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978-1-108-07408-7 - Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century: Comprizing Biographical Memoirs of William Boywer, Printer, F.S.A., and Many of his Learned Friends: Volume 2

John Nichols

Excerpt

[More information](#)

(1)

LITERARY ANECDOTES

OF THE

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

ONE of the earliest publications from Mr. Bowyer's press in the year 1732 was,
 "Marmorum, Arundellianorum, Seldenianorum, aliorumque, Academiæ Oxoniensi donatorum *; unà

* "The antient marbles that form the most authentic history of Greece, collected by Thomas Howard, earl of Arundel, and given to this University by his grandson Henry Duke of Norfolk, were first illustrated with a learned comment, the year after they came over, by Selden.—Philip Earl of Arundel, father of the noble collector, was the greatest Antiquary in Europe, except Ferdinand de Medici. Persecuted by the intrigues of a jealous Court, to which his own father the great Duke of Norfolk had fallen a victim, he was preparing to retire from England, and indulge his only ambition, the study of polite literature. Elizabeth remanded him, and, not content with a heavy fine and imprisonment, had him tried for treason. Being unable to convict him of any thing but Popery, she left him to languish nine years in prison, where he sunk under her displeasure and his own austerity. Among the celebrated Libraries of the age in this kingdom his was the completest in the antiquarian way. His son Thomas inherited his spirit and taste, with better fortune. Too much of a patriot to be esteemed by James, too little of a parasite to cringe to his favourite, too honest and disinterested to have many friends in their parliament, he could not attain to the seals after the great Bacon, who drew his last breath in his house at Highgate. In Charles's first parliament he was instrumental to the establishment of the fundamental privileges of the peerage; and the King seems to have observed his father's conduct

VOL. II.

B

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Excerpt

[More information](#)

2

LITERARY ANECDOTES OF

[1732.

cum variis Commentariis et Indice; secunda Editio,"

duct towards him, advancing him to employments unimportant in themselves or in which he was not left free to act. After presiding with unimpeached impartiality at the trial of the favourite minister, as the storm of civil distractions gathered round, he retreated from a scene where moderation could not be heard, to pursue those studies to which he had always given the preference at home. The friend and patron of his late contemporaries, he introduced the elegance and arts of Greece and Rome into this angle of the world; superior to ambition, with abilities and revenues equal to its largest views. Clarendon, without intending him so much honour, has drawn in his character the picture of an independent English nobleman.—William Petty, afterwards knighted, whom the Earl sent into Asia in quest of antient monuments, bought these of a Turk, who took them from the agent of the famous Peiresk, who had paid fifty pieces of gold for them, and was afterwards thrown into prison, and cheated of them. Petty lost one ship-load of his collections, and narrowly saved himself. After the Earl retired to Italy, 1641, many of these curious monuments, which lay at Arundel house in the Strand, were stolen, or cut up by masons and worked into houses. Above 130, which was scarce half, surviving this calamity, Henry Howard, earl marshal, grandson to the noble collector, when he pulled down Arundel house, made a present of them to this University, at the instigation of John Evelyn, esq. of Baliol. They were ranged in the wall surrounding the court of the Theatre, marked with the initial letter of the donor's name, and a pillar erected with an inscription under his arms. Upon Selden's death, 1654, his executors added his collection of antiquities. Sir George Wheeler gave those he had collected, chiefly at Athens; and the University bought several other marbles of merchants who brought them over. Those parts of the Earl of Arundel's Collection which were not sent to Oxford were preserved at Tart hall, or Stafford house, near St. James's-park gate, by Buckingham house, where some of the statues were buried in the court-yard during Oates's plot. (See an account of their dispersion in Mr. Theobald's letter to Lord Willoughby, inserted in "Historical Anecdotes of the Howard family, by Charles Howard, 1769." 12mo.) Many very fine statues, &c. were removed to the bottom of the garden of Arundel house, and placed under a colonnade; in pulling down which, by the carelessness of the workmen employed to build the new streets thereabouts, many received much damage. Sir William Fermor, however, purchased the best of them. Those that were too much injured to deserve a place at Oxford or Easton-Nestor, near Towcester, Northamptonshire, the seat of the Earl of Pomfret, when the site of Arundel house was converted into a street, were begged by one Boyden Cuper, who had been servant in the family, and removed them to Cuper's gardens, where they were much abused. Here Aubrey lost sight of them; but when Dr. Rawlinson published his History of Surrey,

