

MEMORIES OF THE LIFE

AND REIGN OF GEORGE

THE THIRD

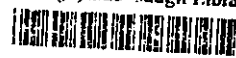
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MEMOIRS
OF
THE LIFE AND REIGN OF
KING GEORGE THE THIRD.



BY

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"MEMOIRS OF KING RICHARD III.," ETC.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:
TINSLEY BROTHERS, 18, CATHERINE ST., STRAND.

1867.

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A867.2

LONDON :
BRADBURY, EVANS, AND CO., PRINTERS,
WHITEFRIARS.

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APPENDIX.

The Right Hon. Joseph Planta to the Right Hon. J. Wilson Croker.

“BLITHFIELD LODGE, LITCHFIELD, *Novr. 17th, 1836.*”

“My dear Croker.

“Your first question is—‘Did Queen Charlotte understand and enjoy the Delicacies of the Table,—meat, wine, &c.?’ In answer to which I beg leave to say that Queen Charlotte fully understood everything that related to domestic life, and consequently could regulate a table to the most minute item. She could, moreover, *enjoy* and *appreciate* what was placed before her; but she was not in the slightest degree a *gourmande*, and could and did equally relish the simplest food.

“Your second question is—‘Had Madame Schwellenberg * any real influence?’ The answer I have received to this is, † that it is too important a question to answer on an uncertainty; but you may depend upon what follows as the truth. Madame Schwellenberg had no *political* influence whatever. The weight she had with the Queen was confined to Her Majesty’s *domestic* arrangements. In these Madame S. certainly exercised considerable sway, and was, in short, so despotic, that she was better served, and more attended to, than the Queen herself. Her servant, Robère, (as she called him,) always waited at the step of her door, that she might not have to ring a bell; and a very constant expression of hers was, that if such and such a thing was good enough for her Majesty, it was not good enough for *her*.

“Your third query is—‘Did the Equerries of George the Third

* The famous “Cerbera” of Madame D’Arbly’s Diaries.

† The “answers” to this, and to Mr. Croker’s other enquiries, were no doubt obtained from Miss Planta, who for many years was most confidentially employed about the person of Queen Charlotte. “Miss Planta’s post in the Court Calendar,” writes Miss Burney in 1786, “is that of English Teacher; but, it seems to me, that of personal attendant upon the two eldest Princesses. She is with them always when they sup, work, take their lessons, or walk.”—*Madame D’Arbly’s Diary and Letters*, vol. iii. p. 78.

ever dine with their Majesties at Windsor? To this I am answered—that with the answer to this question such Equerries, as might be alive, might not be pleased, as they would probably wish to have it supposed that they had *had* the honour of dining with his Majesty. From which it clearly appears that they *never did dine* with their Majesties.

“What do you say to Charles the Tenth’s death? It is *as well*, is it not? and Louis Phillippe’s *son* will never reign? That is my idea of the probabilities. Another failure of our Downing Street policy is at Lisbon, the very centre, (as it should be at least,) of our foreign policy and influence! Oh! what would our dear late friend,* who made his most eloquent effort on Portugal, have said if he had [thought] such things POSSIBLE *for England*? Three hundred Marines landed! to be recalled again in the evening at the dictation of a rascally rabble of national guard!

“Ever yours,

“J. PLANTA.”

ORIGINAL LETTERS FROM GEORGE THE THIRD TO VISCOUNT WEYMOUTH.

“QUEEN’S HOUSE, Nov. 24th, 1775, pt. 11, A.M.

“Lord Weymouth,

“Lists of successions from Ireland of so old dates must rather surprise you, and I think it right therefore just to mention the cause of the delay. Major Dundas, of the 15th Light Dragoons, having applied, on the number of Lieutenant-Colonels to the Regiments in Ireland proving unfit for service when called upon to go with their corps to America, I directed that he must be recommended to one of the Regiments, unless, [by] Lieutenant-Colonel Meadows’s exchanging from the 12th Light Dragoons for one of those Lieutenant Colonelcies, Dundas could be recommended to succeed him. Lord Harcourt has never explained that affair, till the letter you communicated to me the day before yesterday; therefore the delay comes from Ireland. I have drawn the lists that you may order the Commissions to be prepared. As some of the lists come to be notified by the Secretary at War, the Regiments being now on the British Establishment, I have therefore sent those to him, consequently the whole proposed by the Lord Lieutenant has been consented to.

“Lord Barrington does not object to his recommending Ensigns for

* George Canning.

† MS. Original.

the additional companies of the 53rd, 54th, and 27th Regiments, as proposed in the Lord Lieutenant's letter of the 2nd November.

"The Lists of successions transmitted on the 14th of November are perfectly regular. The Commissions must therefore in consequence be prepared."

[No date.]

"Lord Weymouth,

"I desire you will consult Lord Granby, Lord Barrington, and Major General Hervey on the enclosed report of the Court Martial; as you did when the two soldiers were tried on the former occasion."

[No date.]

"I am extremely glad to find the law-proceedings will now begin to move; the more so on account of the resolution come to at the meeting last night, which meets my thorough approbation."

"ST. JAMES'S, *May 24th, 1778*, $\overline{\text{II}}$ pt. 11, A.M.

"Lord Weymouth,

"I transmit you the letter I received yesterday from Lord North, with a copy of my answer, and the letter I received from him in the evening; also the draft of one I propose sending him to-morrow. I desire you will bring them after the Drawing Room this day. I wish to see you before my conversation with the Attorney General. Do not come later than three."

"Kew, *May 25th, 1778*.

"Lord Weymouth,

"Probably before you receive this you will have seen Mr. Thurlow,* and had a full account of what passed between us. I desire you will come here to-morrow a little before two. I shall expect you in your undress.

"P.S. The enclosed is a copy of the letter I have sent to Lord North, which I desire you will return in one of the black boxes."†

* Thurlow, at this time Attorney General, was constituted Lord Chancellor on the 3rd of the following month, and created Baron Thurlow.

† "Agreeably to your recommendation, I have told the Attorney General that I mean to accompany the Great Seal by the reversion of a Tellership and a floating

"Kew, May 31st, 1778.

