

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07407-0 - Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century: Comprizing Biographical Memoirs of William Boywer, Printer, F.S.A., and Many of his Learned Friends: Volume 1

John Nichols

Excerpt

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( 1 )

## LITERARY ANECDOTES

OF THE

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

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*“ Id bonum cura, quod vetustate sit melius.”*

SEN. Ep. xv.

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THE Traveller, who in early life explored a region famed for natural or artificial curiosities, and with the eye of an Antiquary traced the vestiges of architectural splendour, whether the last remains of the Grecian temple, the Roman amphitheatre, or the Gothic aile or cloister, resumes his visit at a maturer age with augmented pleasure. New beauties meet his view; new ideas are impressed on his imagination, as new suggestions offer themselves to his reflection. He perceives, and is astonished to perceive, that some of the finest part of the landscape, some of the most beautiful features in the view, failed to meet his first researches. Having revolved, after an interval of many years, the imagery which as it were crowded on the mind at a first glance, he treads the ground again with caution; he confines himself to the more immediate object of his pursuit; and employs the pen or the

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pencil on subjects which had before entirely escaped his attention.

The scenery to which the Reader is now recalled is of a more confined and humble nature; yet there are gleanings in our biographical harvest, which, it is hoped, will be thought not undeserving notice. Of the very early period indeed the recollections are few, but they are interesting; and, as we advance, the discoveries produced by diligent enquiry and friendly communications, and even by the loss of friends whom it would have been indelicate to mention whilst living, have removed the veil under which many curious particulars, highly honourable to the persons of whom they are related, were unavoidably concealed.

To whatever cause it may be owing, the lives of literary men are seldom recorded, while any remembrance of them remains. Except in a few cases, where interest, vanity, or gratitude are concerned, men of letters, who in general deserve better of the world than the more brilliant characters of the hour, the courtier or the pseudo-patriot, pass unnoticed to the grave; and curiosity is seldom awakened about them until the opportunity of gratifying it is irrecoverable.

The information, therefore, which, I flatter myself, was conveyed to the world in the former edition of the Memoirs of my late excellent Friend, encourages me, after an interval of more than six-and-twenty years, when so much fresh matter has occurred, to pursue a similar method.

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**WILLIAM BOWYER**, confessedly the most learned Printer of the Eighteenth Century, was born in Dogwell Court, in the extraparochial precinct of White Fryars, London, Dec. 19, 1699; and may be said to have been initiated from his infancy in the rudiments of the art in which he so eminently excelled.

His

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His father, whose name was also WILLIAM, was the son of *John Bowyer*, citizen and grocer, by *Mary King* \*. He was born in 1663; bound apprentice to Miles Flesher † in 1679; admitted to the freedom of the Company of Stationers Oct. 4, 1686; and very soon after became eminent in his profession.

He was twice married. By the first wife he had no issue. The second wife was *Dorothy* daughter of *Thomas Dawks*, a printer of some celebrity in his day, who in his youth, from 1652 to 1657, had been employed as a compositor on the celebrated Polyglott Bible of Bishop Walton ‡.

*Ichabod Dawks*, a son of this *Thomas*, is introduced by Anthony Alsop, in his Ode, intituled, “Charlettus Percivallo suo:”

“Scribe securus, quid agit Senatus,  
Quid caput stertit grave Lambethanum §,  
Quid comes Guilford ||, quid habent novorum  
*Dawksque Dyerque ¶.*”

\* Daughter of William King, citizen and vintner of London; who kept the King’s Head Tavern in the Poultry. Her husband not succeeding in business, and dying in a short time after their marriage, the widow, with her only son, was taken home by her only brother, William King, who succeeded his father in business, and had several children, of whom only one daughter survived him. On the day of King Charles’s Restoration, the wife of the last-mentioned William King, happening to be in labour, was anxious to see the returning Monarch. Charles, in passing through the Poultry, was told of her inclination, and stopped at the tavern to salute her.

† Who occurs in the list of Benefactors to the Company.

‡ For some particulars of this important national publication, see the “Essays and Illustrations” in the Fourth Volume, N<sup>o</sup> I.

§ Archbishop Tenison.

|| A familiar name for some common acquaintance.

