

Advice to John Ranby, Esq. ... : with some observations on his narrative of the last illness of the Right Honourable the Earl of Orford.

Contributors

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A D V I C E

T O

JOHN RANBY, *Esq*;

Principal Serjeant Surgeon to His
Majesty, and F. R. S.

W I T H

Some Observations

O N H I S

N A R R A T I V E

O F T H E

L A S T I L L N E S S

Of the RIGHT HONOURABLE

The Earl of ORFORD.

L O N D O N :

Printed for W. BICKERTON, in the *Temple-Exchange*,
near the *Inner-Temple-Gate*, *Fleet-street*, 1745.

Price SIX-PENCE.

ADVICE

TO

JOHN RANNEY, Esq.

Principal Secretary to the

Major-General and F.R.S.

WITH

SOME OBSERVATIONS

ON HIS

NARRATIVE

OF THE

LAST ILLNESS

OF THE PRINCE OF WALES

THE LATE OF ORANGE

AND ST. PAUL'S

BY

JOHN RANNEY, Esq.

Principal Secretary to the

Major-General and F.R.S.

LONDON

A D V I C E

T O

John Ranby, Esq;

Principal Serjeant Surgeon to His
Majesty, and F. R. S.

S I R,

IT is an old and known Truth, that nothing is so disagreeable as the giving Advice, especially unask'd, and unexpected; so that I have no great Reason to believe you will think yourself much obliged to the Author of the following Sheets. Had you held your Hand, after your first Performance, you would have been no more taken Notice of than the rest of your Brethren, the Pamphle-

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teers, who, like Mushrooms, are born and die in a small Compass of Time; but when you go about to set up for a Writer, an Author of momentous Truths, and a fair impartial Relater of Facts, it looks as if you intended to put in for Fame, and make your Name immortal; especially when we consider who have been the Occasion of your Writings; the one, no less than the Son of a crown'd Head, and the other the great Earl of *Orford*. The Scheme indeed is well directed; for, as Parson *Burgefs* (of facetious Memory) used to tell some of his Congregation, They had no other Way of going to Heaven, but by taking fast hold of his Cloak, so it has been a Custom, Time out of Mind, for Writers of all Sorts and Denominations (who can find no other Way to Fame) to have the Vanity of their Names being handed down to Posterity, together with those of the great Men of their Age. But, Sir, You need not have taken this Method, because it has been observed that there are but two Sorts of Works
that

that bid fair for Immortality ; such as are excellently good, and such as are excellently bad. How EXCELLENT your last Performance is, we shall now endeavour to examine, and we will begin with what you do yourself, the Preface.

* “ Fulfilling the Will of the Dead was
 “ ever, amongst the most unciviliz’d Na-
 “ tions, esteem’d an indispensable Obliga-
 “ tion, and a Sort of sacred Duty ; and
 “ a Man that could transgress in this es-
 “ sential Point, was look’d upon as capa-
 “ ble of violating his Father’s Ashes, and
 “ committing the most execrable Enor-
 “ mity. ’Tis in Consequence of a solemn
 “ Injunction of this Nature, that I have
 “ penn’d the following Narrative ; the il-
 “ lustrious Personage, who is the melan-
 “ choly Subject of it, having, in his eb-
 “ bing Moments, recommended to me in
 “ the most affecting Manner, this peculiar
 “ Province of exploring, by Dissection,
 “ the Seat, and of Course, the Cause of
 A 2 “ his

“ his Disorder, and of communicating to
 “ the World a faithful Relation of all the
 “ Circumstances, &c. &c.” All this, fairly translated into *English*, amounts to no more than that my Lord *Orford* desired Mr. *Ranby* (or any one else) might open him after his Decease, that the Cause of his Death might be known and made publick.

Parturiunt montes, nascetur ridiculus mus !

It is much upon the Strain of *Ancient Pistol* in *Shakespear* :

“ These be good Humours indeed,
 “ Shall Pack-horses, and hollow pamper’d
 “ Jades of *Asia*, which cannot go but
 “ Thirty Miles a Day, compare with
 “ *Cæsars*, and with *Cannibals*, and *Trojan*
 “ *Greeks*, &c. &c.”

