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LITERARY ANECDOTES

OF THE

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

1786.

"Historical, Monumental, and Genealogical Collections relative to the County of Gloucester; printed from the original Papers of the late Ralph Bigland*, Esq. Garter Principal King of Arms. No. I. Containing the Parishes of Abbenhall, Abston and Wick, Acton Iron, Acton Turville, Adlestrop and Alderton †," Folio.

* Of whom see before, vol. VIII. p. 713.

† "This modest work, which professes to be little more than a Collection of Monumental Inscriptions, and 'rather an History of the Inhabitants of Gloucestershire than of the Shire itself,' was begun, about 30 years ago, by the late Ralph Bigland, Esq. principally to obtain information relative to his profession. was not till he found the Collections increase on his hands, and had been repeatedly solicited by his friends in that his native County, that he entertained thoughts of offering them to the This was to have been done in a new Edition of Sir Roger Atkyns's 'Antient and Present State of Gloucestershire;' but the business of the College of Arms beginning at that time to increase, and Mr. Herbert having in the mean time reprinted Atkyns, and Mr. Rudder having formed a new History of the County; the Publick have been deprived of the benefit of such an excellent design, and obliged to content themselves with very meagre compilations of others, to which the present work can only serve as an Appendix, in the article of Epitaphs-Parish Registers-Incumbents-and a few short notes at the head of each Parish. These are embellished with Plates of many Churches, drawn and engraved by that ingenious artist Mr. Thomas Bonnor." Mr. Gough, in Gent. Mag. vol. LVI. p. 1062. Vol. IX. " The



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"The Persian Heroine. A Tragedy *. By Richard-Paul Jodrell, Esq." 8vo. and 4to.

* "This original composition is introduced by a Preface, which might be justly denominated 'The Lamentation of an Author;' who, having sinned against the majesty of the Managers of Drury Lane Theatre, and suffered under their sentence (which, it seems, is as irrevocable as the Laws of the Medes and Persians), appeals from it to the great tribunal of the Publick. 'The Public Reader must therefore now decide on the merits of this Tragedy; and to that tribunal, having first guarded the property by Law,' [entered in Stationers Hall,] 'the Author appeals with confidence.' We heartily wish his hope deferred may not make his heart sick; and that, since there is in London no Temple of Apollo, wherein 'eminent characters decide on the merits of poetical candidates,' as at Rome; nor private rehearsal before the company and the Author himself, as in France; he may find himself at least reimbursed the expence of Printing by this appeal; which is not from the caprice or political discretion of a Lord Chamberlain, or the monus expurgatoria of a Licenser of Stage Plays, but from some unknown Critic and Judge, concealed behind the shield of Linley and Harris, and perhaps afraid of a challenge in this fighting We wish a more impartial verdict may pass in the open court, but confess our recollection of very few instances in which such appeals have produced the desired effect. It is storied that the Paradise Lost first emerged from under a minced-pie-such obscure beginnings of reputation has true genius. If every disappointed Author publishes an offering to his own vanity, the world would not contain the books that should be printed, nor would it prove a meat or a drink offering to the Compositor or Bookseller.—The Play before us is followed by a learned Commentary, justifying the Author's strict adherence to the manners of the times, or excusing his variations, in 68 instances, the contents of which remind us of the contents of Sir Thomas Browne's Vulgar Errors."—Mr. Gough, in Gent. Mag. vol. LVI. p. 586.

"This Tragedy is introduced to us by a Preface, in which the Author, who is well known in the literary world, exhibits a complaint against the Managers of Drury-Lane Theatre. To this no answer has been given; and the charge, while it remains unrefuted, must be considered as founded in truth. The substance of Mr. Jodrell's accusation is this:—He sent a printed copy of his Play, by Mr. Nichols, to Drury-Lane, in September 1784, in the Author's name, requesting the attention of the Manager to a new Production. On the 15th of October following, the Piece was returned to Mr. Nichols, being rejected for that season, and probably for ever. It appeared that this was a very hasty decision, no more than 17 pages being cut open, and of course nothing read beyond the fourth scene of the second Act. In the month of December following, the Author expostulated with Dr. Ford, who seemed to think that the injured have no right to

complain



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"A Supplement to the Fifth Edition of Collins's Peerage of England*: containing a general Account