"Lord Weymouth,

"As it is necessary that you should, as early as possible, be acquainted with every political transaction, I enclose you a letter I received last evening from Lord Suffolk, the copy of the Solicitor General's * letter, which I thought too material to return without receiving that, and my answer in consequence, which was meant to be civil, and, in the present unexplained situation, to be cautious. You will return them when you come to Court."

"QUEEN'S HOUSE, Novr. 20th, 1778, $\frac{20}{10}$ pt. 8, A.M.

"Lord Weymouth is desired to send his opinion whether there is any objection to communicate the three letters, which have passed since those seen last week; also whether Lord Suffolk knows Lord Weymouth has perused them, as I wish to be correct in the whole of my conduct.†

"Did anything occur at the meeting yesterday concerning the speech, or any other point?"

"QUEEN'S HOUSE, April 5th, 1779.

"Lord Weymouth's draft to Sir Joseph Yorke, I would fain hope, must open the eyes of the States General, or at least convince them that it is worthy of mature consideration whether the town of Amsterdam, at the instigation of France, is not plunging them into a very untoward scene, and for which they are by no means prepared."

pension." *Letter from the King to Lord North, 24 May, 1778.* This is most probably the letter referred to by the King, though it may possibly have been another letter, written by him to Lord North on the same day on which he writes to Lord Weymouth (May 25) relative to a motion of Sir William Meredith's in the House of Commons for papers relative to the State of the Navy. See *Lord Brougham's Statesmen of the Time of George 3*, vol. i. p. 119. Ed. 1858.

* Alexander Wedderburn. On the 11th of the following month he was appointed to succeed Thurlow as Attorney General.

† "The letters alluded to by the King have probably reference either to Lord North's earnest entreaties, at this time, to be allowed to resign the Premiership, or else to Lord Barrington's resignation of the post of Secretary at War, which, on the 16th of the following month, was conferred upon Charles Jenkinson, afterwards Earl of Liverpool. "I authorize you," writes the King to Lord North on the 24th of November, "to offer the place of Secretary at War in the first place to Mr. Jenkinson, and, if he declines, to Lord Beauchamp." *Lord Brougham's Statesmen of the Time of George 3*, vol. i. pp. 124, 125. Ed. 1858.

ORIGINAL LETTERS FROM WILLIAM PITT, EARL OF CHATHAM, TO THOMAS HOLLIS, ESQ.

[From the prominent part which Lord Chatham has played in a large portion of these pages, the author is induced to lay before the reader the following letters, or rather notes, addressed by that great man to the eccentric, and once well-known philanthropist, virtuoso, and antiquary, Thomas Hollis, Esq., of Corscombe in Dorsetshire. The originals are in the possession of Edgar Disney, Esq., of the Hyde, Essex, by whose kindness the author is enabled to introduce them into this work.]

THOMAS HOLLIS, whose ardent attachment to civil and religious liberty, and whose princely encouragement of literature and the fine arts, are still remembered in other countries besides England, was born in London on the 14th of April 1720. In the partial language of a contemporary—“He was a man formed on the severe and exalted plan of ancient Greece, in whom was united the humane and disinterested virtue of Brutus, with the active and determined spirit of Sidney, illustrious in his manner of using an ample fortune, not by spending it in the parade of life which he despised, but by assisting the deserving, and encouraging the arts and sciences, which he promoted with great zeal and affection, knowing the love of them leads to moral and intellectual beauty; was a warm and strenuous advocate in the cause of public liberty and virtue, and for the rights of human nature and private conscience. His humanity and generosity were not confined to the small spot of his own country. He sought for merit in every part of the globe, considering himself as a citizen of the world, but concealed his acts of munificence, being contented with the consciousness of having done well.”* Horace Walpole also—in summing up the names of the few persons of note in England, in 1769, who had avowedly embraced republican principles—speaks in very favourable terms of Hollis as—“a gentleman of strict honour and good fortune, a virtuoso, and so bigoted to his principles, that, though a humane and good man, he would scarce converse with any man who did not entirely agree with his opinions. He had no parts, but spent large sums in publishing prints and editions of all the heroes and works on his own side of the question. But he was formed to adorn a pure republic, not to shine in a depraved monarchy.”†

* Annual Register for 1774, pp. 83—4.

† Walpole's Memoirs of the Reign of George 3, vol. iii. p. 331.

Among other works, printed, at a great expense, by Hollis, were the political writings of Milton, Algernon Sidney, and James Harrington. According to his biographer, the story of his life was a mere catalogue of generous and public-spirited actions, there being few useful or benevolent institutions of which he was not a member and a benefactor. The British Museum was indebted to him for many valuable gifts. The library at Berne was enriched by him with a valuable collection of English books, which he presented anonymously. To Harvard College, in the United States, he was not only a munificent benefactor in his lifetime, but, by will, bequeathed 500*l.* to the College library, to be laid out in books.*

The high opinion entertained by Hollis of the splendid talents of Lord Chatham, as well as gratitude for his exertions in the cause of civil and religious liberty, were probably the original occasions of his making the acquaintance of the "great Commoner." This high opinion, however, became twice temporarily affected, once in 1761, by Mr. Pitt accepting a pension for himself and a peerage for Lady Chatham; and again in 1766, when the man of the people deserted the House of Commons for a coronet.† On this latter occasion, the indignation of Hollis, at what he regarded as the apostasy of his idol, appears not only to have been excessive, but to have been the cause of the discontinuance of their correspondence from that time till the month of October 1772. For instance, to Edmund Quincy, junior, at Boston, Hollis writes on the 1st Oct. 1766, that it is with the "deepest concern" that he has seen the "recent unparalleled prostitution and apostasy of the once magnanimous and almost divine * * * * *," who is now totally lost in parchment and Buteism;" and he adds—"The Thane, [Bute] exults prodigiously on the occasion; and he, and all his mongrels, are, in reality, in full scent and cry to run him down with some present shews of deference and power towards him, lest he should retreat again before he had done dirty work enough in public, to render his character in all respects utterly irretrievable. Unhappy man! to have survived his own matchless administration, and his speech for the repeal of the stamp act." On another occasion [6th February 1767] Hollis speaks of Lord Chatham, as "Lieutenant Turnover acting as commander in chief, at this present, by permission of White-rose, the favourite, [Bute] who would be thought retired."‡

The following few brief particulars, relating to Hollis, have been

* Holmes's American Annals, vol. ii. p. 266, *note*.

