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978-1-108-07415-5 - *Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century: Comprising Biographical Memoirs of William Boywer, Printer, F.S.A., and Many of his Learned Friends: Volume 9*

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In this nine-volume work, published between 1812 and 1815, the author and publisher John Nichols (1745–1826) provides biographical notes on publishers, writers and artists of the eighteenth century, and also gives ‘an incidental view of the progress and advancement of literature in this kingdom during the last century’. (A shorter version had been published in 1782.) His subjects range from the publisher William Bowyer to Henry Fielding and Horace Walpole, and also include histories of individual publishing houses and of genres such as lexicography. The work remains a useful source of biographical material on authors and publishers at a period when many of the literary genres we take for granted, such as the novel, the autobiography and the analytical history, were first being developed. Volume 9 contains anecdotes of Erasmus Darwin and John Wilkes, among many others, with additional material on the subjects of the earlier volumes.

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Frontmatter

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VOLUME 9

JOHN NICHOLS



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Learned Friends: Volume 9

John Nichols

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

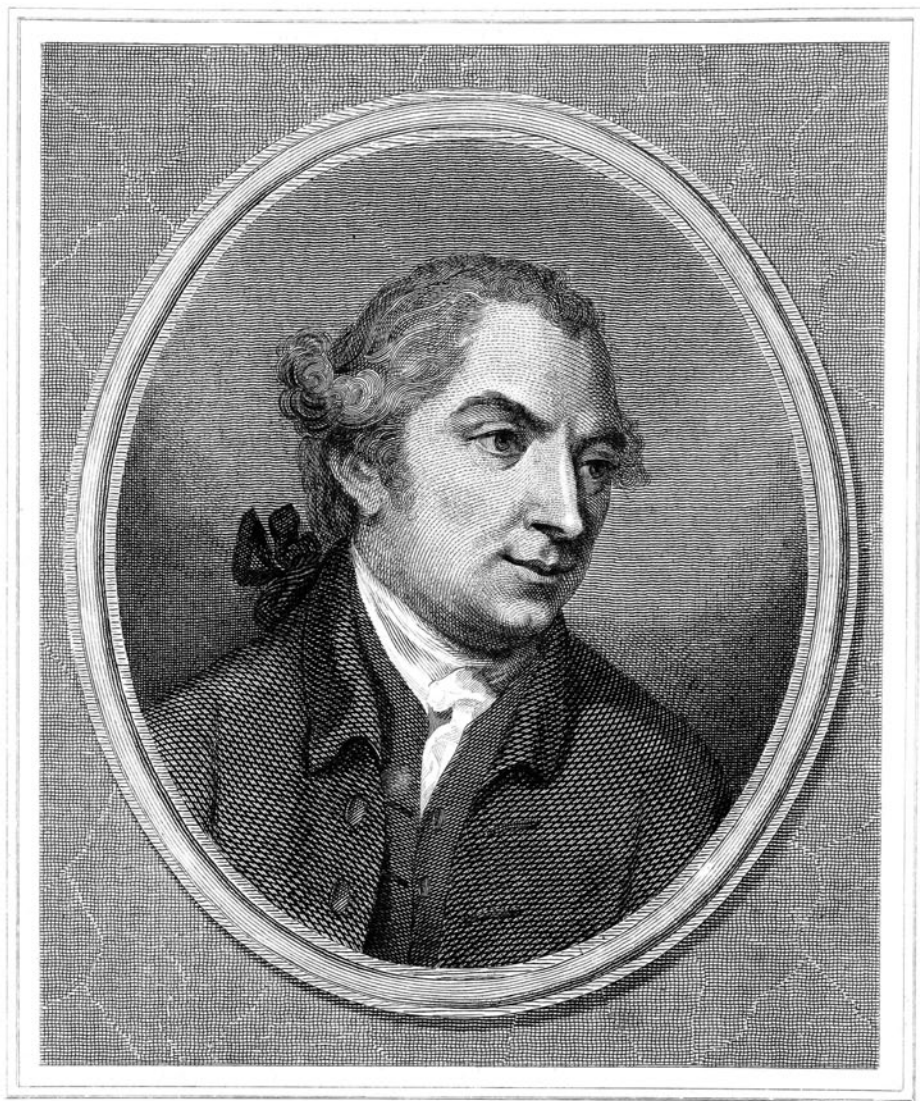
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Frontmatter

[More information](#)



*James Basire*  
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Biographical Memoirs of William Bowyer, Printer, F.S.A., and Many of his  
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John Nichols

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

LITERARY ANECDOTES  
OF THE  
EIGHTEENTH CENTURY:  
COMPRIZING  
*Biographical Memoirs*  
OF  
WILLIAM BOWYER, PRINTER, F. S. A.  
AND MANY OF HIS LEARNED FRIENDS;  
AN INCIDENTAL VIEW  
OF THE PROGRESS AND ADVANCEMENT OF LITERATURE  
IN THIS KINGDOM DURING THE LAST CENTURY;  
AND  
BIOGRAPHICAL ANECDOTES  
OF A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF  
EMINENT WRITERS AND INGENIOUS ARTISTS.  
BY JOHN NICHOLS, F. S. A.