complain: he said, that, the Theatre being private property, the owners have a right to judge in the way most convenient to themselves. Mr. Jodrell, after this, condescended to put his Tragedy into the hands of Mr. Linley, one of the Proprietors of the Theatre, but with no better success. In May 1785, The Persian Heroine was finally returned, as unfit for representation. We are further told, that Mr. Harris, the Manager of Covent Garden Theatre, was also of opinion that the Play was unworthy of acceptance: but against this gentleman there were no circumstances of illiberal behaviour; he only differed from the Author. By the Drury-Lane Managers Mr. Jodrell thinks he was slighted; and he concludes with wishing that the Theatre, as a National concern, were under proper regulation, and not left to the discretion of men who consider it as a mere warehouse, which they have purchased, and where they may, with English liberty, do as they like.—Such is the complaint of Mr. Jodrell.—We shall not enter further into the dispute, than to observe, that, for the honour of letters and the encouragement of genius, it were much to be wished that Managers may at all times recollect, that they are stationed at the head of a branch of Literature which has done honour to this Country, and may make further additions, if gentlemen and scholars are sure of meeting with liberal treatment. Mr. Garrick (notwithstanding some objections that have been made to his management) has left to his successors a model for their imitation: If he accepted a Play, by his friendly criticisms the Piece was often made better; if he rejected it, he convinced the Author, by giving his reasons, that he had read the Piece; and for his decisions he held himself accountable to the Publick. If the Managers of Drury-Lane cannot imitate Mr. Garrick in the former part of his conduct, it is surely in their power to atone for natural deficiencies, by that civility which is due to learning and genius." Monthly Review, vol. LXXV. p. 54.

Richard-Paul Jodrell, Esq. the respectable Author of this Tragedy, is a gentleman of great erudition, as is evident by his excellent Commentaries on Euripides. He is also a very useful and exemplary Magistrate, and highly esteemed in private life.—He is brother to Sir Paul Jodrell, M. D. Physician to the Nabob of Arcot; for whom, from similarity of name, and from both being Dramatic Writers, he has been sometimes mistaken.—Henry Jodrell, Esq. (a Commissioner of Bankrupts, many years Recorder of Great Yarmouth, M. P. for that town 1796; and for Bramber in 1804, 6, and 7) who died March 11, 1814, was another brother.

* "A Work of this nature requires great industry and application, and a particular talent for that species of minute investigation which an accurate Genealogist ought to possess.—With these qualifications, Mr. Longmate appears to be endowed in a very considerable degree; and the present work is an eminent proof of it." Monthly Review, vol. LXXV. p. 285.

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Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-07415-5 - Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century: Comprizing
Biographical Memoirs of William Boywer, Printer, F.S.A., and Many of his
Learned Friends: Volume 9
John Nichols
Excerpt
More information

LITERARY ANECDOTES

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of the Marriages, Births, Promotions, Deaths, &c. which have occurred in each Family, from that Publication in the year 1779 to the present Time. Also an Account of those Families which have been advanced to the English Peerage, whether by Descent or Creation, since that Period*. With their Paternal Coats of Arms, &c. on 34 Copperplates. By B. Longmate & Editor of Collins," 8vo.

* "This 'Supplemental Volume' should have been earlier noticed. The greater part of it was printed in April 1784, and the conclusion of it in the September of that year. In the Preface the Editor says, "In acknowledgment of the many favours received from several of the Nobility, I have, at their particular desire, been some time collecting materials for publishing 'The Extinct Peerage of England,' to consist of genealogical and historical accounts of all those families which have formerly possessed the dignity of Peerage, but have now lost that privilege, by failure of issue-male, attainder, &c. If any Nobleman, or Gentleman, who may be in possession of original deeds and pedigrees, or other authentic particulars of any of those families, will be pleased to permit me to peruse them for this undertaking, they may be assured they will be carefully used and safely returned."

