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978-1-107-65478-5 - The Correspondence of Richard Hurd and William Mason:

And Letters of Richard Hurd to Thomas Gray

With Introduction and Notes by the Late Ernest Harold Pearce

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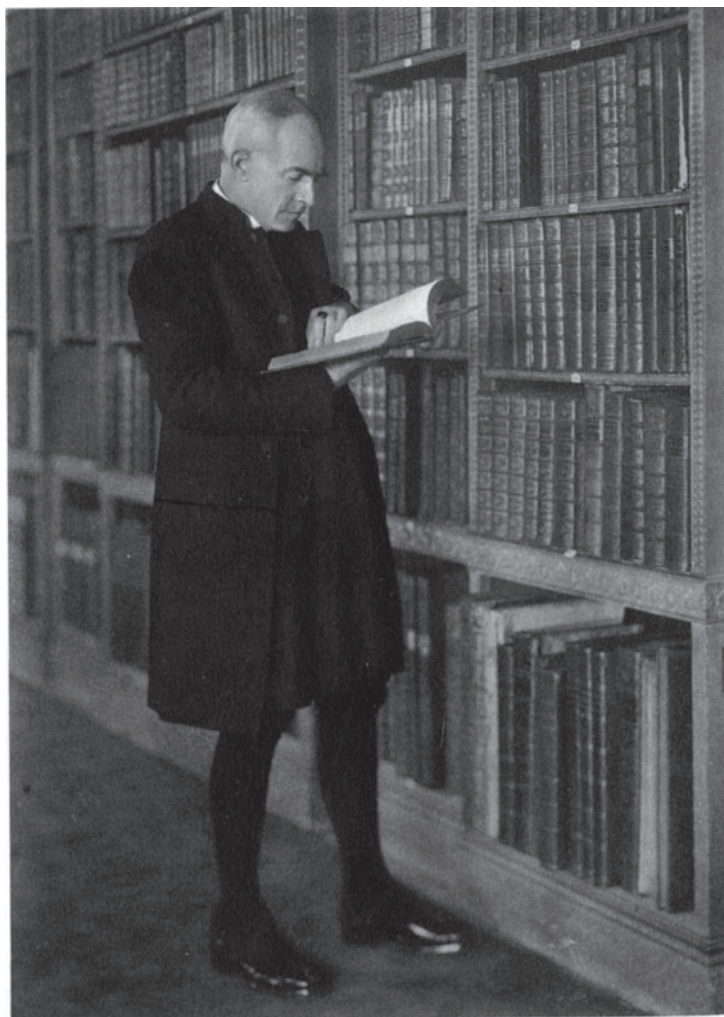
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E. H. PEARCE

Bishop of Worcester 1919–1930

in the Hurd Library, Hartlebury Castle

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Richard Hurd & William Mason

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Thomas Gray

With Introduction & Notes

by the late

ERNEST HAROLD PEARCE

D.D., LITT.D., F.S.A.

Bishop of Worcester

Edited

with additional Notes by

LEONARD WHIBLEY, M.A.

*Fellow of Pembroke College
Cambridge*

CAMBRIDGE

AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

1932

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This book, but a fragment of the life of Richard Hurd that was in contemplation, was being prepared for publication by the late Bishop of Worcester at the time of his death. It is now published at the desire, and by the help, of some of his friends.

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PORTRAITS

- Ernest Harold Pearce
Bishop of Worcester (1919–1930) *Frontispiece*
From a photograph by H. J. Whitlock, Birmingham
- Richard Hurd
Bishop of Worcester (1781–1808) *to face p. 1*
From the picture by Gainsborough at Hartle-
bury Castle
- William Mason *to face p. 95*
From a picture, or copy of a picture, by Sir
Joshua Reynolds*

* In an unpublished letter to Christopher Alderson, dated Curzon Street, June 23rd, 1774, Mason wrote: “Stonhewer has made me sit for my picture to St Joshua Reynolds. He has taken a great deal of pains with it, and says it is the very best head he ever painted”. This picture was bequeathed by Richard Stonhewer to Pembroke College, Cambridge. A replica or copy of it was painted for Henry Duncombe of Copgrove, near Knaresborough, M.P. for the County of York (born 1728, died 1818). It descended to Elizabeth, daughter of Henry John Duncombe, Rector of Kirkby Sigston, who married Henry Bramwell of Crown East, near Worcester. At a sale at Crown East in 1922, after the death of Mr Bramwell, the picture, catalogued as “Man holding a roll of paper”, was bought by Rowland Alwyn Wilson, Rector of Witley, Worcester. (Information given by Canon Wilson.)

