

BEHEMOTH; OR, THE LONG PARLIAMENT.

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BEHEMOTH

OR

THE LONG PARLIAMENT.

BY
THOMAS HOBBS
OF MALMESBURY.

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EDITED FOR THE FIRST TIME FROM THE ORIGINAL MS.

BY
FERDINAND TÖNNIES, PH.D.



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* TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR HENRY BENNET, BARON OF ARLINGTON.

MY LORD,

I present your Lordship with four short dialogues concerning the memorable civil war in his Majesty's dominions from 1640 to 1660. The first contains the seed of it, certain opinions in divinity and politics. The second hath the growth of it in declarations, remonstrances, and other writings between the King and Parliament published. The two last are a very short epitome of the war itself, drawn out of Mr. Heath's chronicle. There can be nothing more instructive towards loyalty and justice than will be the memory, while it lasts, of that war. Your Lordship may do with it what you please. I petition not to have it published. But I pray your Lordship not to desist to be favourable as you have been, to me that am,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble and obliged servant,

THOMAS HOBBS.*

PREFACE.

OF Hobbes's *Behemoth*, or (as it was commonly called) the *Dialogue of the Civil Wars of England*, though written probably a few years after the Restoration, there was no genuine edition during the author's lifetime, which lasted until 1679. But three years later his old publisher, William Crooke, issued a volume entitled, *Tracts of Mr. Th. H. of Malmesbury*, containing in the first place the treatise entitled *Behemoth*, which is followed by three other pieces, and introduced by the following remarks: "My duty, as well to the Public as to the memory of Mr. Hobbs, has obliged me to procure, with my utmost diligence, that these Tracts should come forth with the most correct exactness. I am compelled by the force of Truth to declare, how much both the world and the name of Mr. Hobbs have been abused by the several spurious editions of the 'History of the Civil Wars,' wherein, by various and unskilful transcriptions, are committed above a thousand faults, and in above a hundred places whole lines left out, as I can make appear. I must confess Mr. Hobbs, upon some considerations, was averse to the publishing thereof; but since it is impossible to suppress it, no book being more commonly sold by all book-sellers, I hope I need not fear the offence of any man, by doing right to the world and this work, which I now publish from the original manuscript, done by his own amanuensis, and given me by himself above twelve years since," &c. In the meantime, Mr. Crooke had been printing a letter by