† Mr. Barak Longmate was an Engraver of eminence; particularly in the Heraldic line, a study to which he had devoted his attention in early life, and in which he had acquired a distinguished proficiency. He published a very good Edition of "Collins's Peerage, 1779," S vols. 8vo.; the above Supplemental Volume in 1784; and compiled, in 1789, a Genealogical History of the antient Family of O'Sullivan More (of which hereafter); and died July 23, 1793, in the 56th year of his age. His remains, attended by a few friends desirous of shewing him the last tribute of respect, were deposited, on the 27th, in the lower-burial ground of St. Mary-le-Bon, with those of Elizabeth his wife, who died in 1781, and of his father and mother (Barak and Elizabeth), all inhabitants of St. James's, Westminster. He left behind him a copy of his "Peerage" prepared for a new Edition, which continues in the possession of his son, Barak, who is also an heraldic engraver. He also left an unblemished character; and his loss was lamented by a circle extending far beyond the sphere of his immediate relatives. His small but select Library, comprehending a curious Collection of Books on Heraldry, County History, Antiquities, &c. with a great number of MS Corrections, Additions, and Notes, by his own very neat and accurate hand; and a large Collection of Heraldic MSS. collated or written by himself, many of them with the Arms emblazoned, Monumental Inscriptions, Visitations of Counties, Pedigrees, &c. &c.) was sold by Messrs. Leigh and Sotheby, March 6 and 7, 1794; and produced only 2351. 9s. 9d.; not a fourth part of what the persuasive oratory of Mr.

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"Liber Regis; vel, Thesaurus Rerum Ecclesiasticarum. By John Bacon*, Esq. Receiver of the First Fruits †. With an Appendix, containing proper Directions and Precedents relating to Presentations, Institutions, Inductions, Dispensations, &c. and a complete Alphabetical Index ‡." 4to.

Leigh would in the present times have extracted from the liberal purses of true-hearted Bibliomaniacs.

* Many years Senior Clerk and Receiver in the Office of First Fruits; and Treasurer of the Anniversary of the Sons of the Clergy. In these prominent public departments, Mr. Bacon's general habits of business and frankness of disposition have long rendered him universally known and respected. He was elected F. S. A. in 1774; and, at an advanced period of life, is enjoying robust health at his Tusculum in Friam Barnet, where he is Lord of an extensive domain, most honourably acquired.

† "This useful compilation is formed on the foundation of ' Ecton's Thesaurus,' which it nearly doubles in quantity, greatly exceeds in accuracy, and almost wholly supersedes."-Gent. Mag. LVI.498.—The Work was originally published in Svo 1718, by John Ecton, Receiver-general of the Clergy's Tenths, under the title of "Liber Valorum & Decimarum, &c.;" republished 1723 and 1728, 8vo.; and again, under the title of "Thesaurus Rerum Ecclesiasticarum, &c. 1742, and 1754," 4to. Afourth Edition, "wherein the appropriations, dedications, and patronages of churches have been revised, corrected, and placed in regular order under their respective Archdeaconries, with numerous additions, by Browne Willis, LLD. to which is added a complete alphabetical index," came out in 1763, 4to.-Mr. Ecton published also, "The State of the Proceedings of the Corporation of Governors of the Bounty of Queen Anne, for the Augmentation of the Maintenance of the poor Clergy, giving a particular Account of their Constitution, Benefactions, and Augmentations, with Directions to such as desire to become Benefactors to so Pious and Charitable a Work. The second Edition, with a continuation to Christmas, 1720. London 1721." 8vo. These Accounts have since been more than once presented to the Publick, under the authenticated shape of "Reports" to the House of Commons.

† Mr. Bacon's Preface received some animadversions in Gent. Mag. vol. LVI. pp. 939, 1027: and in vol. LVII. the late Dr. John Loveday (under the assumed name of Vindex) observes, "It is somewhat remarkable, that 'John Bacon, Esq.' should, in the Preface to his 'Liber Regis,' transcribe verbatim, from that prefixt to 'Thesaurus Rerum Ecclesiasticarum,' Lond. 1742, and not so much as once mention the name of 'John Ecten, Esq.' which appears in the title-page of the said 'Thesaurus.' By this omission one might be led to imagine that his publication of last year was an entirely new and original Work; the title-page representing

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"Catalogue of a small Library at St. Petersburg," printed for the Rev. Dr. John Glen-King. 8vo.