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PREFACE

The late Bishop of Worcester, to whom the originals of the letters here printed were entrusted, transcribed the greater part of the text, and annotated it.

The Syndics of the Press, when they undertook the publication and requested me to act as editor, accepted the suggestion that the full text of the letters should be printed and that the notes should be revised and amplified. I have, therefore, while retaining the greater part of Bishop Pearce's notes, rewritten some of them, and have added fresh notes of my own. The best explanation or illustration of a passage in the letters is often to be found in contemporary correspondence, and other letters of Hurd and Mason, as well as letters of Warburton, Gray, Walpole, etc., have been quoted for this purpose.

The Introduction, in which the Bishop gave an account of the manuscripts and a survey of the friendship between Hurd and Mason, has been printed with the least possible change. I have added the records of events in their own lives which both Hurd and Mason left behind them.

In the bundle of the later letters which passed between Hurd and Mason there are letters written to

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Hurd or to his nephew after Mason's death. Some of these are printed in an Appendix: they throw light on the circumstances, and fix the date of Mason's death: they show the interest which Hurd continued to take in what concerned Mason: he composed the epitaph to be placed on Mason's monument, and was informed of the reasons for the delay in publishing the final edition of Mason's poems. A second Appendix deals with manuscripts of poems by Gray and Mason.

My thanks are due to the Bishop of Worcester for entrusting me with the original manuscripts of the letters, so that I was enabled to complete and correct the transcription. I have also to thank the Dean of York and Mr Harrison, the Librarian of the Dean and Chapter Library, for placing at my disposal William Mason's manuscript Commonplace Book, belonging to that Library, which contains Mason's "Dates of the Principal events relative to Myself", and copies of epigrams, not hitherto recognised as by Mason, two of which are quoted in the notes.

To Canon R. A. Wilson, of Witley Rectory, Worcester, I am indebted for much friendly help, as also for the loan of nearly 140 manuscript letters, addressed by Mason to his curate Christopher Alderson. These afford valuable information and are often quoted in the notes. Canon Wilson has also allowed his portrait of Mason to be reproduced.

The Bishop of Derby and Dr Paget Toynbee read the proof-sheets and gave me the benefit of their

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suggestions. The Rev. W. H. Brooke, Rector of Aston, kindly gave me information concerning Mason's monument in his church. Mr H. M. Leman sent me particulars of the memorials to Gray and Mason erected by Frederick Montagu at Papplewick, which are mentioned in one of the letters.

Thanks are due to many friends for help in identifying quotations or explaining references, to Professor Edward Bensly, Professor Allardyce Nicoll, Mr A. L. Attwater, Mr R. W. Chapman, Mr H. G. Comber, Mr L. F. Powell and Professor Nicol Smith.

LEONARD WHIBLEY

January 1932

*[Notes or other matter added by the Editor are enclosed
within square brackets]*

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NOTE

ON THE TEXT OF THE LETTERS

In the transcription the text of the letters has been literally followed: the spelling and punctuation of the original have been kept, the same use of capitals and abbreviations followed. The letters were carefully read and docketed by Richard Hurd, the Bishop's nephew, and occasionally annotated. Initials denoting persons were filled in, or brief notes added above the line, identifying persons alluded to. Many expansions that he added have been printed, with a bracket to show the addition, in the text. Some of his identifications are obviously wrong; these have been disregarded or discussed in the notes, so far as is necessary. The letter [H] in a note indicates that it is taken from Richard Hurd's pencilled addition. It seems likely that the underlinings of words in some letters were not made by the writer to indicate emphasis, but were marks made by Richard Hurd to call his attention to particular points, and such underlinings have been ignored.