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VOLUME IX.

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John Nichols

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---



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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

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

( iii )

## ADVERTISEMENT.

THE NINTH Volume of “Literary Anecdotes” is presented to the Publick, with a confidence arising from the extraordinary indulgence with which the former Volumes have been received. Nothing but that reception could have induced me to persevere in researches attended with anxious solicitude and considerable personal labour\*.

In June 1812, I had relinquished every idea of extending this Work beyond the period included in the Sixth Volume†; and, with such views, had actually compiled and printed several sheets. But I soon perceived the absolute necessity of extending my plan; the INDEX alone, which was completed in May 1813, having grown to a moderate-sized Volume.

The materials indeed for continuing the Work, many of them communicated by Scholars of distinguished eminence, were so numerous, that an *Eighth* Volume was almost imperceptibly completed by St. George’s-day 1814. And now, with the sincerest respect and gratitude, I proceed to

\* See the progress of such an undertaking, vol. III. p. 297.

† See the Preface to vol. I. p. xiii.

redeem

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

iv

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redeem the pledge which I then gave, by offering to my indulgent Readers the Conclusion of a Work in which their patience has had no small trial—not without the hope, in many cases the certainty, that they have been rewarded by useful information.

On the imperfection arising from the want of regular arrangement, I shall only observe, that such a Book could not very easily have been otherwise produced. It is not a regular History—it is not a Romantic Tale—nor a Work of Fancy—which a Writer might amuse himself by refining, till he frittered away his own ideas. It is a Mine of literary materials, whence future Biographers and Historians will readily and unsparingly collect what may suit their several purposes. Should my Representatives, at any future period, be inclined to publish a new Edition (a task which I shall never myself think of attempting), the whole is now before them; and my corrected copy will facilitate their labour. A regular arrangement (and certainly some compression) might then be properly adopted.

Of smaller errors, several have arisen from the articles themselves (the Letters particularly) not having been originally written for the Press. These I have carefully endeavoured to point out and amend; and, in general, have availed myself of every hint that has been suggested, either by the various Periodical Criticks, or by a host of intelligent Correspondents, of whom the greater part have been duly noticed in former Prefaces.

Here,

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John Nichols

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## ADVERTISEMENT.

v

Here, however, I must repeat the respectable names of JAMES BINDLEY, Esq.; the Hon. Mr. JUSTICE HARDINGE; GEORGE ALLAN, Esq. M. P.; the Rev. WILLIAM BELOE; JAMES BROWN, Esq.; Mr. A. CHALMERS; the Rev. RALPH CHURTON, B. D. Archdeacon of St. David's; JAMES DOWLAND, Esq.; and of *the late* Rev. EDWARD JONES (see p. 760): And am proud to add some of the brightest Ornaments of Literature, by whose personal friendship I have very long been honoured—the truly benevolent Dr. THOMAS BURGESS, Lord Bishop of St. DAVID'S; the enlightened and profoundly-learned Dr. SAMUEL PARR; the kind-hearted and energetic Dr. RENNELL, Dean of Winchester, and Master of the Temple; the Rev. JOSEPH HOLDEN POTT, B. D. Archdeacon of London; the Rev. ROBERT NARES, B. D. Archdeacon of Stafford; and the Rev. WILLIAM TOOKE, F. R. S.

I am happy also to acknowledge the valuable contributions of Mr. JOHN BELL, of Newcastle; JOSEPH BRADNEY, Esq.; JOHN BURDON, Esq.; the Rev. WEEDEN BUTLER, Junior; the Rev. THOMAS CROMPTON; the Rev. CHARLES DUNSTER; DAVID JENNINGS, Esq.; the Rev. AULAY MACAULAY; the Rev. THOMAS M<sup>c</sup>CULLOCH; EDWARD ROBERTS, Esq.; the Rev. JOHN FLEMING ST. JOHN; the Rev. PETER SANDIFORD; the Rev. Dr. GEORGE STRAHAN; THOMAS STREET, Esq.; ROBERT SURTEES, Esq.; and Mr. A. J. VALPY.

