

[Article (Saturday 4 August 1888) entitled: A chronicle of curious events. 6th August 1709 : Oliver Cromwell's 7' 6" porter Daniel was committed to Bedlam, having gone mad reading texts of "speculative divinity". He had been given a bible by Nell Gwyn].

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[Saturday, August 4, 1888.]

A CHRONICLE OF CURIOUS EVENTS.

A CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 11TH, 1888.

5th August, 1792.—The following anecdote, which appears in the Croker correspondence, supplies an amusing sequel to a well-known story: "Everyone knows that of a gentleman asking Lord North who 'that frightful woman was?' and his lordship's answering, 'That is my wife.' The other, to repair his blunder, said, 'I did not mean her, but that monster next to her.' 'Oh,' said Lord North, 'that monster is my daughter.' With this story Frederick Robinson, in his usual absent, enthusiastic way, was one day entertaining a lady whom he sat next to at dinner, and, lo! the lady was Charlotte Lindsay—the monster in question."

5th August, 1857.—Pierre de Morand, the French dramatic poet who died this day, was in a box at the theatre during the first representation of his comedy, *La Capricieuse*. The audience loudly expressing disapprobation at the extravagance and improbability of some traits in this character, the author became impatient, he put his head out of the box, and called out, "You must know, gentlemen, that this is the very picture of my mother-in-law. What do you say now?"

6th August, 1709.—Oliver Cromwell had a porter named Daniel, who was 7 feet 6 inches high, and whose standard was recorded by a large O on the back of the terrace at Windsor Castle, almost under the window of the gallery. This man went mad, and prophesied as an enthusiast, his brain being turned by his study of books of speculative divinity. He frequently preached, and was said to have foretold several remarkable events, particularly the fire of London. He was confined many years in Bedlam, where he was allowed, after some time, the use of his mystical library, as there was not the least probability of his cure. One of his most important books was a large Bible, given to him by Nell Gwynn. He is said to have been the original from which Caius Gabriel, the father of Colley Cibber, copied one of the lunatic figures on Bedlam Gate. The *Tatler*, for the above date, says:—"The renowned porter of Oliver had not more volumes around his cell in his college of Bedlam than Orlando in his present apartment."

Saturday, August 4, 1888.

