Memoires by Sir John Hinton, physitian in ordinary to His Majesties person, 1679.

Contributors

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MEMOIRS

OF

SIR JOHN HERSCHEL

BY

MRS. JOHN HERSCHEL

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MEMOIRES

BY

SIR JOHN HINTON,

PHYSITIAN IN ORDINARY

TO HIS

MAJESTIES PERSON.

1679.

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May it please your Majestie,

I MAKE bold with all humble submission, to present your Majestie with a short and plaine Narrative of some memorable passages, wherein the divine providence hath bin extended to a miraculous degree upon your Person and Affaires, in which itt hath pleased God to make mee personally instrumentall, to which, I haue added some particular

transactions (to the best of my memory literally true) which may not be unworthy your Majesties knowledge or remembrance.

MEMOIRES,

&c. &c.

I PRAY your Majestie to understand, that I proceed from an Ancient family, which in no age hath bin tainted with any undutifull or disloyall behaviour to the crowne; but on the contrary, wee have bin in actual services to the hazard or ruine of our estates and lives, and I hope we shall alwaies continue in the same obedience. One of my brothers was killed att the Isle of Rhee, another was miserably wounded in the late

rebellion, so that hee lost the use of almost all his limbs; and more particularly in one long march, the soles of both his feet rotted away; a third served your Royall father, and your Majestie in a civill capacitie to the end of his life.

And for myself, My first attempt was upon the beginning of the late war, by contriveing and publickly promoteing a paper to the Long Parliament, stiled, "The Inns of Court Peticion for Peace," for which I was severall times examined before the house of Commons, and a Committee of them, and haveing refused any adherence to that party, and the offerrs of

very considerable advantages; I was at last forced to fly from my house and family, whereupon they immediatly plundred mee to the losse of above one thousand pound, and my wife and children were left in a very bad condition, not being able to obteine the least satisfaction from them.

I went directly to your Royall father, of ever blessed memory, to York, and ioyneing with his Army, I marched with them to Beverley, and lay before Hull, and in those parts.

Soone after his Majestie was pleased to take notice of mee, and the Royall Standard being set up at Notingham, hee sent

mee thither with letters and instructions to the Marquess of Hertford and the Lord Hopton, who thought fitt to make use of mee to ride into Wales, to Collonell Stradling and other gentlemen of quality there, in order to prepare their businesse and reception of the Army att Cardiff, which was accordingly don with good successe, and the Army being as complete as they could make itt, I marched with itt to Killingworth castle, and from thence to Edghill.

Where on the 23rd of October, which was the first time your Majestie ever saw the enemy in a body, who were then under the command of the Earle of Essex,

quartering at Keinton, his sacred Majestie of ever blessed memorie, being with his army neare that place, and resolveing to fight them, marched downe the hill, which Essex percieveing, presently drawes out to engage the king, whose army being in batalia Prince Rupert commanding the right wing, the Lord Wilmott the left, and the maine battaile by the Earle of Lindsey, Generall of the feild, within a short time both armies engage, and after a sharp dispute, (Prince Rupert routing Collonell Ramsay, and pursueing him towards Keinton, the Lord Wilmott being in the meane time forced from his ground by Sir

William Belfour) the kings army destitute of both wings of horse, was both in front and flank attacqued by the enemies horse and foot, by which advantage Belfour disorders two regiments of foot, and forceth away to the Royall Standard, where the Earle of Lindsey was mortally wounded, and Sir Edmund Varney standard bearer slaine, and the standard itt self taken, but itt was soone after regained by Sir Iohn Smith, for that action made knight; after which the kings foot quitting the field, retreated towards that side of the hill, from whence his Majestie first marched downe to engage; upon which retreat your

Majestie was unhappily left behind in a large feild, att which time I had the honour to attend your person, and seeing the sudden and quick march of the Enemie towards you, I did with all earnestnesse, most humbly, but at last somewhat rudely, importune your Highnesse to avoid this present and apparent danger of being killed or taken prisoner, for their horse was by this time come up within half musket shott in a full body, att which your Highnesse was pleased to tell mee, You feared them not, and drawing a pistoll out of one of your holsters, and spanning itt, resolved to charge them, but I did prevaile

with your Highnesse to quitt the place, and ride from them, in some hast, but one of their troopers being excellently mounted, broke his rank, and coming full careere towards your Highnesse, I received his charge, and hauing spent a pistoll or two on each other, I dismounted him in the closeing, but being armed cap-a-pe, I could doe noe execution upon him with my sword, att which instant, one Mr. Mathewes, a Gentleman Pensioner, rides in, and with a pole-axe immediately decides the businesse, and then overtaking your Highness, you gott safe to the Royall Army, and without this Providence you had

undoubtedly miscarried att that time, which passage is related in a booke, entituled, "Miraculum Basilicon," printed in the yeare 1664.