To

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John Nichols

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

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To Mr. JAMES BASIRE (whose modest worth, even in his boyish days, secured my hearty esteem) I am indebted for a Portrait of his Father; whose animated features I felicitate myself in thus having first been the medium of introducing to the Publick.

I have also to thank my skilful and invariable Friend Dr. LETTSOM, for Portraits of Mr. PETER COLLINSON, Dr. CUMING, and Dr. FOTHERGILL; and am greatly obliged to Mr. H. ROGERS for the striking resemblance of Mr. HOLT.

A copious INDEX to the EIGHTH and NINTH Volumes, by the attentive and unwearied diligence of the young Friend to whom I was obliged for the former Index, is in great forwardness; and will be so arranged in the printing, as to form a Second Part of the Seventh Volume. The List of Additional Subscribers, as far as they are come to hand, shall then be given.

I have now fulfilled my engagement; but do not feel myself precluded from offering to the Publick (should health and leisure permit) another Work, arising out of, and immediately connected with, the "Literary Anecdotes;" but so far distinct, that no Purchaser of the one will be under the obligation, unless with his full and free consent, to possess the other. For such a publication, I have already abundant resources, of a nature far superior to any production of my own; and part of it is actually in the press.

*Highbury Place, August 8, 1815.*

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John Nichols

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

( vii )

## COPIOUS CONTENTS

OF THE

## NINTH VOLUME;

Supplying, in Part, the Place of an INDEX.

	Page
Anecdotes of Rd. Bigland, Esq. and History of Gloucestershire	1
Richard-Paul Jodrell, Esq. . . . .	3
Mr. Barak Longmate . . . . .	4
John Bacon, Esq. . . . .	5
The Publication of Ecton's Thesaurus . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. John Delap, D. D. . . . .	8
The Alexandrian New Testament . . . . .	9
Rev. Charles Godfrey Woide, D. D. . . . .	11
Mr. James Nelson . . . . .	14
The Right Hon. Samuel Birch, Lord Mayor. . . . .	16
Rev. Pierre François Le Courayer, D. D. . . . .	17
Mr. John Holt . . . . .	19
Sir John Prestwich, Bart. . . . .	23
William Boys, Esq. . . . .	25
Mr. Henry Headley . . . . .	28
Benjamin Moseley, M. D. . . . .	30
Leonard Welsted, and his Works . . . . .	32
Mr. Hawkins's <i>Ignoramus</i> . . . . .	35
Mr. Joseph Welch . . . . .	38
Rev. William Agutter, M. A. . . . .	39
The Mangel-Wurzel Root . . . . .	40
Mr. Henry-Francis Cary . . . . .	42
The Cholnley Family . . . . .	43
Mr. Jonas Dryander . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Queen Elizabeth's Progresses . . . . .	44
Rev. Robert-Pool Finch, D. D. . . . .	46
Thomas Finch, Esq. . . . .	48
Richard-Joseph Sullivan, Esq. . . . .	51
Rev. Samuel Ayscough . . . . .	54
Mr. Thomas Fairchild . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. John Taylor, of Market Bosworth, LL. D. . . . .	58
Rev. Samuel Hayes, M. A. . . . .	59
Josiah Dornford, Esq. LL. D. . . . .	66
Sir David Dalrymple, Lord Hailes . . . . .	67
The "Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica" . . . . .	71
Rev. Jos. Holden Pott, B. D. Archdeacon of London . . . . .	73
Sir Clifton Wintringham, Bart. . . . .	75
Erasmus Darwin, M. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Anecdotes	