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WORKS QUOTED IN THE NOTES BY
ABBREVIATED TITLES

WILLIAM WARBURTON

The Works of the Right Reverend William Warburton, Lord Bishop of Gloucester. In seven volumes, 1788. [Edited by Bishop Hurd.] WORKS

A Discourse by way of General Preface to the quarto edition of Bishop Warburton's Works, containing some account of the Life, Writings, and Character of the Author. 1794. [By Bishop Hurd.] DISCOURSE

Letters from a late eminent Prelate to one of his Friends [1808]. [Edited by Bishop Hurd.] LETTERS

RICHARD HURD

The Works of Richard Hurd, D.D., Lord Bishop of Worcester. 8 vols. 1811. WORKS

Memoirs of the Life and Writings of the Right Rev. Richard Hurd, D.D. By Francis Kilvert. 1860. KILVERT

WILLIAM MASON

The Works of William Mason, M.A. 4 volumes. 1811. WORKS

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The Correspondence of Horace Walpole and the Rev. William Mason. Edited with notes by the Rev. J. Mitford. 2 vols. 1851. WALPOLE-MASON CORRESPONDENCE

THOMAS GRAY

The Poems of Mr Gray to which are prefixed Memoirs of his Life and Writings. By W. Mason, M.A. 1775. POEMS MEMOIRS

The Letters of Thomas Gray. Edited by Duncan C. Tovey. 3 vols. 1900–1912. TOVEY

HORACE WALPOLE

The Letters of Horace Walpole. Edited by Mrs Paget Toynbee. 16 vols. 1903. LETTERS

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INTRODUCTION

BY THE LATE DR E. H. PEARCE

It happened to me a few years ago to publish some records of the famous house which is the traditional home of the Bishops of Worcester,¹ and which I believe to be without its peer among such residences. The book contained some account of Richard Hurd, who occupied the See from 1781 to 1808. If it was to be at all complete, the book could not omit him, for he was the last to make any addition to the castle, erecting in 1782 the spacious and graceful library, which occupies the first floor of the west front, and remodeling that side of the house. At the same time, I could hardly fail to say something of the man himself, something, perhaps, which showed a certain sense of resentment against those who were apt to belittle his remarkable character and to speak slightly of what they held to be his sycophantic attitude to Warburton. I felt certain that the little, prim, precise Bishop was a much more considerable personage than these critics realised.

Soon after the issue of the book some friends in Worcester, who through previous generations of their family had had professional connexion with the Bishop and with some survivors of his family, informed me that they were in possession of a collection of papers and relics which, they believed, had for many years ceased to have any legal owner. They could see that

¹ [*Hartlebury Castle*. By Ernest Harold Pearce, London, 1926.]

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I was personally interested in the man himself. Moreover, I was for the moment the occupant of the great office in the Church which he held for nearly thirty years, and which not even Lambeth could tempt him to lay down. I was also living in and, as far as I could, caring for the house which he at great cost had adorned. Was it not natural, they suggested, that these Hurd archives should be deposited at Hartlebury Castle?

I, of course, was more than delighted to consent. My car transported the precious relics to their old home. They fill a bureau, on the landing of the main staircase just outside his library door—a bureau which is part of the furniture that he so well knew how to choose in an age when fine furniture was to be had for the choosing. So they have become part of the property of the See, till some claimant arises who may prove an inherited right to take them away.

There followed, of course, some delightful moments, not many continuously, in which I could examine these treasures and discover their contents. I soon found everywhere the traces of the docketing and investigating care of the Bishop's nephew—also named Richard Hurd, and familiarly Dickie—the inseparable companion and support of his uncle's declining years.² There are some pathetic genealogical efforts to probe

² [Richard Hurd, the son of Hurd's brother Thomas, went to live at Hartlebury Castle soon after his uncle became Bishop of Worcester. In 1783 he was appointed Registrar of the diocese, and had his office at the Palace in Worcester. He was his uncle's companion and secretary, he catalogued the books in the library and annotated the documents. After Hurd's death he lived in the Palace at Worcester and continued to act as Registrar until his death in 1827.]