The next day your Highnesse's Tutor, Doctor Duppa, was by accident taken prisoner, by a party, who were carryeing him away to the Enemie, and haveing notice of itt, I presently applyed myself to Sir Thomas Aston, who with my self and a party, after an hard dispute, did rescue him.

From this Battle I marched with the Army to Banbury, and from thence to Oxford, where your Royall father was then gratiously pleased to giue mee the

place of Physitian in Ordinary to your Person, being introduced by the Marquess of Hertford, and the Earle of Dorsett.

Afterwards I marched againe with the Army to Redding, and soe to Brentford, and from thence back againe to Oxford, att which time his Majestie was pleased to look upon me as a proper instrument to doe him some service in London, and rideing thitherwards, in company of some gentlemen, who had passes, I thought myself secure, howe'r I was taken among the rest, and caried to Windsor Castle, but I was soone afterwards discharged by the only favour and meanes of the Lord Roberts, for

no other reason as I could understand, but that I was the Prince's servant, for then I had not the honour to bee knowne unto his Lordship. Hauing dispatched my orders in London, I returned againe to Oxford with great difficulty.

Afterwards I marched with the Army to the Seige of Taunton, and thence to that bloody and tedious Battle at Lansdowne, which lasted from break of day till very late at night, where Sir Bevill Greenvill, father of the now Earle of Bath, brauely behaveing himself, was killed at the head of his stand of pikes, and in this extremitie, I was the last man that

had him by the hand a very little time before hee died; in this battle I was also wounded, but I recovered againe soone enough to march with the Army to the Seige of Gloucester, where when Essex came downe to relieve itt, the Seige was raised, upon which the King commanded mee to goe to the Queene att Oxford for recruits. I parted from his Majestie in the night, and went through all the enemies guards, and part of their army unsuspected, otherwise I had been hanged without doubt; in short, I gott to Oxford; upon which, recruits were forthwith sent, consisting of about three thousand men,

and marching with them, wee mett the army at Auburne chase, and thence his Majestie following the enemie, the first Newbury fight hap'ned; from thence I marched againe with the Army into the West to Leistidall, and Beauconaught, where Essex's army lay, and from thence quite back againe to the second Newbury fight, where the Army being routed, and the king and your Highnesse gone, wee kept close under the command of the Castle, and considering how to escape, I picked out a small number (about twenty) who resolved to run my fortune under my command, and the Lord Goring heareing of my designe,

said, that hee and a few more would alsoe goe with mee. I had not marched aboue three miles by two in the morneing, but Prince Maurice gaue mee a patt on the shoulder, saying, how dost thou Doctor? you have some hearty cavaliers after you; in fine, I conducted his Highnesse to Wallingford, and I gott safe to Oxford, as I first designed.

After which the Queene being great with child and weake, haveing fitts of the mother, and a violent consumptive cough, I was commanded to waite upon her in her iourney to Exeter, and I attended her Majestie there till she was delivered of the Princess Hen-

rietta, and as a crueltie which ought not to be forgotten, being in that weake condition, she was forced within a weeke after her delivery, to goe for Cornwall, in which iourney I waited upon her the greatest part of the way on foot, by the side of her Litter; from thence she went into France, and then I was commanded to returne and take care of the Princesse att Exeter, by your Highnes's spetiall orders, she haveing convulsion fitts; afterwards she went away well recovered, with the Lady Dalkeith and the Lord Berkeley.