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

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

## CONTENTS.

	Page
Anecdotes of The Rev. Thomas Monro, M. A. . . . .	77
Rev. George Travis, M. A. Archdeacon of Chester	78
Mr. Richard Porson's Letters to Travis . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Aulay Macaulay, M. A. . . . .	83
Mr. John Throsby . . . . .	87
Rev. William Beloe, M. A. . . . .	94
Sir William De la Pole, Bart. . . . .	96
Mr. Benjamin Bartlett . . . . .	97
William Hutton, Esq. . . . .	98
King Richard's Well . . . . .	107
Michael Dodson, Esq. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. John Sturges, LL. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Charles Sturges, M. A. . . . .	109
Rev. Thomas Sturges, M. A. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Charles Sturges, Junior, B. A. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Granger's Letters, published by J. P. Malcolm	111
Rev. Charles-Edward De Coetlogon, M. A. . . . .	113
Richard Payne Knight, Esq. . . . .	115
Mr. Joseph Reed . . . . .	116
Mr. John-Watson Reed. . . . .	118
"Rights of Boys and Girls". . . . .	120
Rev. Oliver St. John Cooper, M. A. . . . .	121
David Jennings, Esq. . . . .	123
Rev. Nathanael Lardner, D. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. William Vincent, D. D. Dean of Westminster	126
Rev. Samuel Glasse, D. D. . . . .	131
Rev. John Wooll, D. D. . . . .	135
Rev. Henry Sanders, B. A. . . . .	137
Mr. Zachariah Cozens . . . . .	143
James Stuart, Esq. . . . .	57, 143
Nicholas Revett, Esq. . . . .	147
Mr. Willey Reveley . . . . .	148
John Sherwen, M. D. . . . .	150
Mr. Thomas Emerson . . . . .	152
Right Rev. Dr. B. E. Sparke, Bishop of Ely . .	154
Joseph Palmer, Esq. of Palmerstown . . . .	140, 155
Henry Swinburne, Esq. . . . .	157
The Widow of Capt. John Parker . . . . .	158
Right Rev. Dr. R. Courtenay, Bishop of Exeter	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. William Tooke, F. R. S. . . . .	159
Rev. Thomas Tooke, D. D. . . . .	165
William Hawes, M. D. . . . .	180
Rev. Samuel-Edward Hopkinson, B. D. . .	53, 183
Progress of the "Biographia Britannica" . . . .	184
Rev. William-Hayward Roberts, D. D. . . . .	187
Rev. William Roberts, B. A. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Samuel Parr, LL. D. . . . .	107, 189
Rev. William Bell, D. D. . . . .	193
Edward Ironside, Esq. . . . .	194
William Murray Earl of Mansfield . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
	Anecdotes

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

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS.

	ix
	Page
<b>Anecdotes of John Holliday, Esq.</b> . . . . .	195
Rev. George Gregory, D. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. John Warner, D. D. . . . .	199
Rev. Thomas-Sackville Curteis, LL. B. . . . .	201
Rev. James Cowe, M. A. . . . .	202
Rev. Stebbing Shaw, B. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Thomas Gilbert, Esq. . . . .	203
Rev. Archer Thompson, M. A. . . . .	204
Rev. Seth Thompson, M. A. . . . .	205
William Allen, Esq. Master of Dulwich College . . . . .	206
Rev. William Tasker. . . . .	208
Sir Samuel-Egerton Brydges, Bart. K. J. M. P. . . . .	209
Anthony Fothergill, M. D. . . . .	211
Right Rev. Dr. John Milner [ <i>Bishop of Centurion</i> ] . . . . .	215
Bp. Atterbury's "Epistolary Correspondence". . . . .	216
Rev. Rogers Ruding, B. D. . . . .	218
Henry Ellis, Esq. Sec. A. S. . . . .	220
John-Coakley Lettsom, M. D. . . . .	40, 186, 220
Rev. Robert Hoadly-Ashe, D. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Weeden Butler . . . . .	223
Rev. George Butler, D. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Weeden Butler, Junior, M. A. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Richard Harrison, M. A. . . . .	226
Rev. Richard Harrison, Junior, M. A. . . . .	227
Rev. Thomas Langley, B. A. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. George-Henry Glasse, M. A. . . . .	132, 229
Mr. William Hayes, the Ornithologist. . . . .	229
Robert Mylne, Esq. . . . .	232
Rev. George Robson, M. A. . . . .	233
Rev. Charles Dunster, M. A. . . . .	236
Rev. Kennet Gibson, B. A. . . . .	237
Rev. Daniel Bayley, B. D. . . . .	238
Mr. John Beaumont. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
The Literary Fund . . . . .	240
William Boscawen, Esq. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
William-Thomas Fitz-Gerald, Esq. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Hon. and Right Rev. Dr. Richard Trevor, Bishop of Durham . . . . .	241
Rev. Nathaniel Forster, D. D. . . . .	289
The Family of Tindal . . . . .	302
Archbishop Herring and Dr. Ducarel . . . . .	305
Rev. Henry Hall, M. A. . . . .	313
The Marmor Sandvicense. . . . .	325
Rev. Roger Pickering . . . . .	329
John Montagu, fourth Earl of Sandwich . . . . .	337
Hierom-Bartholomew Piazza . . . . .	338
James Six, Esq. . . . .	348
Mr. James Six, Junior . . . . .	349
Rev. Cox Macro, D. D. . . . .	359
Rev. Thomas Macro, D. D. . . . .	360
	Anecdotes

