



Lodowick Muggleton.

Dyed the 14th of March 169 $\frac{7}{8}$. then Aged
88 years 7 months and 14 days.

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LODOWICK MUGGLETON.

LODOWICK MUGGLETON, who was by trade a tailor, was a notorious schismatic, and father of the sect called after his name. He was a great pretender to inward light, which was to answer every purpose of religion.

He regarded himself as above ordinances of every kind, not excepting prayer and preaching. He acknowledged but one person in the Godhead, rejected creeds, and all church discipline and authority; but expected the greatest deference to be paid to what he taught and enjoined himself.

He esteemed the scripture a dead letter, and resolved every thing into his own private spirit. He, like other enthusiasts, made no scruple of damning all the world that differed from his own mode of faith. His disciples are said to have recorded many of his prophecies. He began to distinguish himself about the year 1650.* His books, for writing which he was pillored

* George Fox, a journeyman shoemaker, and one of the great apostles of the Quakers, began to exert himself about the same time. He was

pillored and imprifoned, were burnt by the common hangman.

To give an idea of the principles entertained by Muggleton and his followers, the annexed Stories are subjoined, extracted from the Harleian Miscellany, vol. i. p. 193.

A person one Sunday walking in the fields, and meeting there an old acquaintance of his, who had lately turned *Muggletonian*, with a young baggage in his hand, which he did more than suspect was light, he could not forbear expreffing his admiration to this *Muggletonian* himfelf, in thefe or fuch-like terms: "I cannot but wonder to fee you, my old neighbour, who have, for thefe many years, bufied yourfelf in the ftudy of religion, and was not long fince like to have gone mad, becaufe you knew not which opinion to flick to—I fay I cannot but wonder to fee you abroad, on the fabbath-day, in this brisk pofture: you are altered both in countenance, ap-
R 2 parel,

was a friend and affociate of Muggleton; and they are faid to have been "fo deeply feized with defpair, that they forfook all human conversation, and retired into defarts and folitary places, where they fpent whole days and nights alone."—Leflie's "Snake in the Grafs," edit. 1698, p. 331.—See alfo "Fox's Journal."

parel, and manners; so that I almost doubt whom I speak to."—"Ah!" answered the *Muggletonian*, "you know, friend, how I have heretofore troubled myself about religion indeed, infomuch that it had almost cost me my life; but all in vain, till about six weeks since; at which time I met with *Lodowick Muggleton*, who has put me into the easiest way to heaven that ever was invented; for he gives us liberty, provided we do but believe in his commission, freely to launch into all those pleasures, which others, less knowing, call vices; and, after all, will assure us of eternal salvation.

A timish gentleman, accoutred with sword and peruke, hearing the noise this man caused in the town, had a great desire to discourse with him, whom he found alone in his study; and, taking advantage of that occasion, he urged *Muggleton* so far, that, knowing not what to say, he falls to a solemn cursing of the gentleman; who was so enraged thereat, that he drew his sword, and swore he would run him through immediately, unless he recanted the sentence of damnation which he had presumptuously cast upon him. *Muggleton* perceiving, by the gentleman's looks, that he really intended what he threatened, did not only recant his curse, but pitifully intreated him, whom he had cursed before, to spare his life.