I stayed till the Towne was surrendred upon the Lord Fair-

fax's Articles, and then I returned to London, when a great part of the Parliaments fleet rendred themselves to your Highnesse, your Royall father being then made prisoner in the Isle of Wight, which ships, Prince Rupert, the Duke of Buckingham, Lord Gerhard, the now Earle of Bath, and others being there, anchored in the Downes; att this time there was a report raised in London, that your Highnesse had bin hurt with powder; whereupon I applyed myself to one Sergeant Middleton, and by him I was brought to Lenthall the Speaker, desireing a lett passe to goe as Physitian to the Prince, which

that night hee denied, but promised to move the House next morneing, and then it was granted; whereupon I tooke with mee Mr. Chase, Apothecary to your Majesties Person, and Mr. Ames one of the Carvers, under the notion of my servants; and haveing got into a dogger att Quinborough, wee made towards the Downes, haveing struck twice upon the sands, but escaped with great danger of our lives; as soone as I came on board the Admirall, I related to your Highness the newes of a totall defeat given to Duke Hamilton, which hapned so lately, that your Highnesse had not any intelligence of itt, and to confirme

itt, I presented to your Highnesse a copie of Cromwells letter to the Parliament, the knowledge of which att that instant was of very great consequence, for that as I understood your Highnesse had received orders from your Father to saile for Scotland with all expedition: but hereupon calling a Councell of Warr, your intended voiage was altered, for if itt had bin persued, every man that knowes that juncture, did conclude, that upon your arrivall in Scotland, not knowing of this defeat, you had in all probabillity bin disposed off, as was your Royall father, You haueing bin so active in the warr. Your High-

nesse thus rideing in the Downes, and the Earl of Warwick comeing out of Tilbury, your fleet beginning to want provisions, you determined to stand towards Holland to victuall, and your Highnes orders being given to the Vice and Rere Admirall, they took noe notice of them, nay, they all stood the other way, resolving to engage Warwick, but while some time was spent in this refractory manner, there came up a small vessell, by which your Highnes had advice, that Warwick was come out of the River, att which your Highnesse greatly reioyceing cutt a caper, declareing your resolucion to fight the enemie, whereupon

your fleet came up with your Highnes, one by one, and saluted you, by throwing up their capps, and great acclamations of joy; but Warwick declineing fighting, stood towards the river, and night comeing on, both fleets cast anchor near each other, and haveing given the signall of battle, very early the next morning, there came on a sudden, a violent storme of wind, so that both fleets were forced to cast out all their anchors; And thus then was your Highness condicion, The Sands on one side, Fairfax with his Army on the other, Warwick with his fleet before you, and another fleet from Portsmouth in the reare; and

to complete the miserie, scarce provisions for four and twenty houres, so that all hopes of escapeing were past hopeing for; but then in the very midst of your extremitie, itt pleased God, to whome the sea and the wind owe obedience, to shew his power to no lesse than a miracle, for in a moment the wind chopt cleere about, and so with as violent a storm the other way, in despight of all, you gott out to sea, and in a little time you landed safe att Helvoett-sluice, in Holland, which great providence, whereof I was an eye witnes, is printed also in the same "Miraculum Basilicon."

And haveing attended your

Highnes for some time at the Hague, I was ordered by your Highnes to returne for London (as many other gentlemen did, being willing to serve you and your concernes in England, to the last of our lives and fortunes, rather than to eat you up in foreign parts, and to become both uselesse and chargeable to you in times of such extremitie) with general instructions for carryeing on the designes, which should bee communicated to mee, by procureing money in the time of your exile, and paying messengers, all which I did to the utmost of my abillity, as Sir Iohn Berkenhead and others can well remember.

But soon after my arrivall to London, notwithstanding the Articles by Fairfax, I was seised upon, and putt into the custody of a Sergeant att Arms, at first to a confinement, but afterwards to more liberty, but at a farr greater charge in your Majesties, and my owne affaires. In this condicion upon all intended or pretended Plotts, I was more closely confined, and many times threatned with the Tower, high courts of Iustice, and death, and once in a more particular manner by Oliver himself after a full houres examination: hee swore by the Liveing God, hee would wrack every veine in my heart, if I did not discover

the designes against him. I told him those threats came too late, and death was no more than I looked for, when he would order itt; but by the meanes and intercession of some zealous women, my patients, (who doubtlesse were more sollicitous for their owne then my life) I was not handled any more as a devil among the saintes, but was alwaies kept under custody, till your Majesties happy Restauracion.