† See *ante*, vol. i. pp. 84, 372.

‡ Archdeacon Blackburne's Memoirs of Hollis, pp. 323, 340, 355.

kindly communicated to the author from a private and most trustworthy source.

"I am sorry to say I cannot remember any anecdotes of Mr. Hollis worth your having. Such trifles, however, as I can call to mind I will write down.

"Did you ever hear that, when his lodgings in London were on fire, the only thing that he thought of saving was the portrait of John Milton, now at the Hyde? This he did far more out of admiration of his political opinions, than on account of the grandeur of his genius as a poet.

"He adopted Brutus's dagger and the Cap of Liberty as symbols of his Republican opinions, as represented on the pedestal of the marble bust of him at the Hyde.

"In a strange whim, he named some of his fields after Grecian and Roman patriots and heroes, such as Brutus and Alcibiades; and even after abstract things, such as Reason and Liberty.

"His *finale* was his burial by torchlight—as some said, in republican humility—in one of his fields. Others thought this eccentricity savoured more of vanity, but, odd as he was, I believe he was sincere.*

Mr. Hollis's death took place at his seat in Dorsetshire, on the 1st of January 1774, seventeen days after the date of the last note addressed to him by Lord Chatham. He was talking to his workmen in one of his fields at Corscombe, when he fell down in a fit and expired.†

I.

"Oct. 9th, 1761.

"Mr. Pitt presents his compliments and sincere acknowledgments to Mr. Hollis; is justly proud of such a testimony, and trusts that the manly and the virtuous will not condemn retreat, when the means of acting to good and worthy purposes are at an end."‡

* See also the Gentleman's Magazine for 1790, part 2, p. 702.

† Archdeacon Blackburne's Memoirs of Thomas Hollis, p. 465.

‡ This note is in reply to a complimentary one from Hollis dated the 7th October 1761, two days after Mr. Pitt's resignation of office. See *ante*, vol. i. p. 83. "At the time of writing this letter," writes Hollis (*MS.*), "I was ignorant of the pension of £3000 a year, granted to Mr. Pitt, &c. It is true, I wish this pension had not been accepted; but yet it can never be considered as an equivalent for his services; or as taken by him from any other motive than as SUBSISTENCE MONEY." See also Archdeacon Blackburne's Memoirs of Thomas Hollis, p. 192, where, in nearly the same language, the latter excuses Mr. Pitt's conduct in a letter to a friend.

II.

"ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, *May 5th, 1762.*

"Mr. Pitt presents his compliments to Mr. Hollis, returns him many most sincere thanks for the favour of his obliging note, and trusts he will be persuaded that Mr. Pitt feels infinitely more satisfaction and pride from the very friendly and kind opinion of Mr. Hollis, than from all the expressions of His Holyness."*

III.

"HAYES, *Novr. 19th, 1764.*

"Accept, dear Sir, my best acknowledgments for your obliging trouble in forwarding the parcel from him who is now no more.† How affecting the circumstance! and how endeared this monument of his esteem! '*Debita spargam lachrymâ favillam.*' Your friendly heart must, I know, partake the friendly duty. I am with the warmest sentiments of esteem and consideration,

"Dear Sir,

"Your faithful Friend

"And most humble Servant,

"WILLIAM PITT."

* This is an allusion to a letter addressed to Hollis by a Mr. Thomas Jenkins, dated Rome, April 17, 1762, the contents of which had evidently been communicated to Lord Chatham.—"People here were astonished to hear of our great success at Martinico, which had been represented by the French and their friends as impossible. The Pope told an English gentleman, Mr. Weld of Dorsetshire, who was introduced to him on Tuesday last, that the taking of Martinico was so unexpected an event, that if not so well attested, it could not have been believed; and that the glory of the English nation was now at such a height, that he, the Pope himself, should have esteemed it an honour to be an Englishman. The plan for taking Martinico was, if I mistake not, Mr. Pitt's." *Hollis' MS.* See *ante*, vol. i. p. 119, note.

† Count Francesco Algarotti, chamberlain to the King of Prussia, F.R.S. and A.S.S. He dedicated to Mr. Pitt his work, the "*Saggio sopra l'Opera in Musica*," and to Mr. Hollis his "*Saggio sopra l'Academia di Francia che è in Roma*." The latter had conceived a great affection for him, and was a warm admirer of his accomplishments and virtues. The Count died at Pisa, 24th June 1763. *Archd. Blackburne's Memoirs of Hollis*, pp. 199, 201. This note is in reply to a short one from Hollis, dated 14th November 1764, the copy of which is indorsed by him—"On sending him a parcel, which was forwarded from Leghorn, April 16, by Count Algarotti, containing the first two volumes of a new edition of his work printed there this year, which parcel came not to my hands until this day."

IV.

"BOND STREET, *Tuesday, Jany. 21st* [1766].*

"Mr. Pitt sends all thanks and respects to Mr. Hollis, strengthened by his concurrence, animated by his approbation.

"He trusts that his sons will grow up to feel that the head of Phocion,† sent to Burton-Pynsent from the heart of a Hollis, will ever stand the proudest ornament of our House. The dissertation is indeed masterly."

V.

"BURTON-PYNSENT, *Octob. ye 1st*, 1772.

"Dear Sir,

"Your very kind attentions bestow equal pleasure and honour on one, who will be too happy to revisit, under the same polite and benevolent auspices, beauties which have left lively impressions. I understand the Mayor's day at Lyme is to fall in the course of next week, and, moreover, some engagements do not leave me master of my time before Monday ye 12th October. If that day should suit Mr. Hollis's convenience, I will give myself the satisfaction of meeting him at Axminster that evening, and hope to have the pleasure of travelling with him the next morning from *beauty to beauty*, according to the pleasing route he has been so good to point out. I am much indebted to Mr. Tucker and Mr. Conde for the obliging offer of lodging me; but we found, upon examining, the chambers of the inn such as, for one night, not to wish any other. Lady Chatham desires to present her best compliments, and the young people, who feel honoured by such mention of them, beg to offer theirs.

