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978-1-108-07736-1 - Illustrations of the Literary History of the Eighteenth Century:
Consisting of Authentic Memoirs and Original Letters of Eminent Persons, and Intended
as a Sequel to the 'Literary Anecdotes': Volume 3

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Illustrations of the Literary History of the Eighteenth Century

The subtitle of this eight-volume set is *Consisting of Authentic Memoirs and Original Letters of Eminent Persons, and Intended as a Sequel to the 'Literary Anecdotes'*, which had been published in nine volumes by the author, editor and publisher John Nichols (1745–1826) between 1812 and 1815, and are also reissued in this series. Like its predecessor set, these 'illustrations' are a useful source of biographical material on authors and publishers at a time when many of the literary genres we take for granted, such as the novel, the autobiography and the analytical history, were first being developed. The volumes were published between 1817 and 1858, the project being continued after Nichols' death by his son and grandson. Volume 3 focuses on the judge and writer George Hardinge (1743–1816) and his family, but also includes material on Samuel Pepys, Robert Burns and the botanist Richard Pulteney.

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VOLUME 3

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N. Dorel. Pinx.

J. Jackson, F.R.S. Del.

H. Meyer, Sculp.

GEORGE HARDINGE, ESQ.

M.A. F.R.S. AND F.S.A.

Senior Justice of the Counties of



Brecon, Glamorgan, & Radnor

Born June 22. 1744; Died April 26. 1816.

Published by J. Nichols & Co. March 7. 1818.

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EMINENT PERSONS;
AND INTENDED AS A SEQUEL TO
The Literary Anecdotes.

BY JOHN NICHOLS, F. S. A.

VOLUME III.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,
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RED-LION-PASSAGE, FLEET-STREET;
AND 25, PARLIAMENT-STREET, WESTMINSTER.

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AFTER the very gratifying indulgence with which the former Volumes of this Work have been honoured, I venture to add one more; a considerable part of which is formed from the communications of a Friend, on whose splendid talents it is unnecessary to enlarge. They appear conspicuously in the present and in some of the preceding Volumes; not only by his own elegant productions, but by the concurrent testimonials of his numerous friends and admirers.

As the animating spirit of Friendship is gratified by throwing any light into the minds of those who love to dwell on the records of departed worth; I have endeavoured, in an introductory Memoir, to raise a last slight tribute to the memory of one whose pleasure seemed chiefly to arise from the communication of it to others, and whose researches had for the most part in view the improvement and benefit of mankind.

Ennobled by a line of Ancestry who were Gentlemen in the antient acceptation of that title, Mr. GEORGE HARDINGE reflected back on them the Hereditary Honours of his Birth, with the additional

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tional lustre which benevolence and integrity of life are capable of affording.

Many of the articles were communicated by Mr. Justice HARDINGE long before his death. Amongst these (not to mention his Father's "Latin Poems," which have been printed as an independent Volume) were, his Correspondence with Bishop WATSON and other Dignitaries of the Church; with HORACE WALPOLE, Mr. BRYANT, &c. &c.; and more especially the two Letters printed in pp. 15. 24; where Wit, Judgment, and Genius, shine forth in the description of delightful visits, in which the Reader cannot fail to participate when reflected by so clear a mirror to the imagination.

Many other of his original productions were announced by him as intended for publication; several of which have since been handsomely communicated by his Brother, Sir RICHARD HARDINGE, Bart.; and by his Nephew, the Rev. CHARLES HARDINGE, Vicar of Tunbridge in Kent, and of Crowhurst in Sussex. Of these some are given in this Volume; and others are for the present unavoidably postponed.

In the last Letter I received from Mr. HARDINGE, March 26, 1816, he says, "I mean to give you (apart from Lord CAMDEN's Life) Memoirs of his wonderful Father, Sir JOHN PRATT. They are finished, and wait your commands. I shall annex (if I live) Lord CAMDEN's Life, and that of my Father."

Of

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Of the Life of his excellent Father, which he meditated to have written at some length, nothing has been found but the slight Fragment which I have prefixed to the "Latin Poems" of Mr. NICHOLAS HARDINGE.

The Lives of his other truly eminent and honourable Relatives may probably be published hereafter.