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Excerpt

[More information](#)

1732.] THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. 3

folio; which was begun in 1728, and contains

Surrey, he inserted, vol. V. p. 283, eight plates of beautiful fragments of statues and bas-reliefs (all which were copied in the "History of Lambeth, 1786)." Mr. Waller of Beaconsfield, and Mr. Freeman of Fawley, gave Cuper 75*l.* for them 1717, and divided them between them. Dr. Stukeley says, the antique statues at Thorp, near Peterborough, came out of the Arundel Collection. (Itin. Cur. I. 79.) The statue of a Roman senator, which in its mangled state shewed a fine drapery, and was lately in the garden at Somerset-house, is believed to have come out of this Collection.—The rest having been removed by the Duke of Norfolk to a piece of ground on the opposite side of the river, were, upon that ground being converted to a timber-yard and wharf, buried under the rubbish brought to raise it from the foundation of St. Paul's. Mr. Theobald's father, who held the yard 1712, digging foundations, turned up many fragments, which his son gave to Lord Burlington. A bas-relief stands under an obelisk at Chiswick. The late Lord Petre digging there afterwards found six trunks, some colossal statues, with fine drapery, which are now at Worksop. Mr. Theobald cut some blocks of grey marble, which had probably contained inscriptions, into slabs for his house, the Belvidere, at Lambeth; and made a piece of a column a roller for his country-house at Waltham, Berks. A colossus of Apollo, whose head is at Oxford, is said to lie under the houses in Arundel-street (Stukeley, Itin. I. 30); and I think I have somewhere read that an entire small obelisk is covered by the houses of one side of that street. Mr. Aislabie, who inhabited one of the new-built houses here, found a broken statue in his cellar, which he carried down to his seat at Studley Park in Yorkshire. The Society of Antiquaries have Dr. Milles's drawing of a sarcophagus, of white marble, belonging to Mr. Rogers, apothecary, of Howard-street, 1742. Theobald says this sarcophagus was in the cellar of Mr. James Adamson, who lived in the corner-house on the left hand going into the lower part of Norfolk-street, 1757.—The Earl endeavoured to procure the obelisk since erected in the Piazza Navona, and would have removed several other statues had not the Pope opposed it. (Evelyn's Numismata, p. 65.) Clarendon says he paid for them, but was not allowed to fetch them away. (I. 56.) The remaining curiosities lodged at Tart hall, afterwards Stafford house, were sold by auction about the year 1750; and there Dr. Mead bought his fine head of Homer, purchased at his sale for 136*l.* by Brownlow Earl of Exeter (uncle of the late Marquis), who repositied it in the British Museum.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Pictures	812	7	0
Prints	168	17	4
Draughts	299	4	7
Japan	698	11	0
Gilt, &c. plate	462	1	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Crystal vases	364	3	0

B 2

Agate

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John Nichols

Excerpt

[More information](#)

4 LITERARY ANECDOTES OF [1732.

175 sheets. This beautiful volume (of which only 300 copies were printed on a crown paper, and

Agate cups	163	16	0
Jewels, and other curiosities . . .	2467	7	10
Medals	50	10	6
Odd plate	170	6	7
Cabinets and china	1256	19	0
Houshold furniture	1199	3	0
Odd lots	738	13	2

8852 0 11‡

Society of Antiquaries Minutes.