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

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## x

## CONTENTS.

	Page
Anecdotes of Mr. Thomas Christie . . . . .	65, 366
Rev. William Cole, B. D. . . . .	391
Rev. James and Thomas Bentham . . . . .	396
David Hume, Esq. . . . .	400
The Famil of Thicknesse . . . . .	251, 403
Original Letters of Rev. William Stukeley, M. D . . . . .	408
— of Mr. Thomas Martin . . . . .	413
Rev. Thomas Morres, D. D. . . . .	430
Rev. Thomas Pyle . . . . .	433
Rev. Edmund Pyle, D. D. . . . .	440
Rev. Thomas and Philip Pyle . . . . .	444
John Wilkes, Esq. Alderman and Chamberlain . . . . .	453
Family of Hodges . . . . .	481
Rev. James Bedford, B. D. . . . .	492
Rev. Charles Wheatley, M. A. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. William Newton . . . . .	484
Thomas Short, M. D. . . . .	485
Rev. Thomas Rennell, M. A. Rector of Barnack . . . . .	486
Rev. John Skynner, B. D. . . . .	487
Rt. Rev. Dr. J. Hinchcliffe, Bp. of Peterborough . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. James Hervey, M. A. . . . .	488
Sir John Thorold, Bart. . . . .	489
Sir William Keate, Bart. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Peter-Thomas Burford, LL. D. . . . .	490
Rev. William Butts, M. A. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Mr. Adam Anderson . . . . .	491
Rev. John Savage, D. D. . . . .	492
Thomas Mulso, Esq. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Philip Morant, M. A. . . . .	493
Right Hon. Edward Weston . . . . .	494
Mr. William Riley . . . . .	495
Robert Palmer, Esq. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
George Keate, Esq. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
David Ruhnkenius . . . . .	496
Archbishop Markham's eldest Son . . . . .	497
Mr. Thomas Carte . . . . .	498
Rev. Henry Heaton, B. D. . . . .	499
John Ryland, Esq. . . . .	500
William-Cumberland Cruikshank, Esq. . . . .	502
Judge Hale, Dr T. Sandford, and Bp. Hayter . . . . .	504, 505
Roger Lort, Esq. . . . .	506
Elizabeth Countess of Marchmont . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Henry Hubbard, B. D. . . . .	507
Christopher Myers, Esq. . . . .	508
Anthony Morris Storer, Esq. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Robert Nares, M. A. Archdeacon of Stafford . . . . .	510
Professor Edward Waring, M. D. . . . .	511
Monsieur Renè La Butte . . . . .	512
Rev. Thomas Edwards, D. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. William Law, M. A. . . . .	516
	Anecdotes



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

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS.

	xi
	Page
Anecdotes of Right Rev. Dr Chr. Wilson, Bishop of Bristol	519
James Macpherson, Esq. . . . .	524
Alexander Hunter, M. D. . . . .	525
Hon. Caroline Howe. . . . .	527
Rev Richard Wynne, M. A. . . . .	531
John Ellis, Esq. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Governor Henry Ellis . . . . .	533
Mr. B. T. Pouncey. . . . .	534
Abbé William-Thomas Raynal . . . . .	535
Gulielmus Burgainæus . . . . .	537
Abel Moysey, M. D. . . . .	538
Captain Robert Rivington . . . . .	539
Robert Raikes, Esq. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Haviland-John Hiley, M. A. . . . .	543
Anthony Addington, M. D. . . . .	544
Rev. John Spicer, M. A. . . . .	545
Rev. Robert Plot, LL. D. . . . .	547
Mr. Francis Eginton . . . . .	549
Thomas Newcombe, Esq. . . . .	551
Mr. Evan Tyler. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Mr. William Herbert and Mr. Trench Chiswell	552
Nathanael Chauncy, Esq. . . . .	553
Family of Hiorne . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Philip Laurents, M. A. . . . .	554
Right Hon Charles-Wolfran Cornwall . . . . .	555
Cornwall Tathwell, M. D. . . . .	556
Rev. George Lynch, M. A. . . . .	558
Rev. Matthew Horbery, D. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Henry Barton and Mr. William Hudson . . . . .	565
Rev. Charles Hawtrey, M. A. . . . .	569
Rev. Benjamin Blayney, D. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Right Rev. Dr. John Randolph, Bp. of London	570
Mr. Orion Adams . . . . .	572
Mr. Thomas Aris . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Henry Baldwin, Esq. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Henry Vansittart, Esq. . . . .	573
Rev. Thomas Richardson, D. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Hon. and Rev. Richard Hill, LL. D. . . . .	576
Rev. William Barford, D. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Edward Harwood, D. D. . . . .	577
Rev. William Salisbury, B. D. . . . .	581
Rev. John Gooch, D. D. . . . .	582
Rev. Thomas D'Oyley, D. D. and his Sons . . . . .	583
Right Rev. Dr. Richard Terrick, Bp. of London	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. John Laurence, M. A. . . . .	584
Walter Titley, Esq. . . . .	585
Rev. Thomas Harmer . . . . .	586
Rev. Jas. Ibbetson, D. D. Archdeacon of St. Alban's	587
William Cuming, M. D. . . . .	588
Sir Thomas Raymond . . . . .	590
	Anecdotes

