Pope determined to commit the publication of thoſe works which he ſhould leave to Mr Warburton’s care. At Mr Pope’s deſire, he, about this time, reviſed and corrected the "Essay on Homer,” as it now stands in the last edition of that translation.

The publication of “The Dunciad” was the last ſervice which our author rendered Mr Pope in his lifetime. Af­ter a lingering and tedious illneſs, the event of which had been long foreseen, this great poet died on the 30th of May 1744; and by his will, dated the 12th of the pre­ceding December, bequeathed to Mr Warburton one half of his library, and the property of all ſuch of his works al­ready printed as he had not otherwiſe diſpoſed of or alie­nated, and all the profits which ſhould arise from any edi­tion to be printed after his death : but at the same time di­rected that they ſhould be publiſhed without any future alterations.

“ In 1744, Mr Warburton turned his attention to the ſeveral attacks which had been made on the “ Divine Le­gation,” and defended himſelf in a manner which, if it did not prove him to be possessed of much humility or diffi­dence, at least demonstrated, that he knew how to wield the weapons of controverſy with the hand of a matter. His first defence now appeared, under the title of “ Remarks on ſeveral occasional Reflections, in Answer to the Reverend Dr Middleton, Dr Pococke, the Matter of the Charter- Houſe, Dr Richard Grey, and others ; ſerving to explain and justify divers Passages in the Divine Legation, objected to by thoſe learned Writers. To which is added, A Ge­neral Review of the Argument of the Divine Legation, as far as it is yet advanced ; wherein is considered the Relation the ſeveral Parts bear to each other and the whole. To­gether with an Appendix, in Anſwer to a late Pamphlet intitled, An Examination of Mr W's second Propo­sition.” This was followed next year by “ Remarks on ſeveral occasional Reflections, in Anſwer to the Reverend Doctors Stebbing and Sykes ; ſerving to explain and justi­fy the Two Dissertations in the Divine Legation, concern­ing the Command to Abraham to offer up his Son, and the Nature of the Jewiſh Theocracy, objected to by these learn­ed Writers. Part II. and last.” Both these anſwers are couched in thoſe high terms of confident ſuperiority, which marked almost every performance that fell from his pen du­ring the remainder of his life.

On the 5th of September 1745, the friendſhip between him and Mr Allen was more closely cemented by his mar­riage with Miſs Tucker, who ſurvived him, and is now, if alive, Mrs Stafford Smith of Prior-park. At that impor­tant crisis our author preached and published three ſeaſonable sermons: 1. “A faithful Portrait of Popery, by which is is ſeen to be the Reverſe of Christianity, as it is the Destruction of Morality, Piety, and Civil Liberty. Preached at St James’s, Westminster, October 1745.”2. “A Ser­mon occasioned by the present unnatural Rebellion, &c. Preached in Mr Alien’s Chapel at Prior-park, near Bath, November 1745.” 3. “ The Nature of National Offences truly Rated. Preached on the General Fast-day, December 18. 1745-6.” On account of the last of these sermons, he was again involved in a controverſy with his former antagonist Dr Stebbing, which occasioned “ An Apologetical De­dication to the Reverend Dr Henry Stebbins, in Anſwer to his Cenſure and Miſrepreſentations of the Sermon preached on the General Fast, &c.”

Notwithstanding his great connections, his acknow­ledged abilities, and his establiſhed reputation, a reputation founded on the durable basis of learning, and upheld by the decent and attentive performance of every duty incident to his station ; yet we do not find that he received any addi­tion to the preferment given him in 1728 by Sir Robert Sutton (except the chaplainship to the prince of Wales), until April 1746, when he was unanimouſly called by the Society of Lincoln’s Inn to be their preacher. In Novem­ber he publiſhed “ A Sermon preached on the Thankſgiving appointed to be obſerved the 9th of October, for the Suppression of the late unnatural Rebellion.” In 1747 ap­peared his edition of Shakeſpeare, and his Preface to Cla­rissa ; and in the same year he publiſhed, 1. “ A Letter from an Author to a Member of Parliament concerning Li­terary Property.” 2. “ Preface to Mrs Cockburn’s Re­marks upon the Principles and Reaſonings of Dr Ruther­ford’s Essay on the Nature and Obligations of Virtue,” &c. 3. “ Preface to a Critical Inquiry into the Opi­nions and Practice of the ancient Philoſophers, concerning the Nature of a Future State, and their Method of teach­ing by double Doctrine,” (by Mr Towne) 1747, second edition. In 1748, a third edition of “ The Alliance be­tween Church and State, corrected and enlarged.”

“ In 1749, a very extraordinary attack was made on the moral character of Mr Pope, from a quarter where it could be the least expected. An insignificant pamphlet, under the name of *A Patriot King,* was that year publiſhed by Lord Bolingbroke, or by his direction, with a preface to it, reflecting highly on Mr Pope’s honour. The provocation was simply this : The manuscript of that trivial declamation had been intruded to the care of Mr Pope, with the charge (as it was pretended) that only a *certain* number of copies ſhould be printed. Mr Pope, in his excessive admiration off his *guide, philosopher,* and friend, took that opportunity, for fear ſo invaluable a treaſure of patriot eloquence ſhould be lost to the public, to exceed his commission, and to run off more copies, which were found, after his death, in the print­er’s warehouſe. This charge, however frivolous, was ag­gravated beyond meaſure ; and, notwithstanding the proofs which Lord Bolingbroke had received of Pope’s devo­tion to him, envenomed with the utmost malignity. Mr Warburton thought it became him to vindicate his deceaſed friend ; and he did it ſo effectually, as not only to silence his accuſer, but to cover him with confusion@@\*.”

About this time the publication of Dr Middleton’s In­quiry concerning the miraculous Powers of the Christian Church, gave rise to a controverſy, which was managed with great warmth and aſperity on both sides, and not much to the credit of either party. On this occasion Mr Warburton publiſhed an excellent performance, written with a degree of candour and temper, which, it is to be lamented, he did not always exerciſe. The title of it was "*Julian ;* or a Discourse concerning the Earthquake and fiery Eruption which defeated that Emperor’s attempt to rebuild the Temple at Jeruſalem, 1750.” A. second edition of this diſcourſe, “ with Additions,” appeared in 1751, in which year he gave the public his edition of Mr Pope’s Works, with Notes, in nine volumes 8vo ; and in the same year printed “ An Anſwer to a Letter to Dr Middleton, inſerted in a Pamphlet inti­tled, The Argument of the Divine Legation fairly stated," &c. ; and “ An Account of the Prophecies of Ariſe Evans, the Welſh Prophet in the last Century,” annexed to the first volume of Dr Jortin’s Remarks on Ecclesiastical History; which afterwards ſubjected him to much trouble.

In 1752, Mr Warburton publiſhed the first volume of a courſe of sermons, preached at Lincoln’s Inn, intitled, “ The Principles of Natural and Revealed Religion, occasionally opened and explained ;” and this was two years afterwards followed by a second. After the public had been ſome time promiſed, it may, from the alarm which was taken, be almost ſaid threatened with, the appearance of Lord Bolingbroke’s Works, they were about this time

@@@[m]\* Hurd's Life of Warburton.