AND  
DESIGNS OF THE REVEREND THOMAS BRAY,  
D.D. FORMERLY MINISTER OF ST. BOTOLPH  
WITHOUT ALDGATE, LONDON. TO WHICH ARE  
ADDED THE DESIGNS AND  
PROCEEDINGS OF THOSE WHO NOW FORM  
THE SOCIETY WHICH HE INSTITUTED**

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**HENRY J. TODD**

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## INTRODUCTION.

IT was the agreeable employment of the late (a) Reverend Mr. Brand, who was one of the Associates in the Institution of Dr. Bray, to purchase such copies of the following Life as, in his constant inquiries after curious and interesting books, he could find. And it was his custom to present them to those Associates, who were not in possession of this tribute to the honourable memory of him who founded their Society. But, of late years, this obliging attention could be only sparingly shewn, as the book had ceased to be a frequent article of sale. The bishop of St. David's, therefore, suggested the propriety of reprinting the Work. And, at a meeting of the Associates in July last, the suggestion was readily adopted. Being present at this meeting, I offered the humble

(a) He was Rector of St. Mary-at-Hill, London, and Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries.

assistance of conducting the book through the press; and at the same time proposed the addition of some circumstances which, I conceived, might promote the purposes of the Institution, and further illustrate the generous and unwearied labours of the Founder. To these offers unanimous assent was given. I have, in consequence, subjoined to the Life, without interrupting the narrative, a few notices drawn from authentick sources; a detail of the designs and proceedings of the Associates, taken from the last annual account; and a catalogue of the manuscript and printed books bequeathed by Dr. Bray to St. John's College, derived from the description of them by Mr. Watts, the worthy librarian of the College.

The following Life of Dr. Bray is almost entirely copied in the article, which records the memory of this excellent man in the *Biographia Britannica*. It is distinguishable for faithful and zealous representation; and is supposed, from an entry in the (*b*) Journals of the Associates,

(*b*) " An historical Account was laid by Mr. Smith, before the Associates, of Dr. Bray's Life and Designs; and, with

to have been the composition of the REVEREND SAMUEL SMITH, LL.B. assistant preacher at St. Botolph, Aldgate, and Lecturer of St. Alban's Wood Street; by whom the first (c) Sermon before the friends and supporters of Dr. Bray's Designs was preached. It was, however, published by an anonymous editor in 1746, with a brief dedication to the (d) daughter of Dr. Bray, but without the name of the author.

The designs and proceedings of the Associates, perhaps not so much known to the publick as their utility seems to require, will probably invite others, the more they are known and considered, to join the Association; an

some alterations, the whole was approved." *Journals*, 17 June 1731.

(c) "First Sermon preached at St. Austin's by St. Paul's February 23, 1730-1, by Mr. Samuel Smith. Thank to him, with a desire that he print one thousand copies of it." *Journals*, 1731. A Sermon was annually delivered before the Associates, only for a few succeeding years. Mr. Smith was followed in this useful employment, by Dr. John Burton, next by Dr. Stephen Hales, then by Dr. Bundy, &c. It is to be wished, that this custom may be revived.

(d) This Lady bequeathed a legacy of one hundred pounds, 8s. Annuities, to the Associates. *Journals*, 1763.

Association, which earnestly endeavours to dispense "the benefits of knowledge and the blessings of religion;" and which has numbered, among its members, some of our brightest luminaries of piety and learning. Witness the revered names of (*e*) Robert Nelson, bishop Smalridge, Dr. Stephen Hales, Dr. Samuel Johnson, bishop Horne, Dr. Farmer, bishop Douglas, &c. Nor may I here omit the opportunity of relating, from the Journals of the Associates, the beneficial effects of Dr. Johnson's kind attention to this Society. He was admitted an Associate, on the recommendation of Dr. John Burton, April 3, 1760. In 1784, he

(*e*) It may here be mentioned that the friends and supporters of Dr. Bray's Designs were not known by the title of Associates, till the year 1733. But, from the commencement of the eighteenth century, those friends, distinguished by rank as well as talents, proceeded regularly, as a Society, in promoting the views of Dr. Bray. I find, among the early records of the Society, the noble names of Thanet, Weymouth, and Digby, followed by those of Smalridge, Nelson, &c. subjoined to some excellent resolutions. The Associates, before 1733, were called Trustees, both in regard to Mr. D'Alfonse's bequest and to Dr. Bray's intentions; the management of the former being consigned to the first twenty nine members.



presented a benefaction of ten guineas to the Society. And, on the 5 Feb. 1787, the Associates received, from the Reverend Mr. Straban, the profits of the first edition of Dr. Johnson's Prayers and Meditations, amounting to nearly fifty pounds.

The points, which belong to the management of the Associates, are, **THE MAKING PROVISION FOR PAROCHIAL AND LENDING LIBRARIES; and THE CONVERSION OF ADULT NEGROES AND THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN IN THE BRITISH PLANTATIONS.**

For the support of the former object there is no settled fund. Then, "for my brethren and companions' sake," let me entreat the reader not to disregard the (*f*) suggestion of consigning such duplicates of useful and religious books as he may possess to the purposes of the Associates; not to withhold, from the super-abundance of his own table, a portion for those who experience the severest want. Perhaps it may

(*f*) See the Designs and Proceedings of the Associates, p. 63.

still be said, as it was in the time of Dr. Bray, that not one third of our parochial clergy are enabled by their preferments to purchase a fourth part of those books, which it is necessary every pastor should peruse; from whom, especially in this inquisitive age, great measures of knowledge are expected. Possessed of an (*g*) income, which in numerous instances will barely answer the necessary claims of his family; learned, and (*h*) desirous of employing his attainments to the greatest advantage; the parish priest too often wants the powerful means for encreasing true knowledge, and for overthrowing that "science falsely so called," which, in various artful publications, aims to destroy the Christian faith, and to involve the world (if I may apply the strong expression of St. Jude) in all "the blackness of darkness," both civil and religious: he wants the means which books afford, and which his own resources can-

(*g*) See the Letters, p. 96, &c. And the Remark preceding those Letters. And Dr. Bray's Remark, p. 55, 56.

(*h*) See particularly the interesting Letters, No. III. No. IV. p. 92—95.

not furnish. How gladly would such an one enroll himself among those, whose means and opportunities for encreasing knowledge are extensive and rarely unemployed! How readily, when supplied with books, would he detect the varying shapes of infidelity, and exhibit to the world the beneficial influence of pastoral vigilance and literary occupation united! That the Associates have in some degree assisted the studies of the Clergy, and that their assistance has been received with gratitude, the following pages will testify. That they may be enabled to render more extensive assistance, is their hearty wish, their well-founded expectation.

In respect to the other object of the Society's care, for the promotion of which there is a small certain fund, if any argument be wanting to recommend the conduct pursued by the Associates, I refer the reader to the humane and eloquent Essay on the Civilization of Negroe Slaves by the present bishop of London: "It is to the EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG NEGROES that we are principally to look for the success