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

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

## CONTENTS.

	Page
<b>Anecdotes of Mr. James Ralph</b> . . . . .	590
Madam Jane Nicholas . . . . .	592
John Freind, M. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Hon. Charles Montagu . . . . .	593
Mrs. Montagu . . . . .	594
Rev. Robert Masters, B. D. . . . .	596
Rev. Thomas Baker, M. A. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Timothy Cutler, D. D. . . . .	597
Rev. Thomas Whincop and Samuel Wesley. . . . .	602
Dr. Simon Episcopius . . . . .	603
Sir Andrew Fountaine . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Mr. Joseph Ames and Mr. Thomas Martin . . . . .	604
Joseph Gulston, Esq. . . . .	605
Messenger Mounsey, M. D. . . . .	607
Rev. Dr. Morton Savage . . . . .	609
Rev. Samuel Chandler, D. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Samuel Knight, M. A. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Mr. Thomas Martin . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Richard Bentley, D. D. . . . .	323, 611
Bishop More's Library . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Josiah Wedgwood, Esq. . . . .	613
Cromwell Mortimer, M. D. . . . .	615
Rev. George North, M. A. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Richard Rawlinson, LL. D. . . . .	617
Peter Desmaiseaux. . . . .	619
Robert Taylor, M. D. . . . .	620
Thomas Coventry, Esq. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Elizabeth Lady Mansfield . . . . .	626
Alexander Cruden . . . . .	628
Anna Seward's Letters . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Edward Southcote . . . . .	629
Rev. William Cooke, D. D. Dean of Ely. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. John Free, D. D. . . . .	631
Rev. Humphry Say, B. D. . . . .	635
Rev. Andrew Snape, D. D. . . . .	636
Generals Lambert and Rossiter . . . . .	637
Joseph Banks, Esq. . . . .	638
Rev. James Benson, B. A. Vicar of Croyland . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Samuel Smith, LL. D. . . . .	639
Rev. John-Theophilus Desaguliers, LL. D. . . . .	640
Hon. Sir Charles Frederick, K. B. . . . .	641
Samson Gideon, Esq. . . . .	642
Rev. Roger Long, D. D. . . . .	643
Mr. Edward Strong . . . . .	644
Mr. Anthony Oldfield . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Mr. John Warburton. . . . .	645
Mr. Madox's Collection of Public Records. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Captain Peacock's Medal . . . . .	646
Rev. John Husbands, of Pembroke College . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Joseph Warton, D. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
	<b>Anecdotes</b>

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

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.		xiii
		Page
Anecdotes of Rev. Thomas Iles, D. D. . . . .		647
John and Joseph Merrill, Esqrs. . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
Samuel Pegge, Esq. . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. John Cott, M. A. . . . .		648
Rev. Benjamin Forster, B. D. . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
Thomas-Furley Forster, Esq. . . . .		650
Sir Richard Hoare's Topographical Catalogue . . . . .		651
Rev. John Brand, B. A. . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
Owen Salusbury Brereton, Esq. . . . .		653
Joseph Cooper Walker, Esq. . . . .		654
Rev. Thomas Falconer, and his Strabo . . . . .		655
Thomas Sandby, Esq. . . . .		656
Mr. Robert Barnevelt . . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
James West, Esq. . . . .		657
Bishop Kennett's Book of Common Prayer . . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Samuel Nicolls, D. D. . . . .		658
Rev. William Parker, D. D. . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
John Loveday, Esq. D. C. L. . . . .		660
Thomas Hollis, Esq. . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
Andrew Coltee Ducarel, D. C. L. . . . .		661
Rev. John Hutchins, M. A. . . . .		662
Oliver Goldsmith, LL. D. . . . .		665
Mr. James Dodsley . . . . .		666
Mr. Thomas Payne . . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Clayton Mordaunt Cracherode, M. A. . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. George Sandby, D. D. . . . .		667
Rev. William Weston, B. D. . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
"The Academick" . . . . .		668
Hon. and Right Rev. Brownlow North, LL. D. . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
Lord Bishop of Winchester . . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
Mr. Thomas Gainsborough . . . . .		669
Edward Burnaby-Greene, Esq. . . . .		670
Hon. John Scott . . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
Mr. Samuel Clarke . . . . .		671
Mr. James Essex . . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
The Duke de Nivernois . . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Stephen Barrett. . . . .		672
The Family of Aubert . . . . .		673
Hon. and Right Rev. Dr. James Yorke, . . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
Bishop of Ely . . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Samuel Henley, D. D. . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
"History of the Caliph Vathek" . . . . .		674
The Family of Mudge . . . . .		675
James Vere, Esq. . . . .		677
The Abbé Mann . . . . .		678
Rev. Dr. A. Burnaby, Archdeacon of Leicester . . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
Dr. Johnson's Letter to Dr. Leland . . . . .		680
Samuel Barker, Esq. . . . .		<i>ibid.</i>
James Boswell, Esq. . . . .		681
Rev. George Ashby, B. D. . . . .		608, 683
		Anecdotes

