

# CHRISTIAN



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## USE THE PEN.

BY J. E. CARPENTER.

Use the pen! there's magic in it,  
Never let it lag behind;  
Write the thought, the pen can win it  
From the chaos of the mind;  
Many a gem is lost for ever,  
By a careless passer by,  
But the gems of thought should never  
On the mental pathway lie.

Use the pen! reckon not the others  
Take a higher flight than thine;  
Many an ocean cave still smothers  
Pearls of price beneath the brine;  
But the diver finds the treasure,  
And the gem of light is brought;  
So thy mind's unbounded measure  
May give up some pearl of thought.

Use the pen! the day's departed  
When the sword alone held sway,  
Wielded by the lion-hearted,  
Strong in battle! Where are they?  
All unknown the deeds of glory,  
Done of old by mighty men—  
Save the few who live in story,  
Chronicled by sage's pen.

Use the pen! the sun above us,  
By whose light the chemist's art  
Stamps the forms of those who love us,  
Showing us their counterpart—  
Cannot hold so high a power  
As within the pen's enshrined,  
When, with genius for its dower,  
It daguerotypes the mind.

Use the pen! but let it never  
Slander write, with death-black ink!  
Let it be thy best endeavour  
But to pen what good men think;  
So thy words and thoughts securing  
Honest praise from wisdom's tongue,  
May, in time, be as enduring  
As the strains which Homer sung.

## Da Souza, the Prince of Slave Traders.

Da Souza, it is supposed, sent from Africa, during his career as slave trader, more than 200,000 slaves. "His countenance," said Mr. Wilsoa, in 1847, "is a fair index of his character. Though a Portuguese by birth, he long ago put away the costume of civilized life. And not only does he dress like the natives; in almost every respect he has conformed to their habits. He is said to have more than two hundred wives. While he is very rich, he is compelled to hide his gold in the sand for safety. He spreads a princely table for strangers, but is so afraid of being bewitched, that he takes his meals in a dark closet and eats with his fingers." The following sketch of him, in the *Colonization Herald*, is extracted from a paper, presented to Parliament by Thomas Hutton, of London, on the destruction of Lagos:—

"M. DA SOUZA, the notorious slave dealer, died about fifteen months ago; this man was in his 81st year when he died. He went to Whydah in the year 1792, in his 24th year. Various have been the rumors that occasioned his going there; he, however, himself once told me he came out as secretary under the Portuguese Government to their fort in Whydah, and remained three years in that service, and then returned to the Brazils, where I imagined he was born. He wished it supposed he was a Spaniard by birth, and was always treated so in courtesy, and styled Don. The Portuguese did not long continue to support their government in Whydah, and the

slave trade there soon fell into the hands of the most enterprising, the most so of whom was M. Da Souza. He had for many years an extraordinary run of good luck, and it was imagined had amassed a large fortune. His fame as a slave dealer gained him unlimited credit in the Havana and Brazil, and ship after ship arrived from those places at Popo, Whydah, and Lagos, consigned to him, generally with full cargoes of merchandize and specie; the goods were recklessly landed in bamboo store houses on the beach. The accumulated cargoes brought upon him an immense amount of debt; of this he appeared utterly regardless, so long as it had the desired effect upon the natives to cause them to consider him possessed of inexhaustible wealth, and for the king of Dahomey to imagine the same, on whom he lavished vast sums of wealth, but who in return could never at any time supply more than a fraction of the amount of slaves for the large amount of property that was sent to him. Frequently from thirty to forty ships, in the year 1826, were lying in the roadsteads of Whydah, all consigned to Da Souza, who had landed all their cargoes, but in return could seldom supply more than four or five cargoes of slaves. Many of the ships, after staying out twenty months to two years, from their light construction went to pieces on the beach; others lost all their crews and were abandoned; some became prizes, and the general result was, as no account was kept whatever of cargoes landed, every species of extravagance and expenditure took place, to the ruin of the owners. Some of them sent out supercargoes to see what the former were about. Frequently the fate of the second supercargo and ship and cargo went the way of the first. So lucrative, however, was the profit on slaves, or the want of them so much required, that some years elapsed before these reckless consignees to Da Souza began to grow cautious—in fact, not before many were ruined. In the interim a more rigid law had passed respecting the capture of slave trading vessels.