Mr. Walpole (Anecd. III. 83), says Mr. West had the printed Catalogue (which was miserably drawn up) with the prices, and that the sale produced 6535*l.*

The rich collection of medals was gathered by Daniel Nisum (Evelyn, Numismata, p. 245). The cameos and intaglios were by Mary Duchess of Norfolk bequeathed to her second husband Sir John Germaine, whose widow having offered them to the British Museum for 10,000*l.* gave them to the present Duke of Marlborough. The Cupid and Psyche engraved by Bartolozzi, is in the first edition of Bryant's Antient Mythology, vol. I. The same gem was also engraved by Sherwin for the second edition of that work. Mr. Adam Martin shewed the Society of Antiquaries, 1752, two hundred wax impressions of gems and seals by the Earl of Arundel. Sir Andrew Fountain took an exact list and description of them all. (Society of Antiquaries Minutes.)—In Lord Onslow's grotto, at West Clandon, Surrey, is an Arundelian marble representing a tall person holding a scroll, and taking a shorter man by the hand, before a pillar surmounted by an image; behind the tall figure a horse's head, and two boys below. Inscription, Ο ΔΗΜΟΣ ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΟΝ ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΜΗΤΡΟΔΩΡΟΥ: supposed by Mr. Spence to be some jockey of Argos in Peloponnesus, admitted by a genius or officer to the freedom of the city. Mr. Webb gave the Society of Antiquaries a bad drawing of it by John Russel, 1758. This marble was engraved with Mr. Spence's account of it in the Gentleman's Magazine, April 1772, p. 176. Compare Prid. lxxvii. Mait. cxlii. Mar. Ox. cxlvi. Two reliefs in the latter (cxxxv. and cxxxviii.) have the horse's head, which is a funeral emblem, and the inscription is frequent there when the parties were buried or honoured with an epitaph at the public expence. Compare also a funeral monument in Count Caylus, tom. VI. pl. lxxiii. 1.—The statues belonging to the Pomfret Collection being part of the inheritance of the eldest branch of the family, since dukes of Norfolk, fell into the hands of the Duchess who was divorced 1699, and being by her sold to the last Earl of Pomfret's father, were some time preserved at his seat in Northamptonshire; but in 1755 given by the late Countess Dowager of Pomfret to this University. These, with the antient inscriptions collected by Sir George Wheeler, and Messrs. Dawkins, Bouverie, and Wood, during their travels, some of which Dr. Rawlinson bought out of Lord

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Excerpt

[More information](#)

1732.] THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. 5

six copies on a large writing medium*) was published by subscription †.

The history of this elegant volume is thus given in a contemporary Review; and was probably written by our learned Printer:

“The *Marmora Arundelliana* were first published by the great Selden in 1628 ‡. In the year 1676,

Lord Oxford's or Kemp's Collection, and various fragments of our own antiquities, have been all united together, and engraved by Millar, at the University's expence, in “*Marmora Oxoniensia*. Ox. 1763.” fol. a work the design of which will immortalize the University, the nation, and the age. The inscriptions are transcribed with great exactness, revised by Mr. Richard Chandler of Magdalen college, who prefixed an historical preface, and a short account of each with critical notes; and a copious index by Mr. Loveday, gentleman commoner of Magdalen.” Gough's *Anecdotes of British Topography*, vol. II. pp. 127—131.

* In a letter printed in vol. I. p. 191, Mr. Maittaire tells Lord Oxford that “he repents of having printed so many copies as 300, when 200 might have sufficed.”

† It appears by an advertisement, that 150 sheets were wrought off in August 1729; and that, though the work contained at least half as many more sheets as were at first proposed, the price to subscribers (which was two guineas and a half) was not increased. To others, it was raised to three guineas.

‡ “My copy of Selden has, ‘*Typis et Impensis Guilielmi Stanesbeii, MDCXXVIII.*’ Others have, ‘*Apud Joannem Billium, 1629.*’—In this Work Mr. Selden was assisted by R. James and Patrick Young, at the desire of Sir Robert Cotton. They began with the treaty between the Magnesians and Smyrneans to stand by Seleucus, whom all his subjects, except the last, had deserted, till his ill fortune brought them round again. Copies of this being soon solicited, Selden, to prevent the inaccuracy of transcribers, printed it with twenty-eight other Greek and ten Roman inscriptions (some of them his own) under the title of “*Marmora Arundelliana; sive saxa Græcè incisa ex venerandis prisæ orientis gloriæ ruderibus, auspiciis & impensis herois illustrissimi Thomæ comitis Arundellii & Surriæ, comitis marescalli Angliæ, pridem vindicata & in ædibus ejus hortisque cognominibus, ad Thamesis ripam, disposita. Accedunt inscriptiones aliquot veteris Latii ex locupletissimo ejusdem vetustatis thesauro selectæ; auctariolum item aliunde sumptum: publicavit & commentariolos adjecit Joannes Seldenus. I. C. Lond. 1629.*” 4to.—That a single edition of such curious matters, which too were rare then, should not be bought up greedily at home and abroad, doth no great honour to the taste and learning of times which we are apt to admire. There is certainly another edition in the third volume of the magnificent edition of his Works in 1726, perhaps without any additions, which is extraordinary,
as