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

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xiv

## CONTENTS.

	Page
Anecdotes of The Archæological Epistle .....	685
Samuel Musgrave, M. D. ....	<i>ibid.</i>
Joseph Ritson, Esq. ....	686
Sir John and Lady Fenn .....	<i>ibid.</i>
Right Rev. Dr. R. Watson, Bishop of Landaff .....	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Stephen Weston, B. D. ....	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Humphry Sumner, D. D. ....	687
Robert Glynn Cloberry, M. D. ....	<i>ibid.</i>
The Seatonian Prize Poems .....	688
Rev. Charles Godwyn, B. D. ....	689
Martin Lister, M. D. and Dr. Christopher Hunter .....	690
Mr. John Spearman .....	691
Mr. Robert Harrison .....	692
Family of Archbishop Sharp .....	<i>ibid.</i>
Dr. Richard Grey's Four Daughters .....	693
Thomas Dawson, M. D. ....	694
Rev. Robert Plumptre, B. D. ....	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Thomas Robinson, M. A. ....	695
The Chevalier John Taylor, M. D. ....	696
Family of Bosville .....	697
Rev. John Hind, D. D. ....	698
Rev. Thomas Wray, D. D. ....	<i>ibid.</i>
Right Rev. Dr. John Warren, Bishop of Bangor .....	699
Edward Long, Esq. ....	<i>ibid.</i>
Samuel Jeake, Esq. ....	700
Mr. Anthony Robinson .....	<i>ibid.</i>
Thomas Thackeray, D. D. ....	701
Sir William Browne, Knt. M. D. ....	702
Messieurs Mount and Page, Stationers .....	705
Mrs. Elizabeth Baldwin .....	<i>ibid.</i>
Andrew Strahan, Esq. M. P. ....	<i>ibid.</i>
Sir W. Domville, Bart. Alderman of London ..	706
Mr. Alderman Christopher Magnay .....	<i>ibid.</i>
Family of Patten .....	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Philip Lloyd, D. D. Dean of Norwich ..	707
Mr. Samuel Buckley .....	708
Robert Hoblyn, Esq. ....	709
Daniel Tainturier, Esq. ....	710
Periodical Publications .....	<i>ibid.</i>
Jacob Bryant, Esq. ....	714
Rev. William Greene .....	716
Particulars of Mr. Gray .....	717
Mr. Gough and Mr. Tyson .....	718
Rev. Francis Dixon, B. D. ....	720
Matthew Prior, Esq. ....	<i>ibid.</i>
Mr. Samuel-Jackson Pratt .....	8, 722
Count Charles de Revicksky .....	724
Rev. James Scott, D. D. ....	125, 724
Rev. Tho. Rennell, D. D. Dean of Winchester ..	152, 729
Bishop-Stortford Free Grammar School ..	165, 730
	Anecdotes

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

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS.

