

CUS 417/4.21

Fred Johnson to Sir William Osler.  
20th May 1913.

8 Theatre Street,  
Norwich.

Dear Sir,

I have to-day completed the collation of the two MSS. and the two spurious editions of 1642 of the Religio Medici with the authorized edition of 1643 and am sending it off this evening to Oxford. It has taken me longer than I expected, but I have tried to do it thoroughly - all the important variations are noticed, but I will not be sure that every trifling variation of "he" and "hee" - "only" and "onely" &c. are noted, although I have tried to notice them all. I have taken the 1643 as the Standard all through and each page in that edition is represented by a sheet marked with the page and I have used a guage for the lines, so that with the 1643 edition before you, there should be no difficulty in at once seeing all the variations from that text in the MSS. and the 2 spurious editions. Of course the line numbers refer in every case to the 1643 editions, and where a blank occurs in any one of the columns it indicates that the particular edition under consideration agrees with the 1643 one. It is odd that the two MS. should almost always agree with one another and also the two spurious editions with one another. Some of the mistakes almost seem to me as if they might have been made by a person writing from dictation. I have not gone into the matter of the page of errata in the authorized edition - it is more than likely some of the discrepancies in the collation may be found in that and so exonerate the good Doctor from some curious blunders. In some cases it almost looks as if the copyist had dropped a line in his copy (page 153, lines 7,8,9,) - by catching his eye on a word, a line or so lower down, similar to a word a line or so higher up - a quite likely error - crede experto! Other odd blunders really seem like a careless or incompetent reading of a MS. - "their feet" (really first) - "must slip out" (step out)-possessions (professions) - Page 162 line 24 <sup>p. 145 line 6</sup> grants for gratis. Page 172 line 12 <sup>p. 145 line 16</sup> "whatsoever happens (happinessè) The 1st column is the MS. in a fine handwriting - the 2nd column is the MS. in a bold hand - the 3rd column is the spurious Edn. of 1642 with 190 pages and the 4th column is the spurious edition of 1642 with 159 pages which is supposed to be later than the No. 3.

I shall be glad to know you have received it safely.

Yours very truly,  
Fred Johnson.

Sir Wm. Osler, Bart.  
Regius Professor of Medicine - Oxford.