"It is well known," I use the words of a much-valued Correspondent, "that some of the last years of Mr. HARDINGE's life were occupied in the collecting and arrangement of materials for that purpose; and those who recollect the spirit and prompt facility which quickened all his exertions of a Literary nature, will not be at a loss to guess at the zeal and intrepid devotion with which he would sit down to this most interesting of all occupations. We may venture, methinks, to utter a word of prophecy, and say, '*Materiem æquabit opus!*'—Among the numerous friends and correspondents of Mr. HARDINGE was the late Bishop WATSON, whose powerful intellect, discernible in every thing that he wrote (whatever may be thought of the temper of his Political opinions) will triumph over Time, and command the admiration of a distant posterity. In the Anecdotes of his Lordship's Life, lately published, are scattered several letters to Mr. HARDINGE; and the Bishop commences one of them with a judgment on the Work about which his classical Friend was at that time employing himself:—'I have read your Letter,' says the Bishop, 'with great pleasure. I like to listen to a man of parts, *multa & præclara minantem.*

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minantem. Of all your various projects, I most approve of a Life of your Uncle. This Life will afford you an opportunity of enlarging upon the injustice and impolicy of the American War; of delivering your sentiments on the causes and consequences of the French Revolution; and of divining the consequences of these two great events to ourselves, to Europe, and the world.

“In another Letter the Bishop says, ‘Methodize the whole before you begin any part: imitate some of the best Lives of Plutarch, and fear not producing an excellent work, not an ephemeral farrago of newspaper trash, but a *κτῆμα εἰς αἰεὶ* worthy of you and of him.’—There is an entertaining passage in which the Bishop bears testimony, strongly though incidentally, to the wonderful facility, the wit, and unequalled energy of language, displayed by Mr. HARDINGE in correspondence with his friends: “Your letters are so classical, and your *verba ardentia* so electrical, that they almost fire my frozen age, and tempt me to discharge upon you a reciprocal lightning, &c.”

Of Mr. HARDINGE's Poems, a few, more immediately connected with his personal history, and with that of his very heroic Nephew Captain HARDINGE, will be found in the present Volume. But I have an almost endless treasure of his poetical amusements, from which a Volume shall be selected, for a Collection of the worthy Judge's “Miscellaneous Writings in Verse and Prose,” already in the press, as a separate publication; in which will be also found many

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many of his truly patriotic and excellent "Charges at the General Sessions in Wales," and some interesting "Sermons by a Layman."

When Mr. HARDINGE had nearly completed his Memoirs of Dr. SNEYD DAVIES, he directed that they should be inscribed, "To Lady KNOWLES, the zealous Enthusiast for Genius, Taste, and Virtue." And to that excellent Lady I have since been greatly indebted, not only for the particulars of Mr. HARDINGE'S last illness and unexpected death, and for some of his original Poems—but for the communication of several of his Letters; in which the clever, playful, and witty style at once exhibits the active genius Mr. HARDINGE possessed, and also his passion for Literary acquirement to the latest period of his existence.

When we consider that few live to the advanced age Mr. HARDINGE attained without sustaining a loss in some material faculty, we shall more highly prize the rare gifts he enjoyed, both mentally and bodily; for, excepting the wrinkles and grey hairs which hoary Time by its iron grasp will leave on the strongest, his life may be said to have been mental youth, and his death a short interruption and passage to that blessed state of perfection which his goodness and philanthropy sought after while on earth.

The Letters to the Rev. RICHARD POLWHELE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MUDFORD, and Mr. JOHNS, were communicated by the Gentlemen to whom they are severally addressed.

To

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To the Rev. JAMES DALLAWAY, F. S. A. and Secretary to the Earl Marshal, I am indebted for the elegant and scientific Memoir of CHARLES TOWNLEY, Esq. the well-known Collector of the celebrated Marbles which now adorn the British Museum:—To ROBERT SURTEES, Esq. the judicious and accurate Historian of Durham, for the Letters to the Rev. WILLIAM WARD:—And to RALPH SHERWOOD, Esq. (who is diligently studying Medicine at Edinburgh) for those of JOSEPH RITSON, Esq. with an Etching of that eccentric Poetical Antiquary.

The Collections of the Rev. Dr. ZACHARY GREY, Dr. RICHARD RICHARDSON of Byerley, Mr. DA COSTA, the Rev. Dr. LORT, the Rev. GEORGE ASHBY, Dr. DUCAREL, Mr. PENNANT, Dr. CUMING, Dr. PULTENEY, and my justly esteemed Friend Mr. GOUGH, have furnished the Correspondence of some of the brightest Ornaments of the Eighteenth Century. Of those stores, which are almost inexhaustible, I may probably again avail myself, if, after having entered into my seventy-fourth year, health and spirits permit me to engage in the laborious yet pleasing task of selection.