"I am with truest esteem and perfect consideration,

"Dear Sir,

"Your most obedient and most humble Servant,

"CHATHAM."

VI.

"BURTON-PYNSENT, *Octr. 7th*, 1772.

"Dear Sir,

"Abundance of real thanks for the polite attention of your kind

* This note was written at a period of considerable excitement. See a note from Mr. Pitt to Lady Chatham of the same date. *Chatham Correspondence*, vol. ii. p. 373.

† "An antique bas-relievo in oriental alabaster purchased for him [Hollis] some years before for twenty guineas by Mr. Jackson out of the Palazzo Lancallotti at Rome." *Memoirs of Hollis by Archdeacon Blackburne*, p. 298.

letter, which assures me of the pleasure of meeting you on Monday evening at Axminster. If weather proves favourable, nothing will be wanting to render the jaunt delightful. The great Master of the picture will, I trust, bestow the finest lights to view it in. What you tell me of the partial disposition of the worthy people of Lyme is justly valued and felt; but let me add, what I do not hesitate to confess, that the sentiments with which you honour me, and the value you attribute to my past efforts, leave hardly room in my heart for other sensations.

"Lady Chatham desires to present her best compliments, and many thanks for the favour of the hare.

"I am with the highest esteem,

"Dear Sir,

"Your most faithful and most humble Servant,

"CHATHAM."

VII.

"BURTON-PYNSENT, Oct. 21, 1772.

"Mr. Hollis is desired to accept many sincere acknowledgments for his kind attention in sending Mr. Bowring, a man of excellent understanding in his way; a living Museum Rusticum; more especially a true son of Pan, and consummate in sheep.

"Lady Chatham desires to present her best compliments. Our young people are *flattered* and *alarmed* with the thought of exhibiting to Mr. Hollis their puerile powers of the Scene.* Bold is the attempt; but Papa and Mama, who, not undelighted, rock this *cradle of Tragedy*, exhort them to dismiss their fears. Mr. Hollis will allow them to send timely notice of the performance, and he will, by his presence, give much real pleasure and honour to old and young at Burton-Pynsent." †

VIII.

"BURTON-PYNSENT, Saturday, Oct. 31st [1772].

"Many compliments from Lord and Lady Chatham attend Mr. Hollis. They wish extremely for the pleasure of receiving him; and our adventurous youth aspire to have the honour of shewing him somewhat of the inside of their little theatre. Wednesday next is fixed for displaying it,

* See Chatham Correspondence, vol. iv. p. 240.

† Indorsed by Hollis—"Delivered to Farmer John Bowring, who had been at Burton by desire of Lord Chatham, to view his lordship's estate there, in order to the better management of it."

and if Mr. Hollis will be so good to accept on that day a dinner, (at two o'clock,) a well-aired bed at night, and a most cordial welcome, he will bestow a high satisfaction on his humble servants, old and young."

IX.

"BURTON-PYNSENT, *Nov. 26, 1772.*

"Lord and Lady Chatham's best compliments attend Mr. Hollis, together with abounding thanks for the honor of his kind note. The large approbation he is so good to express of the noviciate of the small tragedians, could not but touch sensibly, and powerfully animate, the various parties concerned in a picture, drawn in the spirit of Athens or Rome, and which would have been flattering, whenever applied, in either. Old and young all beg to offer their united grateful acknowledgments for sentiments so partial.

"Lady Chatham claims with pleasure her right to add her special portion of thanks for the favor of the basket of game.

"Lord Chatham will peruse with avidity the publications of the honest New-Englanders; genuine fruits of unsophisticated, masculine good sense, and of virtue uncorrupted."*

X.

Lady Chatham to Mr. Hollis.

"BURTON-PYNSENT, *Decr. 10th, 1772, past three o'clock.*

"Honest Farmer Bowring wishing to return as soon as may be, Lady Chatham desires to offer these hasty and very sincere acknowledgments to Mr. Hollis for the honor of his most obliging attention. He will not wonder, if he should not be forgot at the convivial Board

* This note is a reply to an adulatory letter from Hollis to Lord Chatham, of which the following is a characteristic extract:—"Thomas Hollis has the honor to present his best compliments and thanks to Lord and Lady Chatham for their kind reception of him at Burton-Pynsent, and for the very singular and truly elegant entertainment of which they were pleased to make him partaker; an entertainment that he never thinks of but with applauses and wonder! Plutarch himself, that refined good man, had he seen it, must have been delighted, and given equal rank, at once, to the Family of Chatham with the Gracchi. He requests the favor of Lady Chatham, to accept a basket of game ['a hare, a pheasant, and two brace of woodcocks.' *MS. Memo. by Hollis.*], and he begs his most particular respects and acknowledgments to Lord Pitt, Lady Hester, Lady Harriot, and the two younger gentlemen. It is hard to say in what way this astonishing young set would shew themselves in comedy, should they take to it?"

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to which we are just sitting down, and that the *Lipari of Old England** (his kind present of the day,) should be destined to flow in grateful libations to his truly honoured name.

“Lord Chatham, who has a fit of the gout, though not of the most severe, desires to join in all sentiments of respectful esteem, and warm good wishes. The young people beg to offer their best compliments.”

XI.

“BURTON-PYNSENT, Decr. ye 29th, 1772.

“Lord and Lady Chatham desire to enquire after Mr. Hollis’s health, and to offer him all the old-fashioned, kind remembrances of the season ; which they trust he will accept, not as compliments, but real good wishes.

“Lord Chatham admires and loves Mr. Tucker’s sermon before the respectable body of the Massachusetts ; the divine Sydney rendered practical, and the philosophic Locke more demonstrative ! What a model for the 30th of January, † did not visions of mitres and translations hide these things from the eyes of Court apostles !

“Gout has made a visit, and seems kindly taking leave.”

XII.

“BURTON-PYNSENT, Jany. 4th, 1773.