¶ The intelligence of Dawks and Dyer was conveyed throughout the kingdom, printed in a type which resembled writing, as the parliamentary minutes were till within these few years circulated. It appears also, by a periodical paper of 1709, that there were then actually published every week 55 regular papers; “besides a vast number of Postscripts, and other scandalous and seditious papers and pamphlets, that were hawked about the streets.” Many of these being at present totally forgotten, it may be a curiosity to point out their names:

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The daughter of Mr. Dawks was born March 6, 1664-5; and was married, Oct. 10, 1685, to Mr. *Benjamin Allport*, of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, bookseller; by whom she had one son, *Benjamin* (who was born after his father's death, and died before he was a year old), and one daughter. She afterwards became the wife of Mr. Bowyer, who commenced his career as a printer by "A Defence of the Vindication of King Charles the Martyr; justifying his Majesty title to ΕΙΚΩΝ ΒΑΣΙΛΙΚΗ, in answer to a late Pamphlet, intituled 'Amyntor;' by the Author of the Vindication. *London; printed by W. Bowyer, at the White Horse in Little Britain; and sold by most Booksellers in London and Westminster, 1699;*" a very neat small quarto, containing ninety-six pages.

Before the close of the year 1699, Mr. Bowyer removed his printing-office into *White Fryars*, to a house which had formerly been the George

The Daily Courant, (as its title shews)	6 times a week	. . .	6
The Supplement,	}	Monday, Wednesday, and Friday,	12
The General Remark,			
The Female Tatler,			
The General Postscript,			
The British Apollo,	Monday and Friday,	. . . . .	2
The London Gazette,	}	Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday,	. . . . . 12
The Postman,			
The Postboy,			
The Flying Post,			
The Review,	}	Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday,	21
The Tatler,			
The Rehearsal Revived,			
The Evening Post,			
The Whisperer,			
The Postboy Junior,	}	. . . . .	.
The City Intelligencer,			
The Observer,	Wednesday and Saturday,	. . . . .	2
Total,	. . . . .	. . . . .	55

See a short character of each, in "The General Postscript, Oct. 24, 1709;" and for a general history of newspapers, and their first introduction into this kingdom, see the "Essays and Illustrations" in the Fourth Volume, N<sup>o</sup> II.

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tavern \*; and on the 6th of May 1700, was admitted a Liveryman of the Company of Stationers.

The earliest publications that we find from his new press were, “Two Sermons concerning Nature and Grace, preached at Whitehall, April 1699, by Edward Young †, fellow of Winchester College,

\* In which some of the scenes of Shadwell's “Squire of Alsatia” are painted.

† This worthy Divine, the son of John Young, of Woodhay, Berks, whom Wood styles *gentleman*, was collated by Bp. Ward, in September 1682, to the prebend of Gillingham Minor, in the church of Sarum. When Ward's faculties were impaired by age, his duties were necessarily performed by others. We learn from Wood, that, at a visitation of Spratt, July 12, 1686, the Prebendary delivered a *Concio ad Clerum*, afterwards published; with which the Bishop was so pleased, that he told the Chapter he was concerned to find the Preacher had one of the worst prebends in the church. Some time after this, in consequence of his merit and reputation, or of the interest of Lord Bradford, to whom in 1702 he dedicated two volumes of Sermons, he was appointed chaplain to King William and Queen Mary, and preferred to the deanry of Sarum. Three single Sermons of his occur: 1, “Preached before his Majesty at Whitehall, 29 Dec. 1678. By Edw. Young, B. LL. Fellow of New College, Oxon.; and Chaplain to his Excellency the Earl of Ossory, General of his Majesty's Subjects in the Service of the United Netherlands, 1679,” 4to. 2, “Preached before the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen at Guildhall Chapel, Feb. 4, 1682. By Edw. Young, Fellow of the College near Winchester, 1683,” 4to. 3, “A Sermon exhorting to Union in Religion; preached at Bow Church, May 26, 1688, and published at the desire of the Auditors. By E. Young, 1688,” 4to—Jacob, who wrote in 1720, says, he was chaplain and clerk of the closet to the late Queen, who honoured him by standing godmother to his son the Poet. His fellowship of Winchester he resigned in favour of a gentleman of the name of Harris, who married his only daughter. The Dean died at Sarum, after a short illness, in 1705, in his 63d year; and on the Sunday after his decease, Bp. Burnet preached at the Cathedral, and began his Sermon with saying, “Death has been of late walking round us, and making breach upon breach upon us, and has now carried away the head of this body with a stroke; so that he, whom you saw a week ago distributing the holy mysteries, is now laid in the dust. But he still lives in the many excellent directions he has left us, both *how to live, and how to die*.” a sentence treasured up by the Author of the *Night Thoughts*; by whose filial piety his father's tomb in the cathedral at Salisbury is thus inscribed:

“H. S. E.