What Pity it is you did not oblige the World with the Words of the *solemn Injunction*, and repeat in how *affecting a Manner* his Lordship recommended to you
 in

in his *ebbing Moments*, this laborious Task
 of *exploring by Dissection the Seat, and of*
Course the Cause of his Disorder. Surely
 a Man of your refined Way of writing,
 might here have had a large Field of ex-
 ercising his Talents, and move the Pas-
 sions so as to have

Subdued Eyes,

Albeit unused to the melting Mood,
Drop Tears as fast as the Arabian Trees
Their medicinal Gum.

Your next Paragraph is loftier still, and
 OUT-HERODS HEROD.

“ When I recollect his resign’d Beha-
 “ viour, under the most excruciating Pains,
 “ the magnanimous Sentiments which fil-
 “ led his Soul, when on the Eve, seem-
 “ ingly, of Dissolution, AND CALL TO
 “ MIND the exalted Expressions that were
 “ continually flowing from him at this fe-
 “ vere Time of Tryal, however extraor-
 “ dinary his natural Talents, or acquired
 “ Abilities

“ Abilities were ; however he had distin-
 “ guish’d himself by his Eloquence in the
 “ Senate, or by his singular Judgment,
 “ and Depth of Penetration, in Councils ;
 “ this incomparable Constancy, and asto-
 “ nishing Firmness of Mind, must raise,
 “ IN MY OPINION, as sublime Ideas of
 “ him, as any Act of his Life besides,
 “ however good and popular ; and reflect
 “ a Renown on his Name equal to that,
 “ which consecrates the Memory of the
 “ most remarkable Sages of Antiquity.”

This certainly is a fine, round, well
 turn’d Period ; but tho’ you are an excel-
 lent Retailer of Words, you are rather too
 sparing of Sense : You have not yet got
 the Knack of penning a Dedication, writ-
 ing a Preface, or drawing a Character ; it
 is not so easy a Matter to compose a Pane-
 gyrick, it requires some Delicacy and Judg-
 ment ; you are too apt to CALL TO MIND
 Things you should by no means touch on :
 Would any one in his Senses tell a great

Personage

Personage who commanded that Day, * *I am often wont to call to mind the Battle of Dettingen?* You are strangely inclin'd too to wonder at what is not at all to be wonder'd at; † *To me it was frequent Matter of singular Admiration to behold a great Prince descend so far from his elevated Station, &c. to do what all Princes of Humanity always did and ever will do, order proper Care to be taken of the Sick and Wounded. In the present Instance you are RECOLLECTING AND CALLING TO MIND again all my Lord Orford's great Qualities, and tell us this incomparable Constancy and astonishing Firmness of Mind must raise, in MY OPINION, as sublime Ideas of him, &c.*

But consider, Sir, the World was not Witness to the *magnanimous Sentiments which fill'd his Soul, when, on the Eve, seemingly of Dissolution*; How then will it, by the Means

* *Dedication to Gun Shot Wounds, by John Ranby, Esq;*

† *Ibid.*

Means of your private Opinion only, *reflect a Renown on his Name, equal to that which consecrates the Memory of the most remarkable Sages of Antiquity?* I should be further glad to know who you mean by the *most remarkable Sages of Antiquity?* For to compare him to the whole, is to compare him to none, and so we are left to guess as we please, and whom we please; which is an Indulgence the gentle Reader is frequently allow'd by modern physical Authors, who write Cases without Names; a laudable approved Practice, and follow'd by some with good Success!

