

VARIOUS

NOTES AND QUERIES,
NUMBER 05, DECEMBER
1, 1849

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"When found, make a note of."—CAPTAIN CUTTLE.

LORD CHATHAM–QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Original Letter, written on the Resignation of Mr. Pitt, in 1761–Public Feeling on the Subject, and Changes at Court in consequence–First Impressions of Queen Charlotte.

[The following valuable original letter is now published for the first time. It will be found to be of very considerable historical curiosity and interest. The resignation of the Great Commoner in 1761, and his acceptance at the same time of a pension and a peerage for his family, were events which astonished his admirers as much as any thing else in his wonderful career. Even now, after the recent publication of all the letters relating to these transactions, it is difficult to put any construction on Mr. Pitt's conduct which is consistent with the high-spirited independence which one desires to believe to have been a leading feature of his character. There may have been great subtlety in the way in which he was tempted; that may be admitted even by the stoutest defenders of the character of George III; but nothing can excuse the eager, rapturous gratitude with which the glittering bait was caught. The whole circumstances are related in the *Chatham Correspondence*, ii. 146, coupled with Adolphus's *Hist. of England*.

A kind judgment upon them may be read in Lord Mahon's *Hist. of England*, iv. 365, and one more severe–perhaps, more just–in Lord Brougham's *Historical Sketches*, in the article on Lord Chatham. See also the *Pictorial History of the Reign of George III*, i. 13. After consulting all these authorities the reader will still find new facts, and a vivid picture of the public feeling, in the following letter.]

Dear Robinson,–I am much obliged to you for both your letters, particularly the last, in which I look upon the freedom of your expostulations as the strongest mark of your friendship, and allow you to charge me with any thing that possibly can be brought against one upon such an occasion, except forgetfulness of you. I left town soon after receiving your first letter, and was moving about from place to place, till the coronation brought me to town again, and has fixed me here for the winter; however I do not urge my unsettled situation during the summer as any excuse for my silence, but aim to lay it upon downright indolence, which I was ashamed of before I received your second letter, and have been angry with myself for it since; however, as often as you'll do me the pleasure, and a very sincere one it is I assure you, of letting me hear how you do, you may depend upon the utmost punctuality for the future, and I undertake very seriously to answer every letter you shall write me within a fortnight.

The ensuing winter may possibly produce many things to amaze you; it has opened with one that I am sure will; I mean Mr. Pitt's resignation, who delivered up the seals to the King last Monday. The reason commonly given for this extraordinary step is a resolution taken in Council contrary to Mr. Pitt's opinion, concerning our conduct towards the Spaniards, who upon the breaking off of the negotiations with France and our sending Mr. Bussy away, have, it is said, made some declarations to our Court which Mr. Pitt was for having the King treat in a very different manner from that which the rest of the Cabinet advised; for they are said to have been all against Mr. Pitt's opinion, except Lord Temple. The effect of this resignation you'll easily imagine. It has opened all the mouths of all the news-presses in England, and, from our boasted unanimity and confidence in the Government, we seem to be falling apace into division and distrust; in the meantime Mr. Pitt seems to have entered, on this occasion, upon a new mode of resignation, at least for him, for he goes to Court, where he is much taken notice of by the King, and treated with great respect by everybody else, and has said, according to common report, that he intends only to tell a plain story, which I suppose we are to have

in the House of Commons. People, as you may imagine, are very impatient for his own account of a matter about which they know so little at present, and which puts public curiosity to the rack.

Fresh matter for patriots and politicians! Since writing the former part of this letter, I have been at the coffee-house, and bring you back verbatim, a very curious article of the *Gazette*. "St. James's, Oct. 9. The Right Hon. William Pitt having resigned the Seals into the King's hands, his Majesty was this day pleased to appoint the Earl of Egremont to be one of his principal Secretaries of State, and in consideration of the great and important services of the said Mr. Pitt, his Majesty has been graciously pleased to direct that a warrant be prepared for granting to the Lady Hester Pitt, his wife, a Barony of Great Britain, by the name, style and title of Baroness of Chatham to herself, and of Baron of Chatham to her heirs male; and also to confer upon the said William Pitt, Esq. an annuity of 3000*l.* sterling during his own life, that of Lady Hester Pitt, and that of their son John Pitt, Esq!"