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and Chaplain in ordinary to his Majesty, published  
in April 1700," 4to.

" H. S. E.  
EDVARDUS YOUNG, LL. B.  
hujus Ecclesiæ Decanus.  
Vir cum primis  
eruditus, probus, integer,  
summo utique honore dignissimus,  
utpote qui de Ecclesiâ Anglicanâ,  
cui fidissimo fuit Præsidio,  
summoque Ornamento,  
quam optimè meruit.  
Obiit } anno ætatis suæ 63,  
9 Aug. } annoque Domini 1705.

In the North aisle of Winchester Cathedral are these inscriptions in memory of his daughter and her husband :

" H. P. S.  
Reliquiæ ANNÆ  
filix unicæ Rev<sup>di</sup> EDWARDI YOUNG  
Ecclesiæ Salisburiensis nuper Decani ;  
Rev<sup>di</sup> JOHANNIS HARRIS Coll.  
Beatæ Mariæ prope Winton. Socii  
charissimæ Uxoris :  
Cui  
non forma corporis nec animi,  
non ætas immatura, nec matura virtus,  
non mutua amicorum vota,  
non impotentes parvulorum manus,  
non pia conjugis desideria,  
ultra vicesimum & nonum ætatis annum  
vitam superstitem impetrarent.  
Quo  
felicitem (parce dolori) invidendam auspicata est  
apud Chiddingfold, in com. Surriæ,  
vicesimo tertio die Martii, anno Domini 1713-14."

" H. S. P.  
RICHARDUS HARRIS, Eques Auratus,  
Reverendi admodum JOHANNIS HARRIS, S. T. P.  
(Collegii Wintoniensis Custodis) Filius ;  
qui tali Conjugem amore coluit,  
qualem ab illâ sperabat, quali fruebatur  
numerosæ prolis felix & pius Pater.  
Nec tamen Pauperum minus quam suorum memor,  
dies ac noctes Clientum negotiis vacabat ;  
quietem alienam semper anteponebat suæ,  
Regis idem Patriæque fidelissimus servus ;  
honores quibus erat cumulatus,  
memo minus ambiit, nemo meruit magis.  
Quantæ erat in Deum pietatis  
vel exhinc licet auspicari :

Precibus

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1700.] THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. 7

“ A Sermon preached at the Triennial Visitation of the Right Rev. Father in God James [Gardiner] Lord Bishop of Lincoln, held at Hartford, June 12, 1700. By *Philip Falle*, Rector of Shenley in the County of Hartford, Prebendary of Durham, and Chaplain in ordinary to his Majesty. Published by his Lordship's Command. Text, Acts xviii. 3. London: Printed by W. Bowyer, for John Newton, at the Three Pigeons, over-against the Inner Temple Gate, in Fleet-street,” 4to. This Sermon is beautifully printed.

“ The Sinner a Traitor to his King and Country, in a Sermon preached in the Cathedral Church of Winchester, at the Assizes held there July 24, 1700, by Robert Eyre\*, D. D. Fellow of the College near Winchester;” 4to.

If any apology were necessary for the scanty records of the typographical labours in this early period of our history, too good an excuse will be found for it in the fatal fire which consumed the office where they were produced, by which all original documents were lost. From other sources of information, however, the titles of some few books have been recovered.

Precibus publicis  
 (paucissimas ante mortem horas)  
 interfuit,  
 in Ecclesiâ vovens animam Deo  
 ad quem erat abiturus.  
 Obiit Aug. XII. anno { Dni MDCXCVIII,  
 ætatis suæ LXº.  
 Sub eodem marmore depositum est  
 corpus ANNÆ RICHARDI HARRIS Equitis  
 Aurati viduæ; quæ obiit 3 die Novembris,  
 ætatis 75, anno Domini 1720.”