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into the past of this family of simple Staffordshire yeomen. There are papers dealing with the governance of Brewood School, whence Hurd passed on to Emmanuel College, which is also represented in the collection. There is much correspondence with Charles Yorke, the ill-fated Lord Chancellor of a few hours, with regard to Hurd's appointment by the Benchers of Lincoln's Inn to the preachiership of their chapel in succession to Warburton. There are many papers and letters connected with the Bishop's work as tutor to the two eldest sons of George III. All his chief ecclesiastical credentials are in evidence—his benefices, his archdeaconry, his two Sees, first Coventry and Lichfield, and then Worcester, with his bonds for First-Fruits and the "tips" he paid at St James's when he did homage. There is also a considerable body of miscellaneous correspondence, carefully listed in the neat script of Dickie; and there are some pitiful data for chronicling the Bishop's last days; indeed, the very passages of Holy Scripture which the nephew read to him as he lay dying are all recorded. Long biographies have been constructed out of much less material. I should much like to put it all within reasonable compass, if life and opportunity are granted to me.

Among these treasures were Hurd's letters to and from William Mason, Precentor of York and Rector of Aston, the typical parson-poet of the eighteenth century, Warburton's friend and Gray's biographer. Mason's friendship and correspondence with Gray are fully known. His letters to and from Walpole have long been accessible in print. These Mason-Hurd letters, the approved survivors of a winnowing which

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the Hurds themselves applied to a larger collection after Mason's death, ought to be equally accessible.

A few months after Mason's death the Rev. Christopher Alderson, the executor of Mason's will, sent to the Bishop one hundred and thirty of Hurd's letters, which the poet had kept. With the bundle there is a careful note in Richard's handwriting that the first collection, forty-five in number, extended from 7 May 1747 to the end of 1759; the second, also forty-five, from 1760 to the end of 1769; and the third, forty in number, from 1770 to the end of 1790. There follows the statement that they were "returned to Bishop Hurd after the death of M^r Mason, by the Reverend Charles Alderson,³ his sole Executor, 5 January 1798". Richard Hurd added to his note: "in 1821 destroyed 100 of the above Letters, 30 remaining, 7 May 1747 to 18 Oct. 1773". Besides these thirty letters,⁴ which belong to the earlier correspondence, there is a second bundle of letters, twenty-three in number, written between 1788 and 1797, four being from Hurd to Mason and nineteen from Mason to Hurd.⁵

From these two bundles we may reconstruct the long friendship between Richard Hurd and William Mason. Hurd, as he often says, was a man of few friends. He

³ Charles is a mistake for Christopher. The Rev. Christopher Alderson was for many years Mason's curate at Aston, in which capacity Gray described him as "a good creature" (Tovey, III, p. 159). At the time of Mason's death he was Rector of Eckington, Derbyshire, and he followed Mason as incumbent of Aston.

⁴ Letters I–XI, XVI–XXV, XXVII–XXXV. Letter XXXVI is not in either bundle. See p. 94, n. 1.

⁵ Letters XXXVII–LIX. There is also a packet of letters from Hurd to Thomas Gray (inscribed "My Letters to M^r Gray returned to me after his death by M^r Mason"). The letters are printed below: Letters XII–XV, XXVI. Other papers connected with Gray are printed in Appendix B.

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never wore his heart upon his sleeve. He could never have compassed that facile bonhomie which constitutes the popularity of modern bishops. But his friendship with Mason was one of the fundamental interests of his life. Its only equals were his admiration for Warburton and his affection for Balguy. The former of these can be realised from his biographical Discourse prefixed to his edition of Warburton's *Works*; the latter is known to readers of Kilvert's life of Hurd. But before he had crossed Warburton's path Hurd learnt to know Mason. Hurd's friendship with Mason, like his friendship with Warburton, began in a critic's sympathy, and he never ceased to watch with firm but friendly and almost paternal criticism over all that Mason wrote. From the first Hurd's judgment appreciated Mason's literary efforts; his insight saw that better things were still to come; his personal attachment was the consequence.