The King of Dahomey, who thus had had, for years past, countless wealth poured in upon him, became at last exacting, when the rapid torrent ceased to flow so fast as formerly, and it took some years before he could in the least comprehend the causes that had diminished the supplies to his agent Da Souza, who had years before virtually become so, to have the monopoly of the trade, and who went annually to Dahomey, with tribute to the King, and with vast supplies to his chiefs, to furnish them with means for the next slave hunt. Year after year these supplies became gradually less; Da Souza having become gradually poorer, and troubled with a host of creditors in the Havana and Brazils. The principals or consignees themselves, in many instances, came to Whydah to claim their debts. Da Souza, keeping no accounts, generally denied all knowledge of the parties or the business on which they had come about; frequently he would absent himself or be in Dahomey months, when a party of creditors arrived from the Havana or Brazils. Yet such was the nature of the trade, a lucky voyage or two enabled him to pacify the clamors of these distressed creditors. He treated them with country presents and an unbounded hospitality, and with tales of the endless resources of the King, who would at any time send him as many slaves as he pleased.

Various enactments took place, the cruisers were more vigilant than ever, and matters grew worse and worse. Merchants in the Havana sent agents to have interviews with the King; heavy complaints were made against Da Souza, which for policy's sake, the King would not listen to, he himself not

being the rightful successor, but upheld by Da Souza's influence and vast presents to the chiefs.

At last, after a few more years, it was arranged that agents from the Havana and Brazils might settle at Whydah, and Da Souza should give up shipping slaves, but to receive a commission of a doubloon for every slave that was shipped. On this he lived in the latter years of his life. He had also raised up duties or contributions on every native who held a slave, at a certain amount per head, which enabled him latterly to keep up some appearance before the King and his chiefs; but this grew less and less, until he actually became tortured with the thought of want. When he died, his stores were empty. The King of Dahomey sent to have his property taken up to him, and his chiefs entered into the house, and all that could be found was simply a little furniture and some plate; but neither money, goods, nor anything of value. This lesson has been most salutary to the King and his chiefs, to see that the man whom they considered was possessed of endless wealth, had died without the value of a keg of gunpowder in his stores to be fired over his remains, which is with them considered extreme poverty; thus confounding them, and shaking their confidence in the stability of the slave trade. Such was the end of one of the greatest slave dealers of modern times.

## BRITISH WORTHIES.

**WILLIAM PENN**, the founder and legislator of Pennsylvania, and the only son of Admiral Sir William Penn, a meritorious naval officer, was born in London, in 1644. He received his education at Oxford, and imbibed there the principles of Quakerism, the advocacy of which afterwards entailed upon him the persecution of government and an incarceration in Newgate. In 1681, he received, in compensation of a debt due from the crown to his father, a cession of lands in America, which have since retained his name. The year following he embarked for his new colony, and in 1683 founded Philadelphia. Penn died in 1718.

**SIR FRANCIS DRAKE**, one of our most illustrious admirals, was born at Tavistock, Devon, in 1545. In early life he entered the royal navy, and rose to the highest rank by his undaunted bravery and enterprising disposition. The Spaniards, at that time the most formidable enemies to England, were constantly defeated by him, and the dispersion of the Grand Armada in 1588, was in a great measure owing to his seamanship and determination. Drake sailed round the world in 1577-80; and died at sea in 1595.