\* Robert Eyre, of New College, Oxford; M. A. 1683; B. and D. D. 1697. He published a former Assize Sermon, “ The Nature and Satisfaction of a good and inoffensive Conscience, 1693,” 4to; and afterwards (being then a prebendary of Winchester) a Thirtieth of January Sermon, before the House of Commons, 1707-8, 4to.—It may be proper to distinguish him from another Dr. Robert Eyre, of All Souls' College, M. A. 1715; B. and D. D. 1735; and rector of Bucidand, Surrey, who published two single sermons in 1735 and 1738; as in Cook's “ Preacher's Assistant” they are supposed to be the same person.

1701.

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LITERARY ANECDOTES OF

[1700.

1701.

“Fifteen Sermons preached on several occasions, the last of which \* was never before printed, by the most reverend Father in God John [Sharp †],

\* Preached before the King, at St. James's, March 13, 1697-8.

† Dr. John Sharp, a native of Bradford in Yorkshire, was born Feb. 16, 1644; admitted of Christ's College, Cambridge, April 26, 1660; B. A. 1663; M. A. 1667; chaplain the same year to Sir Heneage Finch, attorney general; incorporated M. A. at Oxford 1669; archdeacon of Berks 1672; prebendary of Norwich 1675; and, in the same year, rector first of St. Bartholomew near the Royal Exchange, London, and then of St. Giles in the Fields; lecturer of St. Lawrence Jewry 1679; D. D. the same year; dean of Norwich 1681. He was afterwards chaplain to Charles II. and James II.; but, May 14, 1686, preaching warmly against Popery at St. Giles's, he was silenced by the King's order; and Bp. Compton was suspended from his office for not turning him out. By King William he was made dean of Canterbury, Sept. 29, 1689; archbishop of York, July 2, 1691. He preached the Sermon at the Coronation of Queen Anne, April 21, 1702; was sworn of the privy-council, March 20, 1702-3; and soon after was made Lord Almoner. Mackay, about this period, says, “He is one of the greatest ornaments of the Church of England, of great piety and learning; a black man, and 55 years old.”—The Archbishop had unpardonably offended Swift, by representing him as a person that was not a Christian; by which, it is supposed, he lost a bishoprick intended for him by Queen Anne. To this Swift thus alludes, in the Poem called “The Author upon himself, 1713:”

“York is from Lambeth sent, to shew the Queen  
A dangerous treatise writ against the spleen;  
Which, by the style, the matter, and the drift,  
’Tis thought could be the work of none but Swift.  
Poor York! the harmless tool of others' hate  
He sues for pardon, and repents too late.”

Dr. Sharp married, May 16, 1676, Elizabeth, youngest daughter of William Palmer, of Winthorpe, co. Lincoln, esq. by whom he had several sons, one of whom will be particularly noticed under the year 1730. He died at Bath, Feb. 2, 1713-14; and was buried in his cathedral at York, where a handsome monument to his memory is thus inscribed:

“M. S.

Reverendissimi in Christo Patris  
JOHANNIS SHARP, Archiepiscopi Eboracensis,  
qui  
honestis parentibus in hoc comitatu prognatus,  
Cantabrigiæ



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Lord Archbishop of York, Primate of England,  
and Metropolitan," 8vo.