senting it as 'printed for the Author.' That it is an improvement of Ecton, there can be no doubt; though there can be no doubt likewise, that it seems to be an unexampled specimen of the grossest plagiarism. How is such conduct to be accounted for? It is also to be remarked, that the omissions and corrections, added by Ecton to his Work [edit. 1742, in pages 783-784], have not been accurately attended to. The List of Benefactions to Livings augmented by the Bounty of Queen Anne, &c. which immediately follow Ecton's Preface, is not admitted by Mr. Bacon. A Correspondent in p. 1027, col. 2, of your last volume, asserts that Browne Willis was the Author of this Preface. But of this some doubt may be entertained; as, in the Edition of 1742, 'the Editors' acknowledge their obligations 'to that learned and communicative Antiquary." [In a Letter to Mr. North, Oct. 20, 1741, Mr. Willis tells him, "We have preserved near half the Valor, and the Dedications are bravely recovered in most Counties; in about 30 Counties, not 20 Dedications are wanting in each County."] Another Correspondent observes, "Mr. Bacon may be excused, perhaps, for having altered the title, and put his own name only to it; because he had the same right as others to publish from the original MS. to which he has access by his Office. But surely he should, in a Preface, have acknowledged his obligations to former Editors, whose additions and improvements he has throughout, and very properly, copied. He should likewise have told us what he himself has done, and not have sent the book into the world without a syllable of explanation.—Mr. Bacon has added many short notes of payments to and from livings, quantity of glebes, and nature of tithes, which might, if they are to be depended upon, be very useful to Clergymen, to maintain their rights, or recover their property: but that utility is lost, because we are not told upon what authority they are founded. same may be said of the present value of livings, which is likewise frequently inserted. This, indeed, if it were accurately ascertained, would not long continue the same. Livings are perpetually altering in value from various accidents. But for some time at least it might be useful; and it would certainly be pleasant to know what degree of credit is due to it, and how it was obtained. On the whole, I think that Mr. Bacon ought yet to publish, if it were but a single page of Preface, to give such necessary information as is usually given by Editors, which would add to the value of his book, and is indeed due in part to his own reputation. The list of benefactions, I suppose, was omitted because it would have swelled the volume, which has already grown, it must be confessed, to a greater size than is convenient. Yet it might, perhaps, be of some use to know what livings have been augmented; and it would not have taken

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"The Triumph of Benevolence; a Poem; occasioned by the National Design of erecting a Monument to John Howard, Esq.* The Second Edi-

up much room to have added the letters aug. in the body of the Work, to such as have received the Bounty."

Having at the time consulted Mr. Bacon on the subject, I took the liberty, in his name, to add the following explanation: "It may be necessary to refer to the second paragraph in the Preface to Mr. Bacon's book, where he says, 'In order that the nature and efficacy of these Returns, taken upon the eve of the Reformation, might be more clearly understood, he has prefixed the King's commission, with his instructions to the Com-missioners for the taking of the Survey; and has made these original Returns, and the Liber Regis, his constant guide for the value.'-The first foundation for the taking of the Survey, to which Mr. Bacon alludes, is well known to the Clergy to have been an Act of Parliament, 26 Henry VIII; and in pursuance of that Act the Commissions and Instructions, which he recites, were issued; and the Returns regularly made, as required, into his Majesty's then Exchequer, and are now remaining with the Officers of the Revenue of First Fruits. Those, he informs us, were his guide for the values; i. e. all such additions as may be supposed to make a part of that value, viz. glebe-lands, tithes, &c. and which, as well as the whole of the references to the particulars of Monasteries, &c. appear clearly to be added as directions to the original records. And it is equally well known to the Clergy, that the information respecting the patronage of livings, and the certified values of livings, proceeds from their Lordships the Bishops, who, to writs of enquiry, make returns, annually, or oftener if necessary, under their hands and seals, into that Office, of all such matters as have arisen, agreeable to the tenor of the writ, within a limited time. Mr. Bacon, no doubt, thought himself justified in adopting the whole Preface; but it would, in our opinion, have been as well, had he given his intentions of the publication in a separate Advertisement, and then the Preface as in the Editions of Ecton; not but that it may be justly deemed an official record, the original MS, being supposed to be there lodged, and may, in that case, have descended to Mr. Bacon, not only officially, but lineally and lawfully."

