

Rachel Wilson and George Whitefield

ABOUT the year 1764 Rachel Wilson held several public meetings at Bristol. George Whitefield, having been at one of those meetings, applied to the late Joseph Fry to contrive some mode of being introduced (as he expressed it) to this very extraordinary woman: this was done next morning at Richard Champion's, where they breakfasted together and talked for a while on occasional subjects. After breakfast was over, and the servants had cleared all away, George Whitefield informed her of his having sat under her ministry with great pleasure the day before. She expressed satisfaction, but intimated that if she had in any degree edified her audience it was all owing to the bounty or kindness of Infinite Wisdom, who only could give the ability. George Whitefield replied, "I heartily agree, Madam, with what you say, for little indeed can be attributed to the creature. I am at times tempted to envy your preachers for the advantage they almost exclusively enjoy of silently waiting upon God before they stand up to minister. When *they* stand forth they have nothing to do but to go on, being like clouds filled with water and ready to discharge it; but, according to our custom, as soon as I am seen in the pulpit, I am expected to begin, and must begin with something. It often happens that, although I can observe great willingness to hear the word, and feel a strong desire in myself to preach it profitably, yet I am as a pump, the handle of which must be long used before any water will come. This is very mortifying; but God, who knows my good intentions, sometimes, after long labor of this sort, is graciously pleased to assist me with His Holy Spirit, and then indeed I am as a cloud discharging its rain to the joy and refreshment of the whole heritage."

I understood, says the writer, that Rachel Wilson expressed her surprise and pleasure in hearing a declaration so unexpected from one who had been educated for the priesthood of the National Church, and that they parted with mutual expressions of regard, and best desires for each others welfare.

The Power of the Press

RICHARD FARNSWORTH, writing to Thomas Aldam, who is in York prison, in an undated letter now in **D**, in the course of instructions to read and then have printed a book which R.F. sends in MS., says:

"the truth doth spread much abroad by the Bookes that is in Printe, & now there is as many written as is suffitient for the Downefall of Antichrist's Kingdome."

Instruction follows that T.A. do not fail in getting the book printed.