Criticism, of course, was Hurd's accepted *métier*, whether he was dealing with Warburton or Balguy or Mason. Those who deride his relation to Warburton as mere toadyism mistake the man. Warburton was the oldest of the group, and a man whose position was assured before the others came to any note; and for this reason Hurd's criticisms of him and advice to him had their note of deference and respect. But it was criticism all the same, the comment of a man who never hesitated to speak his mind, and who hesitated all the less because in his somewhat frigid way he entertained a real affection for the person to whom the criticism might be addressed.

It is only to this extent that his attitude to Mason

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differs from his attitude to Warburton. When he and Mason were still in their youth, with their future unknown, he would warn his friend against “having anything to do with great lords in the North”: “all that you and I want to learn is to be content with a little, and then we can be happier than great men, falsely so called, can make us”.⁶ When the “seventies” had come upon both of them, and Hurd had long been in high station, while Mason was still Precentor of York Minster, the friendship subsists on the old conditions. Mason will submit all his work, and the Bishop will say about it what seems to him good. The poet, for instance, wrote a septuagenarian sonnet. The last two lines, the critic suggested, “might be expressed more happily”; and so they were. But along with the criticism went “fervent wishes that you may live to write many more birthday Sonnets”.⁷ Or the poet writes an epitaph for some worthy Yorkshire lady, and Mason is found writing to Hurd in gratitude for his “strictures”⁸ upon it. Again Hurd disliked the last line and a half; but now the poet was “obliged to be restive”.⁹ After all, the lines had only said that the good lady, a great sufferer, added Hope to Faith and Charity. There was no doubt she had done so, said Mason; I knew her and you did not; why should I not say it?

Thus, if the critic is inclined to be magisterial, it is only on the lines of a long and intimate friendship which expects to be trusted all the time about everything. “Why may I not be permitted to see your Argente?” asks Hurd.¹⁰ When after Gray’s death

⁶ L. IV.⁷ L. XLIV.⁸ L. XLVIII, n. 8.⁹ L. XLVIII, n. 9.¹⁰ L. XXVIII.

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Mason had the disposal of all his papers, Hurd was the first of his friends from whom he sought advice.¹¹ The gossip who considered that there was “an interregnum in the friendship” between Hurd and Mason, because he was convinced that Hurd had never been consulted about Gray’s *Memoirs*, was wrong.¹² When the book was in preparation, “I shall be glad to see the sheets”, writes Hurd, “as they come out of the Press”.¹³ And the letters show that Mason submitted parts of them to Hurd and received his criticisms.¹⁴

Presently it was the turn of the criticised. Hurd had long been concerned to put forward what he believed to be the true view of Warburton, and prepared the famous Discourse with infinite care. It was critical where criticism seemed justifiable, but the greatness of the man must not be belittled to satisfy the rancour of his enemies. Nevertheless, might it not be better that Hurd and Warburton should both be in their graves before the Discourse was published? The question was put by the Bishop to Mason, not in a letter, but face to face, when the poet was paying one of his periodical visits to Hartlebury, and the poet was all for publishing at once. “What you said to me”, the Bishop wrote in

¹¹ [In an unpublished letter of Mason to Christopher Alderson of 8 Dec. 1771, he writes: “I shall go to Town, that I may have a better opportunity of consulting D^r Hurd both about M^r Gray’s poetical matters and my own”.]

¹² [The reference is to Joseph Cradock, who, in his *Literary and Miscellaneous Memoirs*, I, p. 182, wrote: “It was about this period that Mason’s Life of Gray was advertised. . . . I then perceived that there was an interregnum in the friendship between him and Mason, for as soon as I looked over the book I was fully convinced that *he* had never been consulted about the publication”.]

¹³ L. XXXIII.

¹⁴ LL. XXXIV, XXXV.

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his next letter, “had it’s proper weight. . . I have sent the Bp.’s Life to the press”.¹⁵

The friendship between Hurd and Mason must have begun in Mason’s undergraduate days. Mason was admitted pensioner at St John’s College on 1 July 1742, and went into residence in the following October. His first tutor, Mr Wrigley, was presented to a College living in 1743, and his departure placed Mason under the sympathetic tutelage of William Samuel Powell, for which the young man was properly grateful. Powell had returned to St John’s in 1742 as assistant tutor and became principal tutor in 1744, and within two years Mason gave expression of his obligations in his *Ode on leaving St John’s College, Cambridge*.¹⁶

“There still”, he wrote in his farewell to Cambridge,

There still shall Gratitude her tribute pay
To him who first approv’d my infant lay;
And fair to Recollection’s eyes
Shall POWELL’s various virtues rise.

