

Accession number: 1992-24/9f

Description: Small sheet of paper, written on one side. Transcript of 'An Epitaph on the Monument of the late Worthy and Reve[eren]d M^r Beighton, of Egham, who was vicar of that Place for forty five years'.

Transcript: By David Garrick Esq[ui]r[e] [in a later hand – Mrs Garrick?]

An Epitaph on the Monument of the late Worthy and Rev[eren]d M^r Beighton, of Egham, who was vicar of that Place for forty five years'.

Near half an age, with every good Mans Praise,
Among his flock the Shepherd pass[e]d his Days;
The friend, the Comfort of the Sick and Poor,
Want never knock[e]d unheeded at his door;
Oft when his duty Call[e]d, disease and pain
Strove to confine him, but they strove in vain:
All Mourn his Death, his virtues long they tryd,
They knew not how they Lov[e]d him till he Dy'd:
Peculiar blessings did his Life attend,
He had no foe and Camden was his Friend

[What looks like part of a signature is here cut off]

Notes: Aileen Osborn, 'The Literary Material in the Hereford Garrick Papers', M. Phil thesis, University of Birmingham, 1999, 174-5

Other Versions: Knapp 48; Folger transcript Y.d.120; Kearsley, II, 485

Thomas Beighton (1699?-1771) was a neighbour of Garrick's at Hampton, a close friend and frequent visitor. In 1767 Garrick prevailed upon Lady Camden to intercede with her husband on Beighton's behalf, to relieve his hardships. Camden responded by appointing him Vicar of Wexham. Beighton, who was a saintly man, shared Garrick's passion for books and among other gifts, presented him with thirty-two volumes of Greek and Latin authors bound in red leather. When he died, he made Garrick and Camden his executors and bequeathed his library to them and Becket the bookseller, who insisted on dispersing his portion. Consequently the whole library was sold, to augment the estate (Oman, p. 311).