These particulars may not be unacceptable to my Clerical Readers; more especially as the "Liber Regis" is now become a scarce book, and a new Edition of it extremely desireable.—The Rev. John Smith, rector of Bredon in Worcestershire, made large additions to Ecton, which are now in the hands of his son in law, the Rev. Thomas M'Culloch, Rector of Wormley.

* "Among those who are earnest to demonstrate their zeal in a righteeus cause (says the Author of this exquisite little Poem, to the Committee then earnestly engaged in a plan for erecting

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tion. Corrected and enlarged. To which are added, Stanzas on the Death of Jonas Hanway, Esq." 4to.*

"Sepulchral Monuments in Great Britain, papplied to illustrate the History of Families, Manners, Habits, and Arts, at the different Periods from the Norman Conquest to the Seventeenth Century, with Introductory Observations. Part I. containing the Four first Centuries. [By Mr. Gough.] Folio.

"Nenia Britannica; or, an Account of some hundred Sepulchres of the antient Inhabitants of Britain. In Numbers . By the Rev. James Douglas, F. S. A." Folio.

"The Captives, a Tragedy ||, by Dr. Delap." 8vo.

a Statue in honour of Mr. Howard), shall not the Muse be suffered to approach the Shrine of Howard with an offering? The wreath she brings has been woven with animated haste; but it is a sincere testimony of her love, and as such will be received.

Your purpose, Gentlemen, being widely to circulate whatever may promote this truly virtuous design, if you should imagine the following Stanzas would assist the cause, they are at your disposal, to be made public in any way you may think proper." On this subject see Gent. Mag. vol. LVI. pp. 681, 783, 882.

* This excellent Poem, which passed through several Editions, was the anonymous production of Mr. S. J. Pratt; well known by his numerous publications on subjects of philanthropy.

† his numerous publications on subjects of philanthropy. † Of this splendid publication see vol. VI. pp. 285, 295.

- ‡ "As this is a singular Work, peculiarly adapted to illustrate the early part of the History of England, and of great importance to the Antiquary, we have deviated a little from our plan, for the purpose of announcing to our Readers (especially those who admire the study of Antiquity) a publication which will afford both pleasure and profit. The Author has opened several antient tunuli, or sepulchres, in which are found, deposited with the dead, according to the custom of the times, a variety of instruments of war, culinary or domestic utensils, rings, gems, coins, &c. These, and every circumstance relative to the tombs, are particularly described, and the tombs themselves, with all their contents, are represented in aquatinta plates, which are admirably adapted for conveying an accurate idea of antique relics. Mr. Douglas proposes to complete this curious performance in twelve numbers, each of which will contain three plates, the Author's own etching, and the written description of what they represent." Monthly Review, vol. LXXVI. p. 77.
 - § The work was completed in one handsome volume.

|| This Tragedy was the production of the Rev. Dr. John Delap, of Magdalen College, Cambridge; B. A. 1746; M. A. 1750;

D.D.



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"A Plan of Coalition * and Alliance with the Unitarian Church." 8vo.

"A Fragment on Shakspeare †, extracted from Advice to a Young Poet,' by the Rev. Martin Sherlock ‡. Translated from the French." 8vo.

"On the Incarnation; Preached at Newington in Surrey, Dec. 25, 1785. By the Rev. Samuel Horsley, LL. D. F. R. S. Archdeacon of St. Alban's." 4to.

" Novum Testamentum Græcum, è Codice MS. Alexandrino &, qui Londini in Bibliothecâ Mu-

D. D. 1762; Vicar of the united Churches of Iford and Kingston, Suffolk, 1765; and Rector of Wollavington, in that County, 1774.—Dr. Delap published six other Tragedies; 1 "Hecuba, 1762;" 2. "The Royal Suppliants, 1781;" 3. "Gunilda, 1786;" 4. "The Usurper, 1803;" 5. "Matilda, 1803;" 6. Abdalla, 1803." He was also the Author of a small Collection of "Elegies," 1760, 4to; in which he very feelingly laments the want of health.—"Mundi perpetuus Administrator Christus; Concio ad Clerum, habita Cantabrigiæ, in Templo Beatæ Mariæ, Aprilis 12mo, 1762, pro Gradu Doctoratûs in Sacra Theologia, 1762;" and of "An Elegy on the Death of his Grace the Duke of Rutland, 1788," 4to.