The day before General Monk went into Scotland, hee dined with mee, for I had contracted a great friendship with him when hee was of our party; and after dinner hee called mee into the

next roome, and after generall discourse, taking a lusty glasse of wine, hee drank an health to his black boy, (as he called your Majestie) and freely declared to mee, that if ever hee had power, he would serve your Majestie to the utmost of his life, with many expressions of the like nature, att which I was astonished, hee being in so great a station, and this assurance I had of his loyalty to your Majestie was the only cause of my preserving his life many yeares after, which I doe justify by this short story following: When hee came out of Scotland with his army and lodged att Alderman Wale's, in London, the

Officers of the Army invited him to dinner, hee promised; but the night before the day of his entertainment, Collonel Whaley's wife was dangerously ill, in childbed, upon which I was sent for about one a clock att night; I dispatched my businesse, but att my entrance, and goeing out, I observed a great many souldiers, and arms ready fixed, which I conceived could have no good meaneing, espetially knowing that hee was to dine at Whitehall the very next day; and remembring his expressions concerning your Majestie, I could not rest in my bed, fully resolveing to acquaint him of itt, and accordingly very

betimes in the morneing, I called upon the Earle of Stamford (to avoid any suspition of myself) desireing him to introduce me to the Generall, for I had not seene him since his returne. Wee went together, and after usuall ceremonies, I tooke my oppertunitie in very few words, to informe him of the passages I had observed the night before, and that I was confident by some expressions of the souldiers, they intended to murder him, upon which, thanking mee for this intelligence, hee sent some trusty persons to discover the truth, who brought him word of it that morneing, whereupon that very afternoone hee declared for

a free Parliament, and then succeeded your Majesties glorious Restauracion. The consequences of his death att that time are very plaine and obvious.

After your Majesties returne, I accounted itt my duty to contrive the best for your interest and profitt, which I did evidence by contriveing the designe of a free Benevolence, which I presented to your Majestie, in the presence, and by the consent and approbacion of the Duke of Albemarle. Your Majestie referred mee to the Lord Chancellor Hide, who extreemely well approveing of itt, promised mee two shillings in the pound, as a reward for this and

my other services; but in the conclusion, I was informed, that your Majestie gott above one hundred and twenty thousand pounds by itt, and I am sure your poor projector was left to his shifts, for I could never gett one penny of itt for my self.

At the latter end of the Plague, I returned from my attendance upon your Majestie, resolving to give the Duke of Albemarle a visitt att the Cockpitt. After dinner he was pleased to acquaint mee, that hee was in a desperate condition, for that he daily expected the army in London would mutinie upon him for want of pay, and that without some supply itt was impossible to prevent itt, and

therefore desired mee to supply him with five hundred pounds, for he was forced to borrow of every gentleman that came neare him. I answered, that I would endeavour to help his Grace, and in truth, he was very much dejected upon itt; upon which I went immediately to one Mr. Edmund Hinton, a kinsman, then a Goldsmith, in Lumbard Street, and by him I procured, on that occasion, the summe of Ten Thousand five hundred pounds, which was all paid to his Grace, within two or three dayes, of which service hee acquainted your Majestie, att your returne to Whitehall, and thereupon your Majestie was pleased to make your Doctor a

Knight. This and the former businesse his Grace did many time owne in company, and itt was generally knowne, that hee had a perticular respect and kindnesse for myself and family to the end of his life.

Thus, Sir, did I spend the principall part of my dayes, and youth, in the service of your Majestie, and your Royall Father, at my owne expence, by which meanes, and being engaged for severall of your friends, in the warrs and afterwards, I did contract a debt of severall thousand pounds, which I have bin forced to pay out of my owne labour; All which with utmost humility, I lay before your Majestie, confi-

dently believeing, that your Majestie doth looke upon mee as a faithfull subject, and carefull servant. And if itt shall gratiously please your sacred Majestie to give some refreshment to mee in my last dayes, by your favour to my self or children, I shall with much satisfaction lay downe my head in peace, and cheerefully leave them to endeavour your Majesties Service, as I have done before them. Soe may the Almighty ever blesse and protect your Person and affaires, against all open and private enemies.

JOHN HINTON.

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