It was, no doubt, to Powell that Mason owed his introduction to Hurd,¹⁷ a close friend of Powell¹⁸ and

¹⁵ L. XL.

¹⁶ Mason, *Works*, I, p. 27. The Ode is dated 1746.

¹⁷ [Hurd was five years Mason’s senior; he had entered Emmanuel College in 1735, and had taken his Master’s degree in 1742, before Mason matriculated. He was ordained in the same year and for a time was in charge of Reymerston, a Norfolk parish, but, after his election to a fellowship at Emmanuel, he returned into residence early in 1743.]

¹⁸ Powell and Hurd both graduated in 1738–9; both received priest’s orders from Dr Gooch, Bishop of Norwich; Powell going (at least nominally) to a Norfolk benefice in the gift of Lord Townshend, to whose son he was tutor, and Hurd to the curacy of Reymerston in the same county. Another intimate friend of both Powell and Hurd was Thomas Balguy, assistant tutor of St John’s, whose acquaintance with Mason grew into friendship.

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of Balguy, who was then assistant tutor at St John's. The friendship of Hurd and Mason must have ripened rapidly, for within a year of Mason's leaving Cambridge, Hurd was writing to Mason in terms that imply an easy intimacy.

How close and constant was their friendship is shown by the letters that passed between them for fifty years.¹⁹ And when the news of Mason's death at Aston, on 5 April 1797, reached Hartlebury, the old Bishop took out his commonplace book²⁰ and gave characteristic expression to his feelings and his memories:

Mason (Rev. William)—Residentiary & Precentor of York, and Rector of Aston near Rotherham, died Apr. 5. 1797. I had known him from a youth at St John's College, Cambridge, where he was educated under my worthy friend, M^r Powell. Our friendship continued thro' life. With many other virtues, he possessed a fine genius for poetry, and was indeed the best poet of his time, as appears from his works of that sort published by himself, at different times, in *three* volumes.²¹ He also wrote the lives of *his* two ingenious friends, and mine, M^r Gray and M^r Whitehead. The last production of his pen was an Ode, formed upon the 28th chapter of the book of Job, of w^{ch} he printed a few copies. One of these he sent to me a few days before his death, with a friendly dedication to me prefixed. It is called in the title page, *a private copy*: for he intended not to publish it, at least at that time,

¹⁹ [There was for a time an interruption of the friendship and the correspondence. See below, pp. 95 ff.]

²⁰ Vol. II, p. 368.

²¹ The following are the Hartlebury Library copies: *Poems*, by William Mason, M.A., 1764, inscribed "The Author's present to R. Hurd"; new edition, 1771; fifth edition, 1779; *Poems*, by William Mason, M.A., vol. III, "now first published", 1797; *The English Garden*, new edition corrected, 1783; and *Works* of William Mason, M.A., in four volumes, 1811, which must have been purchased by Richard Hurd, junior, and which he interleaved after his careful fashion.

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but to present it to some select friends. He had entered into his 72^d year on 23rd of February last: yet this lyrical composition is not inferiour in merit to any others he had ever produced. With a tast for all the polite arts, and with no small proficiency in them. He was an excellent parish priest, and will be long remembered with respect and veneration at Aston where he usually resided, and where he dyed. He took much delight in that place, and built an excellent house upon it. The Garden about it was not large; but laid out with that tast, w^{ch} was to be expected from the author of *The English Garden*. Vale, amicissime!

R. W. 1797.

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OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS OF THE LIVES
OF *RICHARD HURD* AND *WILLIAM MASON*
WRITTEN BY THEMSELVES]

The following tables were drawn up by Hurd and Mason themselves. Hurd's list,¹ written in his own hand and endorsed by him "Some occurrences in my Life. R.W.", was found amongst his papers after his death: it had been continued almost to the last, and the concluding paragraph was written only five weeks before he died.