To Mr. BINDLEY and Mr. ALEXANDER CHALMERS I cannot sufficiently express my thanks, for the friendly advice and assistance they have uniformly afforded me in this and all the preceding Volumes.

From several other learned and excellent Friends I have received much literary assistance, which is acknowledged in the progress of the Work.

From

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From my Professional Brethren the Printers and Booksellers, those “best Patrons of Literature,” I have uniformly been favoured by repeated instances of friendship — by the occasional loan of scarce books, and not unfrequently by useful communications.

To several of the most respectable Journalists and Reviewers I gladly make a similar acknowledgment. I have in all cases endeavoured to profit by their remarks; still, however, maintaining the privilege of judging for myself in such matters as depended only on opinion; of which one of the most material is the having searched minutely into the records of *Neglected Biography*.

After having ventured to appear in print nearly sixty years, I am fully aware of the perils attendant on him who endeavours to please every one. But I can conscientiously say, on the recollection of the numerous Works in which I have been engaged, whatever may have been their merits or defects, there is not a single line which I should scruple to own, or that I now remember with regret.

For the present, I respectfully take leave of the Publick; highly thankful for many honourable marks of distinction, the remembrance of which will cheer the latest moment of my existence.

Should, however, my truly benevolent and incomparably learned Friend Dr. PARR (which I have every reason to hope and to expect) find leisure and inclination, by the assistance of an amanuensis, to revise the many sterling pages which I know he has
has

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has already written to adorn these “ Illustrations ;”
I shall not for a moment hesitate in setting the press
again at work ; and proud, very proud, shall I be
to conclude my labours by the productions of so
very elegant and enlightened a Coadjutor.

*Highbury Place,
April 9, 1818.*

J. NICHOLS.



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CORRECTIONS IN THE INTRODUCTORY MEMOIR.

P. 6. " My Father (Mr. Nicholas Hardinge) had a severe countenance, and a distant manner to strangers ; but the most playful habits with his intimate friends, and a fund of *sociable* humour. He was an early and gifted improver of Garden Landscape for pleasure when his relations or friends consulted him. Indeed there was no Professor of the art in those days. Lord Camden called it *the prophetic eye of Taste*." G. H.

P. 18. l. 23. *read* " in the Long Vacation of 1792."

P. 31. I am sorry to say, that Mr. Hardinge's promised Essay on the Character of Richard III. has not been found among his MSS.

P. 44. It may be proper to observe, on the authority of a learned Friend, that some of the cleverest contributions to the *prose department* of 'The Anti-jacobin' were from his pen ;—and he frequently, in latter life, sent animated *diatribes* to 'The Courier' Newspaper. See the honourable and handsome testimony borne to the ' thoughts that breathe, and words that burn of Mr. Hardinge by the celebrated Mr. Maty in his Review for March 1784. The whole body of Critics passed a somewhat severe judgment on his ' Essence of Malone ;' but that exquisitely witty Satire was received *aux bras ouverts*, and greeted with an animated eulogy, by the learned Author of ' The Pursuits of Literature.'

P. 46. l. 6. *Correct thus*: " He was first taken seriously ill at Ross. The cause of his decease was an inflammation of the *Pleura*; and it is probable that his personal exposure," &c. ; and l. 11, *after* " his horse," *add*, " Being partial to that exercise, he often took long journeys on horseback, attended only by his valet." See p. 834.

P. 47. l. 10. *After* " circumstances," *add*, " united with a strong love for independence ;" and, l. 21, *read*, " A melancholy association with the recollection of the intended visit to the tomb of his last favoured Hero of Taste and Virtue is formed in the mind, and painful moral feelings of regret arise, which teach us more forcibly to remember that—man proposes, but God disposes."

Ibid. l. 23. *read*, " with a benevolent intelligent countenance ;" and l. 25. " and with a power of shewing them with so much ease, and so divested of pedantry, &c."

P. 86. The following lines were addressed to a Lady, with an accurate and beautiful drawing of the Sword.

" Accept, for *thou* art generous, thou art brave,
The Sword that Courage won, that *Britain* gave!
From thee both enterprize and laurel sprung ;
By thee to Honour's field the arms were strung ; —
In thy example was the Hero found :
By thee his fame was built, his wreaths were bound:
Proud of thy love, and studious of thy worth,
His ripening genius claim'd a second birth :
In thee were trac'd his proud contempt of art,
His patient valour, and his feeling heart !
But let him share the ray of *Nelson's* fame,
Or join the Syrian Hero's deathless name,
With tears of joy his grateful heart shall own
That you have still the undivided throne. G. H."