“Accept, my dear Sir, very many sincere thanks for the trouble you are so good to take about my farming cares, and for the kind manner in which you employ your pen upon a *rural administration*, lying at present in little less disorder than that in higher places. I taste much the very friendly and solid advice you so obligingly suggest, to let a *part*, or the *whole*, of my land here ; and shall certainly [adopt] this prudent idea, as soon as some plans of amusement, more than profit, are somewhat farther advanced. One principal object, in the class of amusement, I want first to complete, and this is, an easy and agreeable communication round the whole farm for my riding, and for the little

* A “quarter barrel” of mead, which had been sent by Hollis to Burton-Pynsent, with the following note—“Thomas Hollis has the honor to present his compliments respectfully to Lady Chatham, and to request her ladyship’s obliging acceptance of a small barrel of mead, which has been brewed these thirty years.”

† The anniversary of the execution of Charles the First.

chaise, as Lady Chatham is, as well as my daughters, very fond of this commodious and healthful way of taking air and exercise.

"Whenever I shall carry into execution the letting part of the estate, Moretown, I cannot wish a more desirable tenant than John Petty; of whose skill in farming, and of whose integrity, I do not think the worse on account of his Bucolic orthography.* His hand-writing is very good; his youth is compensated by the sobriety of his disposition, and by good training under the eye of a father, a substantial, honest, knowing, farmer. I should be glad to see John Petty, together with good Master Bowring (whose heartiness and good farming sense charm me), whenever it may best suit their convenience, and propose to settle with John Petty to come as Baily, to act under my friend Bowring's advice. My present Baily is to go from me at Lady Day.

"I now blush, my dear Sir, to cast my eye back over this length of small businesses, with which your goodness allows me to trouble you; and that, too, before one of the most interesting articles of your kind letter, your own health. I trust all the worst of a cold so violent is over; and I should be freed from anxiety on the subject by what you say of your convalescence, if I did not know that the care of yourself is the least likely to employ your thoughts. I hope, however, you will be more careful of a thing, which, from the generous use you make of life, is not, most evidently, to be considered as your own.

"All here unite in warm wishes, that health, and the blessings known to the ingenuous, noble, and benevolent, may be ever yours. I am, with respectful and affectionate esteem,

"Dear Sir,

"Your most faithful and obliged humble servant,

"CHATHAM."

* Lord Chatham, having found farming a not very profitable speculation, would appear to have requested Hollis to consult with John Bowring, and recommend him a person for "Baily." Accordingly Hollis writes back, that Bowring recommends a young man, named John Petty, the son of a substantial farmer, and most respectable Protestant Dissenter, who is willing to be security to the amount of a thousand pounds for his son, if required. At the same time, Hollis delicately suggests whether it would not be more to Lord Chatham's advantage to let the whole, or part of his estate; the elder Petty being quite willing to rent it, and to put in his son, John Petty, as tenant to the Earl. "Tenants of character in these times," he writes, "you could not want. Impositions, and vexations numberless, you would forego. Profit you would reap; and hay, corn, butter, cheese, milk, cattle, you might receive from the tenants at fixed market-price; *cheaper far*, it is probable, than your lordship, or most other noblemen or gentlemen, could raise them. My lord, I hope I am not too free; but the subject draws me with a hearty, downright good will."—"May every superior felicity," concludes Hollis, "attend the family at Burton-Pynsent—a Non-such—and your lordship be preserved to us long, a pillar of cloud and of fire, to go

XIII.

“BURTON-PYNSERT, *Jan. 5th, 1773.*

“A thousand thanks, my dear Sir, for the speedy arrival of my trusty friend, Bowring, who has just left me to pass the evening with Mr. Speke. Bowring’s discretion went so far, as to drop his fellow-traveller, John Petty, at the inn at Curry, lest so sudden an apparition might cause too much speculation among those whom it may concern. This piece of circumspection is the cause of my having nothing as yet to say on those *letters of recommendation*, as Lord Bacon terms it, the *outside* of John Petty. I am to see the young man to-morrow morning, and have, in a manner, previously settled matters with my friend Bowring, in pursuance of your judicious advice.

“I mean to fix the day for Petty’s coming for the first of February, which period will allow time for early fairs for cattle. Other considerations also are strong for putting an end to present misrule. A *parting* Bayly cannot be too soon parted with. I have proposed for the *outset* of my new Governor, 25*l.* per annum, lodging and board, which, I imagine, will satisfy; and I would gladly have all parties pleased.

“The friendliness and hearty goodwill of your honest Dorsetshire farmers in my favour, flatter me highly, and nourish some reflections solidly pleasing to my mind. The good tidings contained in your kind letter, relating to your health, rejoice me greatly; and the *vivâ voce* testimony of honest master John Bowring, to the same effect, was an additional satisfaction. Believe me, dear Sir, with every sentiment of highest regard,

“Most faithfully and affectionately yours,

“CHATHAM.

“P.S.—My present shepherd is a very old servant of the place, and an honest fellow; no favourite of the reigning Powers.

“I have seen John Petty this morning, and like him well. His looks bespeak order and rule, with ingenuous plainness. Shoulders fit to bear the weight of more acres than mine!”

XIV.

“*Wednesday, ¼ past one, Feb. 3, 1773.*

“My dear Sir,

“The instructive conference with my honest counsellors is just broke up. I am greatly edified by the intelligence of both, in the

before and lead these nations, and their elected family, the way through those difficulties and dangers which surround them, and which no Englishman nor Irishman could ever have had the heart to seek out!” *Hollis’ MS.*

respective characters of their minds. The gift of utterance is with Master Petty. More clearness and sagacity I have rarely seen; Master Bowring, no way behind in native sense, and overflowing with heartiness and zeal. Your goodness in giving me this profitable, and, to my mind, pleasing acquaintance, is a very real obligation, added to no short list of friendly offices treasured in memory.

“The account of your inflammation of the lungs alarms still, though past. Some retrospects cannot be viewed but with sensible pain. Let it, my dear Sir, I beseech you, serve for an useful lesson of caution for the future. Nothing so dangerous as a sudden revulsion of humours, tending downwards, especially by wetting the feet. I must not delay my parting guests by indulging, as I wish, the pleasure of conversing with you.

