failing which almost ever accompanies powers like his), and by the consciousness, it should seem, of their own inferio­rity.” That his conversation must have displayed sufficient vivacity, and his temper sufficient warmth, may very easily be conceived ; but through these lines of panegyric, it is impossible not to discern a strong ray of truth ; namely, that from the earliest period of his literary career, he was distinguished by a bold and dogmatical spirit, which could ill endure dissent or opposition. This may indeed be con­sidered as his first and last characteristic ; and although the zeal of a friend has, with some degree of dexterity, endea­voured to convert it into a topic of praise, by representing it as the ordinary mark of a superior mind, we are not very much inclined to regard it in the same light. The doctrine seems indeed to be of a somewhat dangerous tendency ; to be calculated for misleading young candidates for lite­rary honours, who may thus be induced to supply, by arro­gance and dogmatism, what is wanting in sound learning and solid judgment. It may be asserted, without much hazard of confutation, that this overweening and dogmatical spirit is at least as frequently the characteristic of those who possess but a very moderate stock of real merit ; who have perhaps made no uncommon progress in any branch of science or literature, and yet consider themselves as en­titled to decide all controversies, and to adjust all claims to intellectual distinction.

For many years he served the curacy of Bray in Berk­shire for Dr Berkeley, a son of the famous bishop of Cloyne ; and was subsequently curate of Newton in Lancashire. He gave the first conspicuous proof of his abilities by the publication of “ The History of Manchester.” Lond. 1771, 4to. The second volume followed in the year 1775; but although four books were originally promised, only two are thus completed ; they embrace the Roman, British, and Saxon periods of the history. This work, which is perhaps the most remarkable of his publications, was immediately regarded as the production of no ordinary writer, but as more conspicuous for bold and ingenious speculation, than for cool and judicious discussion. Like the other works of the same author, it is written in a lively and rambling man­ner. His impatience and vivacity rendered him incapable of selecting his topics, and condensing his thoughts ; and by adhering to his usual method of writing, a large book may be produced on almost any subject. Before he had brought this work to a close, he published “ The genuine History of the Britons asserted.” Lond. 1772, 8vo. This volume is chiefly directed against the historical work of Mr Macpherson, better known as the foster-father of Ossian ; and both publications have been considered by compe­tent judges as adding very little to the real stock of infor­mation.

In the course of the following year we find him residing in the metropolis, and officiating as the morning preacher of Berkeley chapel. For this appointment he was indebted to a Mr Hughes ; but their connexion was of a very short duration, for he was removed from his situation in less than two months. He thought proper to communicate his grievances to the public, in “ The State of the Case be­tween Mr Whitaker and Mr Hughes, relative to the Morn­ing Preachership of Berkeley Chapel.” Lond. 1774, 4to. His resentment was so strong, and his discretion so weak, that he thus subjected himself to the vexation of a lawsuit, and the Court of Kings Bench held his printed Case to be a libel.

On the 23d of August 1777, he succeeded to the rectory Rιιan-Lanyhorne, one of the most valuable livings in the gift of his college. He now withdrew into Cornwall, and took possession of his benefice ; and he afterwards married Jane Tregenna, a lady of an ancient Cornish family. Her great-grandfather, grandfather, and father, were successive­ly rectors of Mawgan in Pydar. For a long time his retire­ment was not attended with peace and studious ease. His restless and domineering disposition soon involved him in a long train of contentions with his parishioners : he proposed a tithe-composition, which his friends represent as by no means unreasonable, but of which his parishioners appear to have entertained a different opinion ; they refused to ac­cede to his proposal, and he demanded the tithes in kind. “ Disputes,” we are informed, “ arose upon disputes ; ani­mosities were kindled ; and litigations took place. That Mr Whitaker was finally victorious, afforded pleasure to the friends of the rector, *and to the friends of justice and truth ;* yet it was long before harmony was restored to Ruan- Lanyhorne.” Let us here remark in passing, that this mode of confounding the cause of religion with the cause of tithes is a pretty ancient device. It is not certainly to be considered as wonderful, if, after all these contentions and litigations, Mr Whitaker was subjected to the mortifi­cation of observing that his parishioners manifested an aversion to his preaching, an indifference to his admoni­tions, and a repugnance to his authority. This is indeed the natural consequence of the measures to which he re­sorted ; they have an obvious tendency to excite or con­tinue animosities, and to circumscribe the utility of a clergy­man, by rendering him obnoxious to almost every man in his parish who has property enough to bring him within the circle of such litigations. It may perhaps be regarded as extremely doubtful whether any clergyman, possessing a portion of the primitive spirit of Christianity, would be tempted to engage, more especially with his own flock, in quarrels, disputes, and lawsuits, which there might be any decent means of avoiding. We are informed, that after the lapse of a few years, Mr Whitaker had the satisfaction of perceiving a visible alteration in the behaviour of his principal parishioners, and that a good understanding was at length established between the pastor and his flock. His manner was hearty and familiar ; and notwithstanding the rabid spirit that sometimes animates his writings, he was possessed of many virtues, though meekness and humility were certainly not of their number.@@\*

His next publication was of a professional kind, namely, “ Sermons upon Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell.” Lond. 1783, 12mo. He afterwards engaged in the famous controversy respecting the character of Queen Mary, and produced an immense work under the title of “ Mary Queen of Scots vindicated.” Lond. 1787, 3 vols. 8vo. He pub­lished an enlarged edition in the year 1790; and he seems to have been not a little mortified that neither Lord Hailes nor Dr Robertson could be induced to print a single page against him. This production, which is by no means emi­nent for coolness of reasoning, or sobriety of manner, has probably convinced very few competent judges of historical evidence, who have submitted to the labour of a patient investigation. If Mary’s innocence is so apparent as some

@@1 In reference to this paragraph, the coadjutor of Mr Baines is pleased to remark, that “ Mr Whitaker’s memory has been unjustly as­sailed, and bis integrity wantonly called in question, by an anonymous writer in the Supplement to the Encyclopædia Britannica.” (History of the County Palatine and Duchy of Lancaster, vol. ii. p. 386. Lond. 1836, 4 vols. 4to.) The most careless reader may perceive that not one word is uttered against his integrity ; nor has this writer undertaken to prove that it afforded any indication of his piety or wisdom, to maintain against his own parishioners a series of litigations for the space of twelve years. “ In this contest Mr Whitaker’s law expenses amounted to about a thousand pounds ; but, by taking the tithes in kind during the suits, be not only made up this loss beyond the original produce of the tithes, but was several hundred pounds in pocket....But the *conscientious minister* looked with a deeper concern to the spiritual welfare of his flock. He saw, with sorrow, their aversion from bis preaching, their indifference to his instruction, their repugnance to his authority and certainly no result could be more natural. An injudicious defence is sometimes more injurious than a wanton attack.