A report of this matter got about the day before, and most unfortunately all the newspapers contradicted it as a scandalous report, set on foot with a design to tarnish the lustre of a certain great character. This was the style of the morning and evening papers of Saturday, and of those who converse upon their authority; so that upon the coming in of the *Gazette* about ten o'clock at night, it was really diverting to see the effect it had upon most people's countenances at Dick's Coffee House, where I was; it occasioned a dead silence, and I think every body went away without giving their opinions of the matter, except Dr. Collier, who has always called Mr. Pitt all the rogues he can set his mouth on. It appears at present a most unaccountable proceeding in every part of it, for he seems to have forfeited his popularity, on which his consequence depended, for a consideration which he might have commanded at any time; and yet he does not make an absolute retreat, for in that case one should think he would have taken the peerage himself.

Lord Temple has resigned the Privy Seal, which is commonly said to be intended for Lord Hardwycke; some comfort to him for the loss of his wife, who died a few weeks ago. So that we seem to be left in the same hands out of which Mr. Pitt gloried in having delivered us; for, as you have probably heard before this time, Mr. Legge was removed from his place in the spring, for having refused to support any longer our German measures, as has been commonly said and not contradicted that I know of. Every body agrees that he was quite tired of his place, as is generally said on account of the coolness between him and Mr. Pitt, the old quarrel with the Duke of Newcastle, and some pique between him and Lord Bute on account of the Hampshire election. People were much diverted with the answer he is said to have made to the Duke of Newcastle when he went to demand the seal of his office. He compared his retirement to Elysium, and told the Duke he thought he might assure their common friends there, that they should not be long without the honour of his Grace's company; however, he seems to be out in his guess, for the Newcastle junta, strengthened by the Duke of Bedford, who has joined them, seems to be in all its glory again. This appeared in the Church promotions the other day, for Dr. Young was translated, the master of Bennet made a bishop, and Mr. York dean: however, as you will probably be glad of a more particular account of our Church promotions, I am to tell you that the scene opened soon after the King's accession with the promotion of Dr. Squire to the Bishoprick of St. David's, upon the death of Ellis. Some circumstances of this affair inclined people to think that the old ecclesiastical shop was quite shut up; for the Duke of Newcastle expressed great dissatisfaction at Squire's promotion, and even desired Bishop Young to tell every body that he had no hand in it. Young answered, that he need not give himself that trouble, for Dr. Squire had told every body so already, which is generally said to be very true: for he did not content himself with saying how much he was obliged to Lord Bute, but seemed to be afraid lest it should be thought he was obliged to any body else. What an excellent courtier! The next vacancy was made by Hoadly, upon which Thomas was translated from Salisbury to Winchester, Drummond from St. Asaph to Salisbury, Newcome from Llandaff to St. Asaph, and that exemplary divine Dr. Ewer made Bishop of Llandaff. These were hardly settled when Sherlock and Gilbert dropt almost together. Drummond has left Salisbury for York, Thomas is translated from Lincoln to Salisbury,

Green made Bishop of Lincoln, and succeeded in his deanery by Mr. York: Hayter is translated from Norwich to London, Young from Bristol to Norwich, and Newton is made Bishop of Bristol; and I must not forget to tell you, that, among several new chaplains, Beadon is one. This leads me naturally to Lord Bute, who, though the professed favourite of the King, has hitherto escaped the popular clamour pretty well: the immense fortune that is come into his family by the death of old Wortley Montague has added much to his consequence, and made him be looked upon as more of an Englishman, at least they can no longer call him a poor Scot.