“Boston is, I find, in a high ferment of spirit. The Town meeting has honoured me, by order, with their resolutions printed. These worthy New-England men feel as Old England ought to do. If rights and liberty were truly dear here, they could not be opposed there. Virtues would not be crimes, even in the eyes of courtiers. Corrupt as the times are, God only knows the issue.*

“Lady Chatham presents her best compliments, and the Youth, you favour so highly, beg to offer their respects. I am, with warmest esteem and consideration, dear Sir,

“Your most faithful and obedient,

“CHATHAM.”

XV.

(*In Lady Chatham's handwriting.*)

“BURTON-PYNSENT, Wednesday, March 31st, 1773.

“Lord Chatham cannot let good Master Henry Petty return, without making him the bearer of all respects and thankful acknowledgments to Mr. Hollis, for the interest he most kindly takes in his recovery.†

* Hollis writes to Lord Chatham, Feb. 15, 1773:—“I shall take the liberty to send your Lordship another New England Publication, the title of which is at present forgotten, though reprinted in England by my means. It contains, among other matters, a political dissertation, first inserted in a Boston newspaper, which is thought to be a beauty, and shows fully the genius, and general turn of thinking, of the present North Americans.” *Hollis' MS.*

† “Farmer Bowring and the elder Petty seem to have been charmed with Lady Chatham's good sense and condescension. To Lord Chatham Hollis writes on the 14th of April following:—“Farmer Petty and Mr. Bowring are full of the praises of Lady Chatham. ‘She is a woman of business too,’ cried Farmer Petty.—‘What a fine creature to breed out of!’ replied Farmer Bowring.” *Hollis' MS.*

"The friendly gout now seems returning to its due course, after being checked by the sore throat and fever, which came across, and much disturbed nature in her intended operations. He rejoices much in Mr. Hollis's perfect health, and was pleased to hear of him ranging the wholesome heights of Dorset, breathing pure morning air, and looking down with regret, like the guardian spirit in 'Comus,'—

'On the rank vapour of this sin-worn world.'

Lord Chatham hopes the prolongation of Mr. Hollis's stay at Urles will more firmly establish the health he now enjoys.

"Master Henry Petty is the most intelligent of men in his way. The son promises not to degenerate from the sire; is active, provident, and always in his business. It is not doubted but he will prove a complete bailiff.

"The Secretary, Lady Chatham, desires to assure Mr. Hollis of her best compliments and all good wishes. The young family beg to be allowed to join in the same."

XVI.

"BURTON-PTINSENT, April 1st 1773.

"I flatter myself, my dear Sir, that an account of my advances towards health will not be uninteresting at Urles, upon which place, I am happy to hear, that blessing smiles. I am recovering, thank God, apace, and hope soon to have strength to mount my steed. In the mean time, I air daily, some hours, in my coach.

"I am led also by your kind friendship to talk to you of another matter, not less near to me than myself, and my own health. This matter is, the instruction of Lord Pitt in military science, to which his mind strongly calls him. Will you allow me, then, without further apology or preface, as between friend and friend, to jump at once to my request of your advice and assistance? Captain Kennedy, the very short taste of whose acquaintance at Lyme struck me extremely, together with his distinguished reputation as an officer, and your knowledge of his many accomplishments, is the object of this letter.

"Pitt has an ardent desire to be instructed in Fortification; is well grounded in mathematics; and has an aptness to use the pencil. Where could this laudable desire to be initiated into the scientific branch of war be so advantageously satisfied, as under the instructions of Captain Kennedy, could it be possible to obtain such a particular favour? I am in no way entitled to take the liberty to sound this respectable veteran

on the subject. Your advice and assistance, my dear Sir, is my only resource, which I shall be highly indebted by being honoured with. Should my most earnest wish, in this very interesting affair, be favourably received by Captain Kennedy, Pitt might pass some time at Lyme; and perhaps, if his health permits, Captain Kennedy might be prevailed with to do me the honour to pass a month in the summer at Burton-Pynsent, where the pleasure of his company would be sure to give very real pleasure. My coach, too, would always be at his command to convey him, from time to time, to Lyme, as often as he pleased.*

"I feel how great a freedom I am taking with Mr. Hollis; but *the name*, which implies all kind offices to man, and to me in the largest measure, assures me of forgiveness, and forbids more excuses.

"Lady Chatham desires to present her best compliments, and our young Academy beg to offer theirs.

"I am, with highest esteem,

"My dear Sir,

"Your most obedient,

"And obliged humble Servant,

"CHATHAM."

* The allusions to "Captain Kennedy," in this letter, will be best explained by the following extract of a letter from Hollis to Lord Chatham, dated April 14, 1778:—"It is apprehended," he writes, "that in point of ability as an Engineer, experience and skill as an officer, and general accomplishments as a gentleman, Mr. Kennedy is the *very man* to initiate, guide on, Lord Pitt, in his laudable design of outline knowledge in the manner figured by your lordship; that Mr. Kennedy will be proud of such an *élève*, and feel the great honour of your lordship's confidence and trust in him; that, if it shall be necessary, he will receive Lord Pitt into his house, and treat him there, in a plain real way, with a fit decorum and respect; that he will accept cheerfully, and with highest content, satisfaction and gratitude, and, rather with the need of it, any 'honorary' with which your lordship shall think proper to reward him." Kennedy is described by Hollis as a "great invalid," with "some peculiarities of disposition;" as wedded to the "pure and benign air" of Lyme Regis, and that probably he "could not, would not think it safe to remove from it, on any consideration, no not even for a month."—"In the house with Mr. Kennedy," adds Hollis, "lives Mrs. —, of many years his mistress: it is probable for convenience, and little else. She is a comely person, about thirty; sensible, clean, an excellent housekeeper, and somewhat given to prate and to village consequence and scandal, to which the acuteness, turn, humour, irony, of her colleague, have, in a principal degree, led her on. Six years of the flower of my life have I devoted to see 'many cities and many men's manners,' and, before and since, have turned over many books ancient and modern, but never, through my whole observation, have I met the character of Mr. Kennedy." Hollis mentions, in this letter, that he had been intimately acquainted with Captain Kennedy since the year 1750, when they had met at Venice.