Mason's list,² headed "Memorandums or Dates of the Principal events relative to Myself", was written in his *Commonplace Book*. After 1773 he made no further entries.

I

HURD'S LIST OF EVENTS

Dates of some Occurrences in my own Life

Richard Hurd was born at Congreve, in the Parish of Penkrick, in the County of Stafford, January	A.D. 1719–20
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¹ Printed in the *Works of Richard Hurd, D.D.* (1811), I, pp. vii ff. Details not relevant to the correspondence with Mason have been omitted, including all entries after the date of Mason's death.

² The *Commonplace Book* is in the Dean and Chapter Library at York. Mitford published Mason's list with many serious mistakes. (*Walpole-Mason Correspondence*, II, pp. 411–12.)

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He was the second of three children, all sons of John and Hannah Hurd; plain, honest and good people.	
There being a good Grammar School at Brewood, he was educated there under the Reverend M ^r Hillman, and upon his death, under his successor, the Reverend M ^r Budworth—both well qualified for their office and both very kind to him.	
Under so good direction, he was thought fit for the University, and was accordingly admitted in Emanuel College, in Cambridge, October 3,	1733
but did not go to reside there till a year or two afterwards.	
In this college, he was happy in receiving the countenance, and in being permitted to attend the Lectures, of that excellent Tutor, M ^r Henry Hubbard, although he had been admitted under another person.	
He took his B.A.'s degree in	1738–9
He took his M.A.'s degree, and was elected fellow in	1742
Was ordained Deacon, 13 th of June that year.	
Was ordained Priest, 20 May	1744
He took his B.D.'s degree in	1749
He published the same year Remarks on M ^r Werton's book on the <i>Rejection of Heathen Miracles</i> , and his Commentary on Horace's <i>Ars Poetica</i> ; which last book introduced him to the acquaintance of M ^r Warburton, by whose recommendation to the Bishop of London, D ^r Sherlock, he was appointed Whitehall Preacher in May	1750
He published the Commentary on the Epistle to Augustus in	1751
—the new edition of both Comments, with Dedication to M ^r Warburton in	1753
—the Difsertation on the Delicacy of Friendship in	1755
His Father died Nov. 27 this year, æt. 70.	

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He published the Remarks on Hume’s Natural History of Religion in	1757
Was instituted this year, Feb. 16, to the Rectory of Thurstaston, in the County of Leicester, on the presentation of Emanuel College.	
He published Moral and Political Dialogues	1759
He had the Sine-cure Rectory of Folkton near Bridlington, Yorkshire, given him by the Lord Chancellor on the recommendation of M ^r Allen, of Prior Park, near Bath, November 2,	1762
He published the Letters on Chivalry and Romance this year.	
—Dialogues on Foreign Travel in	1763
And Letter to D ^r Leland of Dublin in	1764
He was made Preacher of Lincoln’s Inn, on the recommendation of M ^r Charles Yorke, &c., November 6,	1765
Was collated to the Archdeaconry of Gloucester by the Bishop, August 27,	1767
Was appointed to open the Lecture of Bishop Warburton on Prophecy in	1768
He took the Degree of D.D. at Cambridge Commencement this year.	
He published the Sermons on Prophecy in	1772
His Mother died Feb. 27, 1773, æt. 88	1773
He was consecrated Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, the 12 th of February	1775
He published the 1st Volume of Sermons preached at Lincoln’s Inn	1776
And was made Preceptor to the Prince of Wales and his brother Prince Frederick the 5 th of June the same year.	
He lost his old and best friend, Bishop Warburton, June 7 th	1779
He published the 2d and 3d Volumes of Sermons in	1780
The Bishop of Winchester [D ^r Thomas] died Tuesday, May 1, 1781. Received a gracious letter from his Majesty next day with the offer of	1781

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the see of Worcester, in the room of Bishop North, to be translated to Winchester, and of the Clerkship of the Closet, in the room of the late Bishop of Winchester.

On his arrival at Hartlebury Castle in July that year, resolved to put the Castle into complete order, and to build a Library, which was much wanted.

