MEMOIR OF JOHN BUNYAN.

To the great mass of mankind the most prominent name in English history is that of John Bunyan. In lands where the renown of William Conqueror is utterly unknown, the fame of John Bunyan the tinker has spread. And in our own country, among classes where the names of even his great contemporaries, Cromwell and Milton, are never heard, or heard are known only as names, that of John Bunyan is "familiar in their mouths as household words," and exercises through his wonderful allegory, a vital and beneficial influence. Strange that this poor tinker's son should, of all the men of that very memorable era in which he lived, be the one who now, two centuries afterwards, attracts most eyes. Without rank, wealth, position, learning—a mere kettle-mender, in fact—with no such opportunities of knowledge and distinction as men in a similar sphere of life now possess, nothing but genius of the highest order could have placed him on that pre-eminently proud pinnacle which, in the opinion of the masses, he occupies alone, and which even scholars are now disposed to admit he shares with such minds as Shakspeare and Milton.

John Bunyan was born at the village of Elstow, in the immediate vicinity of the town of Bedford, in the year 1628. His father was by trade a tinker, though less nomadic and more respectable than the generality of his tribe. At the birth of his son, he was settled at Elstow, and does not appear to have wandered about the country afterwards; at all events his family did not, for John was sent to the Harpur Grammar School in Bedford, which was founded by Sir William Harpur,