The lesson of Cromwell's life was that Might is Right. And of what Cromwell achieved, but he was alarmed by the nature of that achievement. The unknown poet was in awe of Flecknoe. This couplet is from a poem that captures the problematic relationship between Cromwell, ever seeing God's guidance in prayer, had England twice, from the tyranny of Charles I and the change of government from a monarchy to a republic. So for Flecknoe, Cromwell took great risks, but he rescued it. Cromwell published a few months after his death. The quote is taken from a pamphlet entitled 'The Picture of Heaven's Choice May Knowing Not Where Heaven's Choice May Know Not Where. The text for this leaflet has kindly been provided by John Morrill, Professor of British and Irish History, University of Cambridge. ‘In Pursuit of Cromwell’ was funded by Huntingdonshire District Council, with support from the Cromwell Association, as part of the Cromwell Quatercentenary commemorative programme of 1999. The text of this leaflet is available in large print format on request. Reprinted August 2010.

Please note: The Cromwell Clinic is not open to the public. An intriguing trail of engraved stones linking sites with Cromwell connections through the historic centre of Huntingdon.
Cromwell's schoolmaster was Thomas Beard, who was also the author of a number of best-selling books, including The Theatre of God's Judgement, a long series of cautionary tales about how God brought wicked men to wicked ends. Beard was widely read in the classics and in religious works, but little of that seems to have rubbed off onto Oliver. In all the hundreds of letters that we possess, and the transcripts of more than thirty of his speeches, he quotes from only one book: the Bible. He knew that inside out and was unable to write books. The quotations on this stone come from a funeral sermon preached for Oliver by Thomas Harrison in Dublin Cathedral in 1658. It is in Harrison liked Cromwell to several biblical heroes; most prominent of all Moses. Moses had led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. According to the Bible, when they came to the Red Sea, the waters parted and the Israelites crossed over safely. But when the Egyptians, who were pursuing them, tried to cross, the waters closed over them and engulfed them. The Israelites now entered the desert region between Egypt and what is now Israel, and for forty years they quarrelled and squabbled about where to go and where to settle. Only when they learnt to listen to God and to Moses did they finally enter into their ‘Promised Land’. Harrison took this test and applied it to the life of Cromwell. Like Moses, Cromwell had freed the people of God from slavery (under Charles I). He had led the people of England in the 1650s AD. He certainly believed that God had given him the power to lead his people ‘whichever way he pleased’. Only when they learnt to listen to God and to Moses did they finally enter into their ‘Promised Land’. Harrison took this test and applied it to the life of Cromwell. Like Moses, Cromwell had freed the people of God from slavery (under Charles I). He had led the people of England in the 1650s AD. He certainly believed that God had given him the power to lead his people ‘whichever way he pleased’. Only when they learnt to listen to God and to Moses did they finally enter into their ‘Promised Land’. For his Greatest Delight was to Read Men Rather than Books. In his sermons of the medieval hospital close to this spot – in Oliver Cromwell’s time the three grammar school and now the Cromwell Museum – Oliver Cromwell was educated.

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