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THE MUGGLETONIANS.

STRANGE SECT'S READINGS IN THE CITY.

The existence in London of the Muggletonians, a strange religious sect founded by a journeyman tailor, Lodowick Muggleton, in the seventeenth century, and stated in



LODOWICK MUGGLETON.

all the books of reference as having become extinct in 1846, is brought to light by the gift to the London Library by Dr. G. C. Williamson, Burgh House, Hampstead, of a nearly complete set of Muggletonian books and a privately printed little work which Dr. Williams issued to Members of ye Sette of Odd Volumes.

There is no allusion to them in the Post Office Directory, and yet from about 1864 until last March the Muggletonians have held "readings" in a quaint old room at 7, New-street, Bishopsgate, an old Georgian house in a turning between Houndsditch and Middlesex-street. Now they have stored their pictures and furniture and are continuing their readings in a small room in Worship-street, E.C. 2.

In London there are "a mere handful" of Muggletonians, but in Derbyshire about 40 meet at times.

The Muggletonians hold Lodowick Muggleton and his associate John Reeve as the last prophets. "They exclude from their church meetings," writes Dr. Williams, "the usual exercises of public worship. They have no preachers, and believe prayer to be a mark of weakness, a remnant of corrupt nature, and that God lives in regal state."

The principles of the Muggletonian faith include:

There is no devil but the unclean reason of men.

Heaven is an infinite abode of light above and beyond the stars.

The place of Hell will be this earth when sun, moon, and stars are extinguished.

Angels are the only beings of pure reason.

The soul dies with the body and will be raised with it.

It is understood that the present leader of the sect is Mr. Richard W. Huntley, who lives at Clapham Park.