**ROBERT BOYLE**, a philosopher, whose attainments in chemistry and medicine have rendered his name greatly distinguished, was the son of Richard Boyle, Earl of Cork, an eminent statesman in the reign of James the First. He was born at Lismore, Ireland, in 1627, and passed a laborious and useful life in the pursuit of science. He made improvements in the air-pump, and exhibited a variety of experiments in public, which awakened the zeal of others. Boyle, who died in 1691, was an active member of the Royal Society, and instituted by will the Boylean Lectures, to prove the truth of the Christian religion against infidels. His complete works were published in 1744, in five folio volumes.

**ROGER BACON**, a celebrated philosopher, was born at Ilchester, in Somersetshire, in 1214, and received his education at Oxford and Paris. His great scientific attainments rendered him an object of persecution by his ignorant contemporaries, who imputed them to magic. Roger Bacon was a friar, and he

was nearly approximate to the discovery of the telescope, the camera obscura, and gunpowder. He also detected the error of the calendar, and suggested the improvement made in it afterwards by Pope Gregory the Thirteenth. He died in 1292.

**THOMAS FULLER**, an eminent historian and divine, was born at Aldwinkle, Northamptonshire, in 1608, and received his education at Cambridge. His talents being of a high order, speedily rendered him popular as a preacher. Throughout the reverses of the Stuarts he remained faithful to the royal cause, and suffered many privations in consequence. He was the author of several works, among which we may particularly mention the *Worthies of England*, still deservedly popular. Fuller was learned, quaint, and humorous, and possessed a wonderfully retentive memory. He died in 1661.

**SIR THOMAS MORE**, Chancellor of England, was born in London, in 1480. Attaching himself to the bar, his abilities and perseverance secured his promotion, and he was knighted on the recommendation of Cardinal Wolsey, whom he succeeded in 1530 as Lord Chancellor. Opposing the tyrannical humors of Henry the Eighth, he lost his dignities, but gained a name for integrity and virtue, immortal as time itself. He was committed to the Tower, and brought from thence for trial on an absurd charge of high treason. The rare courage and eloquence with which Sir Thomas More defended himself were of no avail. He was condemned to death, and this iniquitous sentence was carried into effect on the sixth of July, 1535. Sir Thomas More was the author of the political romance, *Utopia*. The warmth of his friendship for Erasmus is well known.

**SAMUEL BUTLER**, the author of *Hudibras*, one of the most strikingly original poems in our language, was born at Streisham in Worcestershire, in 1612, and died in 1680. Few particulars remain of his life, which appears, towards the close, to have been passed in seclusion, and in familiar intercourse with the chief literary characters of the day.

**JOHN KNOX**, the great champion of the Scottish Reformation, was born in 1505, at Gifford, in East Lothian. Having been converted from the Romish faith, he became a zealous and eloquent preacher of the new doctrines. The murder of Cardinal Beaton had created great excitement throughout Scotland. The conspirators had fortified St. Andrew's, but the French fleet, which came to the assistance of Arran, in June 1547, compelled them to capitulate. Knox, among many others, was taken prisoner, and conveyed to Rouen, where he was confined on board the galleys. He was liberated in 1549, and engaged himself perseveringly and undauntedly, to further the cause of the Reformation in England and Scotland. In Perth, a civil commotion took place, in consequence of his pulpit orations against idolatry. At the instigation of Queen Mary, he was, in 1563, accused of treason, and tried, but pronounced guiltless. Knox died in 1572, from the consequences of an apoplectic attack brought on some time before by his unremitting exertions.—See "Biographical Melange," p. 93.

**SIR MATTHEW HALE**, the judge, whose very valuable writings on history and jurisprudence have rendered his name so celebrated, was born in 1600, at Aldersley, in Gloucestershire, and after his studies at Oxford, applied himself with great assiduity to the practice of the law at Lincoln's Inn. He attained distinguished honors, and died in 1676. He acted as counsel for Strafford, Laud, Hamilton, and even for Charles himself. He was an upright judge, and an exemplary Christian.