xv

	Page
<b>Anecdotes of Dr. Cogan's Literary Productions</b> . . . . .	<b>732</b>
Mrs. Eliza Berkeley . . . . .	733
H. W. Tytler, M. D. . . . .	198, 735
Rev. R. Churton, M. A. Archdeacon of St. David's	736
Mr. Purver's Bible. . . . .	739
Rev. Richard Harrison, M. A. . . . .	227, 741
Henry-James Pye, Esq. . . . .	742
Provostship of King's College; Trinity College	743
Rev. Dr. Joseph Butler, Bishop of Durham . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Jonathan Butler, LL. B. . . . .	744
Mr. T. Ratcliffe, and Dean Moss's Sermons . . . . .	745
Rev. John Cooke, M. A. and Lord Sandwich . . . . .	746
Rev. Thomas Gough, LL. B. . . . .	747
Letter of Rev. William Cole. . . . .	748
Rev. Edward Lye, M. A. . . . .	751
Samuel Martin, Esq. . . . .	753
Thomas Tyrwhitt, Esq. . . . .	528, 756
Rev. Richard Valpy, D. D. . . . .	757
Mr. T. Fisher's History of Rochester . . . . .	759
Sir Lionel Lyde, Bart. . . . .	761
Rev. Edward Jones, M. A. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Henry Hare third Lord Coleraine . . . . .	610, 762
Rev. Martin Stafford Smith, B. D. . . . .	627, 763
Peter Shaw, M. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
William Lewis, M. D. . . . .	764
Rev. Jn. Jones, M. A.; and his Son, a Navy Chaplain	765
Rev. John Wheeldon, M. A. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Charles Ashton, B. D. . . . .	766
Miss Catharine Talbot . . . . .	647, 766
Rev. John Harris, D. D. . . . .	769
William King, of the Commons, LL. D. . . . .	776
The Family of Bowles . . . . .	780
"Linguarum Septentrionalium Thesaurus". . . . .	781
Rev. Marjus D'Assigney, B. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Richard Walter, M. A. . . . .	782
Thomas Nevile, Esq. . . . .	783
Morris Drake Morris, Esq. . . . .	784
John Hoadly, D. D. . . . .	785
Rev. Thomas Brookes, M. A. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. F. Blackburne, Archdeacon of Richmond	<i>ibid.</i>
Paul Wright, D. D. . . . .	786
Abraham Farley, Esq. . . . .	787
Dr. Heathcote and Sir M. Hale . . . . .	788
Thomas Morell, D. D. . . . .	789
Edw. Husbands, Esq. and Jas. Husbands, D. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Henry Barton, D. D. . . . .	790
William Creech, Esq. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Thomas Crofts, Esq. . . . .	792
Edward Wortley Montagu, Esq. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Mr. Robert Ainsworth . . . . .	798
	<b>Anecdotes</b>

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

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xvi

## CONTENTS.

	Page
Anecdotes of Rev. John Cock, D. D. . . . . .	608, 799
Sir Peter Thompson . . . . .	799
Henry and Francis Coventry . . . . .	801
Ralph Allen, Esq. and Bp. Warburton. . . . .	621, 802
George Steevens, Esq. . . . .	650, 784, 803
Rev. Sir Richard Kaye, Bart. LL. D. . . . .	804
Reminiscences of Dr. Johnson . . . . .	777, 805
Rev. John Calder, D. D. . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Dr. Backhouse, Archdeacon of Canterbury	807
Rev. Peter Newcome, LL. B. . . . .	134, 808
The Bedford Missal . . . . .	153, 808
Captain George Tooke. . . . .	162, 808
“Musæ Etonenses” and Dr. W. George	575, 581, 808
Rt. Rev. Dr. John Buckner, Bp. of Chichester	240, 809
Rev. Osmund Beauvoir, D. D. . . . .	351, 747, 809
Mr. Walpole and Mr. Cole. . . . .	711, 809
Mr. Joseph Collyer . . . . .	<i>ibid.</i>
Rev. Charles Jenner, M. A. . . . .	563, 810
Rev. Sir James Stonhouse, Bart. . . . .	566, 811
Another Reverend Baronet of the same Name	<i>ibid.</i>
Arthur Pond and James Neilson. . . . .	603, 812
George Scott, Esq. of Wolston Hall. . . . .	606, 813
The Family of Sumner . . . . .	687, 813
Mr. Ralph Thoresby, of Leeds. . . . .	707, 813
John Fothergill, M. D. . . . .	737, 816
Rev. William Gostling, M. A. . . . .	345, 747, 816
Rev. William Manning, B. D. . . . .	445, 750, 816
Rev. Robert Uvedale, LL. D. . . . .	485, 755, 781, 816

---

The PLATES intended for this Volume are,

Mr. James Basire . . . . .	<i>to face the Title.</i>
Mr. John Holt . . . . .	p. 21
Dr. Hawes's Monument . . . . .	182
Robert Mylne, Esq. . . . .	233
Bishop Trevor . . . . .	241
Window at Stationers' Hall. . . . .	549
William Cuming, M. D. . . . .	569
Mr. Peter Collinson. . . . .	609
Rev. J. T. Desaguliers. . . . .	641
Bishop North . . . . .	669
John Fothergill, M. D. . . . .	740
Bishop Butler . . . . .	744
Fac-simile Letter of Pope . . . . .	798

LITERARY