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Excerpt

[More information](#)

the *Marmora Oxoniensia* came out, which, besides the Arundel Marbles, contained such as had been presented to the University by Mr. Selden and several other munificent benefactors. The learned Mr. Maittaire has now published a second edition of that work, which will doubtless be very acceptable to all the learned world, particularly to all lovers of antiquity; that gentleman's great abilities for such an undertaking, being universally known and acknowledged*. In this edition the reader will find first of all the Greek inscriptions, together with the Appendix, then the Latin, and afterwards four Hebrew, all in large capital letters. After this, there is the Greek text again in a less character, with a Latin translation by Selden, Prideaux, and Price, p. 1 to 99. In the next place, follow entire Dissertations or Comments of learned Men, all apart by themselves; as, 1. Selden's Commentaries, from p. 99 to 197. 2. Price's Notes on the third Marble, from p. 197 to 200. 3. Palmerius's Notes and Supplements to the first Marble, from p. 200 to 222. 4. Lydiat's † Annotations upon the same,

as one should think the learned author would keep improving his copy. This quarto edition is a poor mean blind one in 184 pages, including errata, &c. and by no means equal in typographical execution to the merit of the subject. *T. F.*"

* "This might be said by a complimenting Reviewer; but what can we think of an Editor that would not pay one single visit to them all together at Oxford?" *T. F.*

† "The upper part of the Parian Chronicle, containing forty-five lines, is supposed to be worked-up in repairing a chimney. Lydiat, while confined in the King's Bench for a debt of suretyship for his brother, wrote annotations on this Chronicle, which were first published by Prideaux. Wood says, he criticized severely on Selden's remarks; and, instead of calling him a most judicious author, only styled him an *industrious* one, which Selden was weak enough to resent so highly, as to refuse to contribute towards his release. *Athen. Ox. II. 89.* This seems to be a piece of mere tittle-tattle; for in the printed notes, p. 13, he calls him *industrius et eruditus amicus noster Seldenus*. This stone should have been engraved in the *Marmora Oxoniensia*, like the *Marmor Sandvicense*. This copy has some faults, besides not giving the true idea of the length of the gaps, or the true position of the letters on the stone in more than one single line,

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Excerpt

[More information](#)

1732.] THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. 7

from p. 222 to 295. 5. Marsham's Commentaries on the fifty-eight first Epochas of the same Marble, from p. 295 to 309. 6. Prideaux's perpetual Commentary on the Marbles, from p. 309 to 509. 7. Some Notes of Reinesius upon the Marbles, from p. 509 to 524. 8. Sponius's Notes on some of the Marbles, from p. 524 to 527. 9. Chishull's Notes on the third Marble, from p. 527 to 532. 10. Corrections from Smith's Epistle concerning the Seven Churches of Asia, from p. 532 to 533. 11. Other Corrections from Bentley's Dissertation on Phalaris's Epistles, from p. 533 to 540. 12. Maffei's Translation of the first and second Marbles into Italian, with Notes, from p. 540 to 549. Lastly, Dodwell's Chronological Tables on the first Marble, from p. 549 to 553.

“ After such various comments by so many learned men, our Editor thinks he might very well have put an end to the work here, and been excused from any farther trouble ; but, having engaged himself by promise in his proposal, he has given us some conjectures and remarks of his own, as well upon the comments of those learned men before mentioned, as upon the Marbles themselves, from p. 553 to 605. Besides which, he has added a very copious Index*, both of Things and Words, with short notes frequently interspersed, from p. 605 to 667.