His wife was created a peeress of Great Britain at the same time that Mr. Spencer, Mr. Doddington, Sir Richard Grosvenor, Sir Nat. Curzen, Sir Thomas Robinson, and Sir William Irby were created peers. He has married his eldest daughter to Sir James Lowther and is himself, from being Groom of the Stole, become Secretary of State—Lord Holderness being removed with very little ceremony indeed, but with a pension, to make room for him. He and Mr. Pitt together have made good courtiers of the Tories; Lords Oxford, Litchfield, and Bruce, being supernumerary lords, and Norbonne Berkeley, Northey, and I think George Pitt, supernumerary Grooms of the Bedchamber. Sir Francis Dashwood is Treasurer of the Chamber, in the room of Charles Townshend, who was made Secretary at War upon Lord Barrington's succeeding Mr. Legge as Chancellor of the Exchequer. Lord Talbot, who is in high favour, is Steward of the Household, and with his usual spirit has executed a scheme of economy, which, though much laughed at at first, is now much commended. They made room for him upon Lord Bute's being made Secretary, at which time Lord Huntingdon was made Groom of the Stole, and succeeded as Master of the Horse by the Duke Rutland, who was before Steward of the Household. Thus have I concluded this series of removals, which was first begun, after the old King's death, by Lord Bute's being Groom of the Stole in the room of Lord Rochford, who has a pension, and Lord Huntingdon's being made Master of the Horse instead of Lord Gower, who was made Master of the Wardrobe in the room of Sir Thomas Robinson, who has his peerage for a recompense; and written you a long letter, which may perhaps be no better for you upon the whole than an old newspaper. However, I was determined your curiosity should be no sufferer by my long silence if I could help it.

I must not conclude without saying something of our new Queen. She seems to me to behave with equal propriety and civility, though the common people are quite exasperated at her not being handsome, and the people at Court laugh at her courtesies. All our friends are well, and have had nothing happen to them that I know of which requires particular mention. Gisborne either has or will write to you very soon. Convince me, dear Robinson, by writing soon that you forgive my long silence, and believe me to be, with the sincerest regard for you and yours, your most affectionate friend,

G. CRUCH.¹

Mrs. Wilson's, Lancaster Court,

Oct'r. 12th.

(Addressed)

To The Ho'd Mr. Will'm Robinson

Recomende a Messieurs Tierney & Merry² a Naples.

(Memorandum indorsed)

Ring just rec'd that of 22't Sept. 16th Oct'r. 1761.

¹ The name is not easy to be made out; but as far as it is determinable by comparison of hand-writing, it is "Cruch." The letter passed through the post-office

² The part printed in *italics* was added by some other person than the writer of the letter.

CHARACTERS OF ACTORS IN CIBBER'S APOLOGY

Reverting to a Query in your Second Number, p. 29, your correspondent DRAMATICUS may rest assured that Colley Cibber's characters of actors and actresses (his contemporaries and immediate predecessors) *first* appeared in his *Apology*, 4to. 1740, and were transferred *verbatim*, as far as I have been able to consult them, to the subsequent editions of that very entertaining and excellent work. If Colley Cibber were not a first-rate dramatist, he was a first-rate critic upon performers; and I am disposed to place his abilities as a play-wright much higher than the usual estimate.

Probably the doubt of your correspondent arose from the fact, not hitherto at all noticed, that these characters no sooner made their appearance, than they were pirated, and pirated work may have been taken for the original. It is a scarce tract, and bears the following title—*The Theatrical Lives and Characters of the following celebrated Actors*; and then follow sixteen names, beginning with Betterton, and ending with Mrs. Butler, and we are also told that *A General History of the Stage during their time* is included. The whole of this, with certain omissions, principally of classical quotations, is taken from Cibber's *Apology*, and it professed to be "Printed for J. Miller, in Fleet Street, and sold at the pamphlet shops," without date. The whole is nothing but an impudent plagiarism, and it is crowned and topped by a scrap purporting to be from Shakspeare, but merely the invention of the compiler. In truth, it is the only original morsel in the whole seventy pages. At the end of the character of Betterton, the following is subjoined, and it induces a Query, whether any such work, real or pretended, as regards Betterton, is in existence?

"N.B. The author of this work has, since he began it, had a very curious manuscript of Mr. Betterton's communicated to him, containing the whole duty of a Player; interspersed with directions for young Actors, as to the management of the voice, carriage of the body, etc. etc., reckoned the best piece that has ever been wrote on the subject," p. 22.

This "best piece" on the subject is promised in the course of the volume, but it is not found in it. Did it appear anywhere else and in any other shape? As the Query of DRAMATICUS is now answered, perhaps he may be able to reply to this question from

T.J.L.

I should have sent this note sooner, had I not waited to see if any body else would answer the Query of DRAMATICUS, and perhaps afford some additional information.