Cantabrigiæ optimarum artium studiis innutritus,  
tum soli unde ortus,  
tum loci ubi institutus est, famam  
sui nominis celebritate adauxit.  
Ab Academiâ in donum illustrissimi Dom. Heneagii Finch,  
tunc temporis Attornati Generalis,  
summi postea Angliæ Cancellarii,  
virtutum omnium altricem fautricemque evocatus  
et sacellani ministerium diligenter absolvit,  
et sacerdotis dignitatem unâ sustinuit.  
Talis tantique viri patrocinio adjutus,  
et naturæ pariter ac doctrinæ dotibus plurimum commendatus,  
peracto ritè munerum Ecclesiasticorum cursu,  
cum Parochi, Archidiaconi, Decani officia  
summâ cum laude præstitisset,  
ob eximia erga Ecclesiam Anglicanam merita,  
quam iniquissimis temporibus, magno suo periculo,  
contra apertam Pontificiorum rabiem,  
argumentis invictissimis  
asservaverat, propugnauerat, stabiliverat,  
Apostolicæ simul veritatis præco, ac fortitudinis æmulus;  
faventibus Gulielmo ac Mariâ Regibus,  
plaudentibus bonis omnibus,  
ad Archiepiscopalis dignitatis fastigium tandem evectus est:  
nec hujusce tantum Provinciæ negotia satis ardua  
feliciter expediit,  
sed et Annæ Principum optimæ, tum à Consiliis, tum ab  
Eleemosynis fuit;  
quas utcunque amplas, utcunque diffuentes,  
ne quem forte inopum à se tristem dimitteret,  
de suis sæpenumerò facultatibus supplevit.  
Erat in sermone apertus, comis, affabilis,  
in concionibus profluens, ardens, nervosus,  
in explicandis Theologiæ Castriæ nodis  
dilucidus, argutus, promptus;  
in eximendis dubitantium scrupulis,  
utcunque naturæ bonitate ad leniores partes aliquanto propensior,  
æqui tamen rectique custos semper fidissimus:  
Primævâ morum simplicitate,  
inculpabili vitæ tenore,  
propensâ in calamitosos benignitate,  
diffusâ in universos benevolentia,  
studio in amicos perpetuo ac singulari,  
inter deterioris sæculi tenebras emicuit,  
purioris ævi lumina æquavit.  
Tam acri rerum cælestium desiderio flagrabat,  
ut his solis inhians, harum unicè avarus,  
terrenas omnes neglexerit, spreverit, conculcarit.

Eo

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LITERARY ANECDOTES OF

[1701.]

“ Historical Collections of the Life and Acts of  
the Right Reverend Father in God John Aylmer,

Eo erat erga Deum pietatis ardore,  
 ut illum totus adamaverit, spiraverit,  
 illum ubique præsentem,  
 illum semper intuentem,  
 animo suo ac ipsis fere oculis obversaverit.  
 Publicas hæc virtutes domesticis uberrimè cumulavit,  
 Maritus et Pater amantissimus ;  
 et à Conjuge Liberisque impensè dilectus,  
 qui, ne deesset etiam mortuo pietatis suæ testimonium,  
 hoc marmor ei mœrentes posuerunt.

Promotus ad

Archidiaconatum Bercheriensem, 20 Feb. 1672.

Canonicatum Norvicensem 26 Mart. 1675.

Rectoriam Sancti Bartholomæi 22 April. 1675.

Sancti Ægidii in Campis 3 Jan. 1675-6.

Decanatum Norvicensem 8 Julii 1681.

Cantuariensem 25 Nov. 1689.

Archiepiscopatum Eboracensem 5 Julii 1691.

Natus Bradfordiæ in hoc comitatu 16 Feb. 1644.

In Academiam cooptatus 26 April. 1660.

Gradus suscepit

Artium Baccalaurei 26 Dec. 1663 ;

Artium Magistri 9 Julii 1667 ;

Sanctæ Theologiæ Professoris 8 Julii 1679.

Bathoniæ mortuus, ætat. suæ 69, 2 Feb. 1713 ;

Sepultus eodem quo natus est die Feb. 16, 1713.”

Dr. Willis adds, “ To the account given of this eminent Prelate in his epitaph drawn up by Bp. Smalridge, whose knowledge of him, and integrity, will, as Mr. Le Neve observes, render every particular in it to be depended on, I shall only add, that he was a most excellent Governour, brought the prebendaries in his cathedral of York and Colleges of Southwell and Ripon to strict residence; and, that they might be the better disposed thereto, he made it his unalterable practice always to elect them out of such as lived in his diocese, and had recommended themselves by doing their duties in their respective parochial cures: by which means no Cathedral in England was better attended by Clergy, or the service more regularly performed, than at York; or the ministers of small livings, in any diocese, more encouraged to attend their charge; because this good bishop would reward their diligence by such compensations, more especially those in York city, on whose conduct the world had a more especial eye. Hoping his example would influence his successors to take the like course: which certainly if other Bishops had in like manner practised, the dignities of cathedrals would have been kept up as in the primitive times, and we should  
not