“ As to the order in which the Marbles are placed in this edition, our Editor has not thought it necessary to keep to the same that was observed in the Oxford edition, where they were placed according to the order in which they stood in their repository near the Theatre; but, since they have been removed from thence to a more commodious place, he judges it best to come, as near as possible, to the method used by Selden, Gruter, and others, who have shewed their skill

line, which alone happens to be perfect, as Palmerius complained long ago.” *Gough's British Topography*, vol. II. p. 129.

* On Mr. Maittaire's talent at index-making see the “ *Essays and Illustrations*” in vol. IV. N^o XV.

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John Nichols

Excerpt

[More information](#)

8

LITERARY ANECDOTES OF [1732.

and dexterity in recovering and adjusting curiosities of this kind. Our Editor farther informs us, that both in the Greek and Latin Marbles, where there are statues or figures, either with or without inscriptions, they are all placed last: and those statues and figures are engraved anew, with the addition of two that were before omitted*.”

In return for a copy of this work, Mr. Bowyer received the following letter from Mr. Clarke :

“ I thank you much for my copy of the Oxford Marbles ; I am pleased with it, and believe there is no great danger of a new impression†. Mr. Maittaire ‡ has shewn a great deal of modesty and diligence, as well as learning, in the work ; I do not see how such a heap of Commentaries can be otherwise disposed of than in the manner he has placed them §. There is a note, at the bottom of the first page of his Preface, that I was a little in doubt about. He tells you that Colomesius in the year 1665 had heard of a larger || Commentary of

* Present State of Republick of Letters, vol. IX. p. 139.

† “ Yet there has been a new impression, though without notes, by Dr. Chandler. An anonymous writer (Gent. Mag. vol. LXIX. p. 297), in a liberal epistle on the Arundel collection, expresses a wish that the University would give a facsimile of the Parian marble ; which was also the wish of that old soldier and good Grecian, Jac. Palmerius à Grentemesnil, who published an excellent philological work in 1668, containing notes and corrections on thirty capital Greek authors (reckoning the Arundel Marbles as one) in about 800 quarto pages ; his first work, when he was 80 years old, and had been a soldier from 20, till disabled by age and the stone. His own short preface is worth reading, and perhaps reprinting. I cannot help observing, that 30 or 40 years ago this book sold for 4s. and that now it generally goes for 2s. To be sure, later editions of several of these authors have, so far as they have gone, lowered the value of our truly honest Critic ; but as, like the Sibyls’ leaves, there is enough in conscience still left for the money, I am apt to think that these studies are fallen one eighth in price : I wish they may have taken a better turn.” *T. F.* 1782.

‡ Of whom see the Essays and Illustrations in vol. IV. No. XV.

§ They might have been disposed of in the manner of the Variorum edition of the Classicks. *T. F.*

|| It is not improbable but that Selden himself might have enlarged his Commentary. *T. F.*

Selden’s,

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Excerpt

[More information](#)

1732.] THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. 9

Selden's *, and seen one of M. de Grentemesnil †, &c. then adds at last, *Nulla autem illius Commentarii*, which is ambiguous ‡, though to be sure he means Selden's. Every reader does not know immediately that M. de Grentemesnil is the gentleman that follows at No. 3 §.”

Among other books printed in this year were,

“Apparatus ad Linguam Græcam, ordine novo ac facili digestus, &c. Auctore Georgio Thompson, E. A. P. || Scholæque Grammaticæ apud Tottenham Altæ Crucis Magistro.”