ANCIENT TAPESTRY

Sir,—I believe I can answer a Query in your Third Number, by N., respecting the whereabouts of a piece of ancient tapestry formerly in the possession of Mr. Yarnold, of Great St. Helen's, London, described, upon no satisfactory authority, as "the Plantagenet Tapestry." It is at present the property of Thos. Baylis, Esq., of Colby House, Kensington. A portion of it has been engraved as representing Richard III, etc.; but it is difficult to say what originated that opinion. The subject is a crowned female seated by a fountain, and apparently threatening two male personages with a rod or slight sceptre, which she has raised in her *left* hand, her arm being stayed by another female standing behind her. This has been said to represent Elizabeth of York driving out Richard III, which, I need scarcely say, she did not do. There are nineteen other figures, male and female, looking on or in conversation, all attired in the costume of the close of the 15th century, but without the least appearance of indicating any historical personage. It is probably an allegorical subject, such as we find in the tapestry of the same date under the gallery of Wolsey's Hall at Hampton Court, and in that of Nancy published by Mons. Juninal.

I believe one of the seven pieces of "the siege of Troy," mentioned in Query, No. 3, or an eighth piece unmentioned, is now in the possession of Mr. Pratt, of Bond Street, who bought it of Mr. Yarnold's widow.

I may add that the tapestry in St. Mary's Hall, Coventry, contains, undoubtedly, representations of King Henry VI, Queen Margaret, and Cardinal Beaufort. It is engraved in Mr. Shaw's second volume of *Dresses and Decorations*; but the date therein assigned to it (*before 1447*) is erroneous, the costume being, like that in the tapestries above mentioned, of the *very end* of the 15th century.

J.R. PLANCHÉ.

Brompton, Nov. 20. 1849.

[To this Note, so obligingly communicated by Mr. Planché, we may add, that the tapestry in question was exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries at their opening meeting on the 22nd ultimo.]

TRAVELLING IN ENGLAND

Mr. Editor,—Your No. 3. has just fallen into my hands, with the wonderful account of Schultz's journey of fifty miles in six hours, a hundred years ago. I am inclined to think the explanation consists in a misprint. The distances are given in figures, and not in words at length, if we may trust your correspondent's note on p. 35. May not a 1 have "dropped" before the 6, so that the true lection will be, "dass wir auf dem ganzen Wege kaum 16 Stunden gefahren sind"? This time corresponds with the time of return, on which he set out in the evening (at 8?) of one day and arrived at noon the next. It was also most likely that the spring carriages of fifteen years later date should go much faster than the old springless vehicles. Any one who has corrected proofs will appreciate the "dropping" of a single type, and may be ready to admit it on such circumstantial evidence.

I may remark that 1749 was still Old Style in England; but the German Schultz, in dating his expedition on *Sunday*, 10 Aug. 1749, has used the *New Style*, then prevalent in Germany. Sunday, 10 Aug. 1749, O.S., was on Thursday, 31 July, 1749, N.S. The York coach-bill cited on the same page is in O.S.

Is not "*Stäts-Kutsche*," in the same communication, a misprint?

A.J.E.

G.G. has perhaps a little overrated the import of the passage he quotes from Schultz's travels. "*Dass wir kaum 6 Stunden gefahren sind*"—even supposing there is no misprint of a 6 for an 8 or 9, which is quite possible—will not, I apprehend, bear the meaning he collects from the words, viz. that *the journey occupied no more than six hours*, or less even than so much.

In the first place, I believe it will be allowed by those familiar with German idioms, that the phrase *kaum 6 Stunden*, is not to be rendered as though it meant *no more or less than 6*; but rather thus: "but little more than 6;"—the "*little more*," in this indefinite form of expression, being a very uncertain quantity, it may be an hour or so.

Then he says merely that they "*kaum 6 Stunden gefahren sind*," which may mean that the time *actually spent in motion* did not exceed the number of hours indicated, whatever that may be; and not that the journey itself, "*including stoppages*," took up no more. Had he meant to say this, I imagine he would have used a totally different phrase: e. g. *dass wir binnen kaum mehr als 6 Stunden nach London schön gekommen sind*; or something like these words.

Making these allowances, the report is conceivably true, even of a period a century old, as regards the rate of day-travelling on the high road to Norwich, still at that time a place of much business with London. The second journey of the Pastor on the same road was, it seems, *by night*: but what perhaps is of more consequence to explain is the apparent difference between it and the other. It appears that in the second instance we are told *when* he arrived at his journey's end; in the former, nothing beyond the number of hours he was actually moving, may have been communicated to us.

Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.

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