XVII

“BURTON-PYNSENT, *April 18th, 1773.*

“Dear Sir,

“I have most gratefully felt, and maturely weighed, the various parts of your kind letter, in answer to my request.

“The lights therein contained, and the prudent advice so obligingly suggested, are ample to my purpose, and leave nothing to be desired on the head of information. As I understand you are to go to Lyme very shortly, I shall esteem it a most real favour, if you will break, and propose to Mr. Kennedy my earnest wishes and request, that Lord Pitt might receive from *him* the best lessons I can desire for him on that essential, but little understood branch of service by our young officers, Fortification.

“I imagine that two or three months, under such able instruction, might suffice to give a general outline of that scientific branch, and that the principles of Vauban, for example, and the construction of various polygons, on that great man’s propositions, might be very thoroughly gone through in that time; so as that afterwards Lord Pitt might work with some utility by himself, till he goes out into the army. His mind is strongly bent on the pursuit, and I am sure he will be a diligent disciple.

“If Mr. Kennedy’s answer should be favourable, I propose that Lord Pitt should pass *some months* of the summer at Lyme, in a *lodging*, which shall be taken for him, if I should not arrange matters so as to come to that place myself, perhaps for a month. I hope to be able to send him, towards the latter end of May, but can fix nothing absolutely yet, as to the time.

“I have now, my dear Sir, used very freely your indulgence in permitting me to trouble you; but knowing perfectly that you meant I should avail myself of your good offices, I will not add to your trouble by many excuses.

“Things seem hastening to a crisis at Boston. Their answer to Governor Hutchinson* contains many curious particulars, and is strongly reasoned, but the times are most adverse to their claims. Even the Opposition deserted them, and the Whigs are offended, or take the pretext at the Bostonians raising the power of the Crown, at the expense of the authority of Parliament. I have ever found *this* thrown in my way, when I spoke in favour of these true sons of civil and religious liberty. I look forward to the time with very painful anxiety. The

* Thomas Hutchinson, Governor of Massachusetts.

whole Constitution is a shadow. Toleration has been again proved a mockery. The Bishop of Lincoln's lawn is pure and unspotted. I shall henceforth call him the *Protestant Bishop*.*

“ I am, with perfect esteem,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Your most obedient,

“ And affectionate humble servant,

“ CHATHAM.

“ P.S.—Lady Chatham desires her best compliments. Honest Bowring is delightful, and his rural encomiums more flattering than courtly compliments.”

XVIII.

“ BURTON-PYNSANT, *May ye 9th, 1773.*

“ Lord and Lady Chatham's compliments, best compliments, attend Mr. Hollis. They are anxious to know how his cold is, and will rejoice to learn that he no way suffered by the very kind visit with which he honoured them. The three days' silence since gives much satisfaction, as it signifies Mr. Tucker's consent. All wishes here are bent to taste, when practicable, the rare climate of Lyme out of England, though non-residence of the Prebend will rob the place of a great part of its health-inspiring influence.

“ The most ingenious and deep-reaching James Harrington is, as I conceived, express and full for a national, established religion. His authority is weighty, and my notions concerning *some establishment* are chiefly regulated by his principles. I only think he puts toleration, which has a *right* to be *absolute*, under too much control; for he subjects it to an appeal, in certain cases, to magistrates, and the council of religion, to determine in matters of private judgment and conscience.

“ May I beg my compliments to Mr. Kennedy ? ”

XIX.

“ LYME REGIS, *Tuesday, past 8.*

“ Lord Chatham's best compliments and abundant thanks attend Mr. Hollis for the honour of his very kind enquiries after the health of Burton and the Lyme Detachment. All, respectively, are, I thank God,

* Dr. John Green. He died in 1779.

well. The singular charms of humble rocks, from which we are just returned, (William, Mr. Wilson,* and the writer of the note,) fill our imaginations beyond expression, and balance the softer beauties of Pinney. Lyme Regis and its environs grow more and more into admiration.

“The rapid progress my young Engineer makes under the admirable and kind instructions of his accomplished master, fill my mind with as much solid satisfaction and joy, as the beauties of nature around us feed the eye with delight. We wish particularly for the benevolent friend and kind guide to all these pleasures and advantages.

“The Riddle of Darkness will soon unfold itself, and save the labour of expounding.”

XX.

“LYME REGIS, *Tuesday Night, July 20th, 1773.*

“Many compliments attend Mr. Hollis from Lord Chatham. He is much mended by Lyme, the delicious ; is going, for two or three days, to Burton, and hopes to have the satisfaction of carrying to Lady Chatham a good account of Mr. Hollis’s health ; tidings truly interesting on our hill. The young military goes on to my wish. Your friend, Mr. Kennedy, more than teaches ; he inspires : such is the progress. How happy your kind aid to root and branch ! Without it, *one* would have wanted the health-restoring air of Lyme, and the *other*, the unspeakable advantages of the most accomplished and most obliging of instructors.†

“Both the soldier and the lawyer beg to offer their respectful compliments.” ‡

* The Rev. Edward Wilson, private tutor to Lord Chatham’s children, and afterwards private tutor to William Pitt at the University of Cambridge. He died, in 1804, Rector of Binfield in Berkshire and a Canon of Windsor.

† To Lady Chatham Lord Chatham writes from Lyme Regis on the 11th of June—“Mr. Hollis came to us on Wednesday, and contrived to show me more beauties in the course of yesterday than I could have discovered without him in a twelvemonth. Amidst all the beauties of creation his own mind holds, by far, the most prominent place. He is the happiest of beings by dispensing continually happiness to others.” *Chatham Correspondence*, vol. iv. p. 269.

‡ Lord Pitt, “the soldier,” and William Pitt, “the lawyer,” were severally pursuing their studies at Lyme Regis at this time. See *Chatham Correspondence*, vol. iv. pp. 266—270.

XXI.