The Library was finished in 1782 and furnished with a collection of books, late Bishop Warburton's, and ordered by his will to be sold 1783

To these, other considerable additions have been since made.

Archbishop Cornwallis died in 1783.

Had the offer of the Archbishoprick from his Majesty, with many gracious expressions, and pressed to accept it; but humbly begged leave to decline it, as a charge not suited to his temper and talents, and much too heavy for him to sustain, especially in these times.

Put the last hand (at least he thinks so) to the Bishop of Gloucester's Life, to be prefixed to the new edition of his works now in the press 1785

In the end of February this year 1788 was published in seven volumes 4to a complete edition of the works of Bishop Warburton. The *Life* is omitted for the present.

This summer the King came to Cheltenham to drink the waters, and was attended by the Queen, the Princess Royal, and the Princesses Augusta and Elizabeth. On Saturday, August the second, They were pleased to visit Hartlebury. The Duke of York came from London to Cheltenham the day before, and was pleased to come with them. They arrived at Hartlebury at half an hour past eleven. ...About two o'clock, their Majesties, &c., returned to Cheltenham.

On the Tuesday following, August the fifth, their Majesties with the three Princesses, arrived at 8

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o'clock in the evening at the Bishop's Palace in Worcester, to attend the charitable meeting of the three Quires of Worcester, Hereford and Gloucester....

On Saturday morning, Aug. 9th, the King and Queen, &c., returned to Cheltenham.

My younger Brother, M^r Thomas Hurd of Birmingham, died on Saturday, Sept. 17, 1791

My elder Brother, Mr John Hurd, of Hatton, near Shifnal, died on Thursday, December 6, 1792

My noble and honoured friend, the Earl of Mansfield, died March 20, 1793

My old and much esteemed friend, D^r Balguy, Prebendary and Archdeacon of Winchester, died January 19, 1795

The Life of Bishop Warburton, which was sent to the prefs in Autumn last, was not printed off till the end of January, nor published till the end of February this year.

Printed in the course of this year at the Kidderminster prefs a Collection of Bishop Warburton's Letters to me, to be published after my death for the benefit of the Worcester Infirmary. The edition consisted of 250 Copies, 4to—was finished at the prefs in the beginning of December.

In the Summer of 1796 visited my Diocese in Person, I have great reason to suppose for the last time; being in the 77th year of my age—*fiat voluntas Dei!* 1796
June 17-30

M^r Mason died at Aston, April 5, 1797
He was one of my oldest and most respected friends. How few of this description now remain!

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II

MASON'S LIST OF EVENTS

Memorandums or Dates of the Principal events relative to Myself

Born Feb. 12th 1724 Old Style.

My Mother died in childbed the Christmas following.

Admitted Pensioner at S^t Johns College Cambridge under M^r Wrigley June 30th 1743.¹ Elected Schollar of that College the October following.

Nominated by the fellows of Pembroke to a fellowship in that Society, (a Dispute having arisen between them and the Master concerning the right of Election) when middle Batchelor 1747.

This dispute being compromised was admitted a Fellow by the Master in Feb. 1749.²

Admitted to the degree of Master of Arts July 1749.

Went into Orders, was instituted to the Living of Aston and appointed Chaplain to the Earl of Holderneffe in November 1754.

My Father died Augst 26th 1753.

Arch Bishop Hutton gave me the Prebend of Holme in the Church of York Dec. 6th 1756.

Appointed by the Duke of Devonshire Chaplain in Ordinary to K. George the 2^d Augst 1757.

Resigned a Bye Fellowship of Pembroke (w^{ch} was given me by that Society after my Foundation Fellowship became vacant on institution to Aston³) 1759.

Appointed Chaplain to his Present Majesty Sep^r 19, 1761.

D^r Fountayne Dean of York made me Canon residentiary of that Cathedral. Jan. 7th 1762.

¹ The date should be 1 July 1742.

² He was elected Fellow on March 2 and admitted on March 16.

³ He had a year of grace after his institution and vacated his Fellowship in December 1755. See L. VIII, n. 9. On March 23, 1756, he was elected to a Bye Fellowship on Mr Smart's Foundation.