* "The Writer ridicules, with some wit and humour, the plans and plots of Dr. Priestley against the Established Church; and, as a mean of avoiding the danger which threatens it, he proposes to give up to the Doctor, and his Socinians, a church, with its portion of tithes, in every town. Such is the plan of the book, in which are interspersed many acute remarks. It is written with considerable ingenuity. We think, however, that Reason and Argument are much fitter weapons for religious controversy than Ridicule and Wit." Gent. Mag. vol. LVI. p. 418.

troversy than Ridicule and Wit." Gent. Mag. vol. LVI. p. 418.

† "The French Pamphlet, from which this Fragment is translated, is itself a translation from the Italian. The 'physiognomy of the Author's style' has been caught also by the English Translator." Ibid. p. 779.

‡ Of whom see memoirs in vol. VIII. p. 67.

§ "We congratulate the Christian world on the publication of this truly valuable work, which, while it bears the most unequivocal testimony to the learning and industry of the Editor, confers distinguished honour on our age and country. The work itself not being an object of criticism, we can only say in general, that it possesses every internal mark of fidelity." M. R. LXVI. 545.

"The Alexandrine MS. (as it is called) of the Old and New Testament had been accurately examined by Patrick Young, Keeper of the King's Library, as soon as it was placed there. He communicated

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sei Britannici asservatur, descriptum à Carolo Go-

nicated its various readings to Archbishop Usher, Grotius, and other learned men; and had formed a design of printing the whole, in fac-simile types, of which, in 1643, he printed a specimen, containing the first chapter of Genesis, with notes, and left behind him scholia as far as to the fifteenth chapter of Num-The intrinsic merit of this ancient MS. of the Scriptures, and its preference to that in the Vatican, had been fully esta-blished by the learned Dr. Grabe, when he published from it the Octateuch, in 4 vols. folio and octavo, 1707, 1709, 1719, Among his papers were found, after his death, the Alexandrian texts of the New Testament, and of Saint Clement's Epistles, with notes by Young, who assumed the name of Junius. But he never discovered his design of printing them, and so completing the edition of the whole MS. lest he should prejudice the sale of his friend Dr. Mill's New Testament, as Dr. Hickes assures It was reserved, therefore, for the industry and application of Dr. Woide, one of the Librarians to the British Museum, to rescue this valuable MS. from the fate which befel a MS. of the Septuagint in the Cottonian Library, of equal antiquity, type, and value, and of which a very few fragments escaped the fire in 1733, by adopting the fac-simile mode of publication, which, from the great expence attending it, has unfortunately been adopted in so few instances *. The abilities of Mr. Joseph Jackson, letter-founder, were equal to the expressing, by types, the transcript made by Dr. Woide's own hand +, which he twice carefully collated with the original; and from Mr. John Nichols's # press has now issued, at nine months' end, this curious work, to which a numerous and respectable list of subscribers § have prefixed their attestation. The learned Editor introduces his work by a Latin Preface ||, containing, in seven sections, the history, description, age, merit, and style of the MS. his motives for undertaking, and his manner of conducting, this edition.-

* Only the Acts of the Apostles, in Greek and Latin, in a Boilleian Ms. published by Hearne, Oxford, 1715, and two fragments of the Four Gospels at Wolfenbuttel, by Knittel.

† In which he was assisted by Dr. John Butler, at that time Bishop of Oxford, who had obtained leave to have the MS. itself at his house in

London, but was prevented by the duties of his Diocese. Mr. Harper also, of the British Museum, kindly went over the collation with him.

1. To whom Dr. Woide pays a compliment in his preface, p. xxx.

3. Near 450, at 21. 2s. the set for the common paper, and 51. 5s. for the fine paper copies, of which only 25 were printed. Ten copies were taken off on vellum; but of these no more than six had the notes and off on vellum; but of these no more than six had the notes and illustrations. See a more particular account of the destination of these ten copies in Gent. Mag. LXIX. 47.

|| Dr. Woide's Preface, with the whole of his various readings, was republished at Leipsic, in 1790, in an 8vo volume of 476 pages, under the title of "Caroli Godofredi Woidii, Notitia Codicis Alexandinni, cum variis ejus Lectionibus omnibus. Recudendum curavit, Notasque adjecit, M. Gottlieb Leberecht Spohn."

History