"BURTON-PYNSENT, *July 29th, 1773.*

"What thanks to Mr. Hollis can be enough for giving [me] to read immortal Buchanan, *De Jure*,—a volume, small in bulk, but big in matter—even all the length and breadth, depth and height, of that great argument, which the first geniuses, and master-spirits of the human race, have asserted so nobly. From him first, *ceu fonte perenni*, they have all drunk, and happiest who has drunk the deepest! Freedom looks down, well-pleased, upon the happy spot, to contemplate the truest of her sons strewing the pious oak-leaf over the deathless memory of the long-departed Buchanan. Could a *second* have sprung from the same country, what humiliations would have been saved to poor England! May your journey to Town be prosperous, and your return from the polluted capital be speedy!

"Lady Chatham presents her best compliments. She is just setting out for Lyme, to come back to-morrow.

"I have honoured my own name, as you so kindly wished."

XXII.

"BURTON-PYNSENT, *Sept. 12th, 1773.*

"All compliments and highest regards attend Mr. Hollis from Lord and Lady Chatham, ever flattered by the honor of his kind attentions, and the favourable and friendly interest he is so good to take in all that concerns them. They rejoice in the continuance of Mr. Hollis's health, and that he has not put it to the trial *ordeal* of London in the dog-days. Whenever he goes, all warm good wishes accompany him from Burton Pynsent. Our paper has not the letter signed 'Agricola.'* Lord Chatham proposes following the two boys to Lyme Regis, very shortly."

XXIII.

"LYME REGIS, *Sunday, Sept. 18th, 1773.*

"Lord Chatham returns very many thanks to Mr. Hollis for the honor of his obliging enquiries, to which the soldier citizen, and the

* "The letter signed Agricola, author unknown, was inserted in the S. J. C. [*St. James's Chronicle*?] of Sept. 4. 1773, and related to Corn, nationally considered.'
Note by Hollis.

lawyer of the Constitution, beg to add their respectful acknowledgments. He left all at Burton-Pynsent well, yesterday morning, and had the satisfaction to find the detached party at Lyme Regis in perfect health also. His own health is good, some equinoctial sensations of gout excepted.

“All wishes unite, under our roof, for the continuance of every felicity to Mr. Hollis.

“The letter signed ‘Agricola’ deserves all the kind sender of it said concerning it.* The happiest acquisition of new territory is increased cultivation. The plough is an amiable conqueror, and far outshines the sword of Alexander.

‘Omnis aratro
Dignus honos.’

“If Doctor Tucker should be open to treat for his house, I shall be desirous to take it, at an annual rent, furnished as it is, for a term of three years, with a clause of emption, *at my option*, at the end of that term. The sum for the purchase-money might be provisionally settled. Pardon this detail, which your goodness allows me to think not uninteresting to you.”

XXIV.

“BURTON-PYNSENT, *Noor.* 30th, 1773.

“Lord Chatham, having his hands lame from gout, devolves to Lady Chatham the agreeable task of expressing to Mr. Hollis abundance of very sincere thanks for his most kind enquiry, and friendly wishes for the health of Burton-Pynsent and more particularly for the recovery of William. The post of yesterday brought, thank God, a most comfortable account; he having been out in a carriage, and gaining strength every day.

“Lord Chatham is greatly indebted to Mr. Hollis for the curious book, and for the permission to peruse it at leisure, after which it will be carefully returned.† The Author and the Recommender have excited no small impatience to read, as soon as gout allows.

“The winter-suns and winter-verdure of Lyme, are truly comfortable;

* “Thomas Hollis is sorry to send a dirty newspaper, scratched after the mode, to Lord Chatham; but the letter, signed Agricola, appears to be of so important, sublime, and beneficent a nature, that he believes his lordship will not be displeas'd to see it, though it is scratched and dirty.” *Hollis to Lord Chatham*, 12 Sept. 1773.

† “A treatise ‘of the Revenue of the Kings of England,’ by the celebrated Sir John Fortescue; with a preface, by the late Judge, Sir John Fortescue Acland.” *Note by Hollis.*

and we too can boast the brightening ray, and verdant sheep-walk upon our hill, as honest Bowring can testify, who gives us most real satisfaction by his good tidings of Mr. Hollis's perfect health."

 XXV.

"BURTON-PYNSENT, *Saturday, December 11th, 1773.*

"A thousand thanks attend Mr. Hollis from Lord Chatham, for the most valuable Tract returned herewith. The noble author does honor to his age and country, and shows that old England could think and feel. The preface by the Editor is superexcellent, and does not degenerate from the venerable Chancellor, Chief Justice, and Patriot of the days of Plantagenet.

"Gout still hangs and prevents the use of the pen. A filial secretary with pleasure employs her hand. Lady Chatham, together with the rest of the circle, desires to present all compliments and sincere good wishes.

"Accounts from William continue more and more favourable." *

 XXVI.

Lady Chatham to T. Hollis.

"BURTON-PYNSENT, *Decr. 15th, 1773.*

"Lady Chatham presents her best compliments to Mr. Hollis, and is extremely flattered by the honor of his very liberal present of hares from the sweet feed at Uries Hill, which gives them a very valued superiority.

"The expected Traveller is not yet arrived, the day of his leaving London having been postponed; but to-morrow, it is hoped, will bring him safe, and with increased strength, to the ardent wishes of the whole family circle here. He will be made very proud and happy by the honor of Mr. Hollis's most obliging remembrance of him.

"Lady Chatham begs to present her best compliments to Mr. Hollis; rejoices much in the good account of his health, in which Lord Chatham, with all at Burton-Pynsent, join.

* Indorsed by Hollis,—“Lady Hester or Lady Harriot Pitt, Burton Pynsent, Dec. 11, 1773; received at Uries the same day by Farmer John Petty; answered Dec. 13.”

"Gout continues to linger, and has been attended for three or four days past with cramps that are disagreeable." *

Mr. Hollis died on the 1st of January following the date of this letter.

* Indorsed by Hollis—"Lady Chatham, Burton Pynsent, Dec. 15, 1773, received the same day at Uxley. Having sent her ladyship a basket of game, consisting of four hares and a woodcock."

END OF VOL. II.