“Sermons and Discourses on Practical Subjects, never before printed. By Robert Moss, D. D. late Dean of Ely, and Preacher to the Honourable So-

* “A person was employed to prepare a new edition of Selden's Commentary, which had been found very incorrect, and to insert the additional marbles. This being delayed three years, Bishop Fell employed Prideaux; who published them under the title of ‘Marmora Oxoniensia, ex Arundellianis, Seldenianis, aliisque conflata; recensuit, et perpetuo commentario explicavit, Humphridus Prideaux, ædis Christi alumnus, appositis ad eorum nonnulla Seldeni et Lydiati annotationibus. Accessit Sertorii Ursati Patavini de notis Romanorum commentariis. Oxon. 1676,” folio. Many inscriptions in Selden's book, which never got to Oxford, were thrown with others into an appendix. This book growing scarce, Mr. Pearce of Edmund Hall undertook in 1721 to reprint it, with leave of the author, now advanced in years; who recommended it to him to correct the many errors occasioned by his own youth and the hurry of the press; but, on his declining this, Dr. David Wilkins undertook it in 1726, intending to add the Pomfret and Pembroke collections. Maittaire performed the first part of the design in 1732, inserting the conjectures and corrections of various learned men; but never once consulted the marbles themselves, and totally omitted Wheler's monuments.” *British Topography*, vol. II. p. 131.—“Corsini's excellent account of the Greek Siglæ would now make a much more suitable and interesting Supplement.” *T. F.*

† Or, as he is called in p. 8, *Palnerius*, by which name he is most commonly known. *T. F.*

‡ Dr. Taylor had pointed out to me Maittaire's ambiguous language. *T. F.*

§ Mr. Clarke to Mr. Bowyer, July 14, 1733.

|| *i. e.* Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ Presbytero. He was assisted by Mr. Morland, Master of St. Paul's, Mr. Thomas Pilgrim, Greek Professor at Cambridge, Professor Ward, Dr. Patrick, and Dr. Samuel Clarke.

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John Nichols

Excerpt

[More information](#)

10

LITERARY ANECDOTES OF

[1732.

ciety of Gray's Inn. Published from the Originals, at the Request of the Society, with a Preface, giving some Account of the Author, by a learned Hand;" 4 vols. 8vo.

A variety of Miscellanies by Dean Swift*; which involved Mr. Bowyer in a dispute with Mr. Pope,

* The copy-right of a considerable number of Dr. Swift's fugitive essays were conveyed to Mr. Bowyer, for a valuable consideration, by the Rev. Mr. Pilkington, to whom they had been given by the Dean; as appears by some of Mr. Pilkington's letters to Mr. Bowyer, in the collection of Swift's Works: "I have sent you some of the pamphlets I promised, in as large a parcel as I could venture," says Mr. Pilkington in one of those letters, dated Aug. 28, 1732.—"The Dean has, with his own hands, made some alterations in some of them. I will, by next post, or next but one, send you another pamphlet at least, and a new assignment from the Dean. He received a letter from Mr. Pope and Mr. Motte; but neither have been of the least disadvantage to my request. I cannot say but I am proud of the firmness of his friendship to me."—Mr. Pope appears to have had an intention of publishing a second collection of Miscellanies by Dr. Swift; who tells him, "As to those papers of four or five years past, that you are pleased to require soon, they consist of little accidental things written in the country, family amusements, never intended farther than to divert ourselves, and some neighbours: or some effects of anger on public grievances here, which would be insignificant out of this kingdom. Two or three of us had a fancy, three years ago, to write a weekly paper, and call it an *Intelligencer*. But it continued not long; for the whole volume (it was reprinted in London, and, I find, you have seen it) was the work only of two, myself and Dr. Sheridan. If we could have got some ingenious young man to have been the manager, who should have published all that might be sent to him, it might have continued longer, for there were hints enough. But the Printer here could not afford such a young man one farthing for his trouble, the sale being so small, and the price one half-penny; and so it dropt. In the volume you saw (to answer your questions), the 1, 3, 5, 7, were mine. Of the 8th I writ only the verses (very uncorrect, but against a fellow we all hated); the 9th mine, the 10th only the verses, and of those, not the four last slovenly lines; the 15th is a pamphlet of mine, printed before with Dr. Sheridan's Preface, merely for laziness not to disappoint the Town; and so was the 19th, which contains only a parcel of facts relating purely to the miseries of Ireland, and wholly useless and unentertaining. As to the other things of mine since I left you; there are in prose, *A View of the State of Ireland*; *a Project for eating Children*; and *A Defence of Lord Carteret*: in verse, *A Libel on Dr. Delany and Lord Carteret*; *A Letter to Dr. Delany on the Libels writ against*