I shall dwell no longer upon the Preface, but make some Observations on my Lord Orford's Case, as stated by you. The Symptoms were (taking them all from the Beginning to the End) at first a *great Pain in the Head, and Giddiness, violent Sicknefs at the Stomach, a frequent Inclination to vomit, intense Pain in his Back, and made Coffee-colour'd Water.* These

Symptoms

Symptoms vanish'd for some Time. However, upon his first going out, he felt an unusual Irritation to make Water, and the Urine was ting'd with Blood. THESE TWO SYMPTOMS CONSTANTLY ATTENDED HIM, DURING THE WHOLE COURSE OF HIS ILLNESS. An irksome Sensation at the End of the Penis, and a Pain at going to stool, a Strangury, Incontinency of Urine, a Stillidium, leaving a brown coffee-colour'd Stain in the Middle of the Napkin, in which were small Clots of grumous Blood. There was all along an insatiable Thirst, with a dry and brownish Tongue. The Pulse would alter several Times in the Space of half an Hour. From the Day he voided that Number of Stones, and Quantity of Blood, he could never retain his Urine, which was for the first Month, loaded with grumous Blood, ouzing out with it in a constant Dripping. In Proportion to the Decrease of this Coagulum (which was constantly dissolving by the Urine, the Pain from the Neck of the Bladder to the End

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of

of the Penis, was more frequent; as was likewise a symptomatic Cholic, which he from first to last complain'd of, in the Neighbourhood of the Os Pubis.

These being the Symptoms, we will now annex the Opinion of the Physicians who attended him. Sir *Edward Hulse* was of Opinion, *All along, the Bleeding proceeded from the Kidneys.* Dr. *Crow* confirm'd it, by saying, *It was in Reality his Sentiment, that all Discharges of Blood flowed not from the Bladder, but entirely from the Kidneys.* Dr. *Jurin* being determined to be right, and not flatly contradict Sir *Edward*, was convinced there was a Stone in the Bladder, (though he thought the Kidneys might perhaps, in some Degree, be also affected. All three however, were so far mistaken, that they entertain'd some Hopes of his Recovery; so far were they they from apprehending his Dissolution to be so near at Hand.

It

It would have been thought a Presumption in any Man of less Vogue than these Gentlemen, to be of a different Opinion from them. I will nevertheless venture to affirm, That there could not have been plainer Proofs of the Seat of the Distemper being in the Bladder, and of its ending fatally; for the Truth of which, I appeal to all those who have read and remember'd, seen and observed.

Were I disposed to confirm my Assertion by Authors, I could draw out of the Antients and Moderns, Quotations to fill a Volume, in Support of it; but it is needless to take Pains to prove what is in itself self-evident. I will however make free with one Paragraph out of *Aretæus*, to disprove what Doctor *Crow* has confidently asserted above; in which I may hope the rather to be excused, as few Mens Opinions against that of a Gentleman of his long Experience, would carry sufficient Weight; I have therefore Recourse to one of a longer standing, whose

Word has been depended on for Ages past,
and will not be doubted by the future.

Αἰμορραγέει κατὰ τὴν κύστιν. Ξανθόντε καὶ λεπτὸν
τῆδε τὸ αἷμα, ἀλλ' ἔδεν τι διὰ τήνδε θνήσκουσι,
καὶ μὴ ῥηιδίῃ ἢ ἐπισκεσις. Ἀλλ' ἐπὶ τοῖσι Θρομ-
βοῖσι, καὶ τῇ φλεγμονῇ ὁ κίνδυνος. Ψύξις γὰρ
καὶ νέκρωσις, καὶ γαγγραινώσεις, καὶ τὰ ἐπὶ
τῆδε κακὰ ῥηιδίως κτείνε.

Aretæus LIB. II. Cap. 10.

Had the Physicians remember'd this Pas-
sage, they could not have been so much
out in their Guess.

It is to me a Matter of Wonder (to
make Use of one of your Phrases) how
Sir *Edward Hulse* and Doctor *Jurin* could
go on to ply him with the *Lixicum Li-
thontripticum*, when they found the Bleed-
ing not only not to stop, but to increase;
for he took six and thirty Ounces of it,
from the Fifteenth of *December*, to the
Fourth of *February* following. *Bloody
Urine, during this Period, renewed the
Alarm*

Alarm several Times, and on the Ninth of January particularly, he had a more than ordinary Flux of Blood, attended with greater Pain than he had ever yet felt, at the End of the Penis. Hopes of Relief might encourage the trying a forcible dubious Medicine; but when Matters go from bad to worse, to persevere (to say the least of it) favours of Obstinacy. I pass over in Silence, the many Reflections that might be made upon the Proceedings of the Physicians, as it is far from my Intention to aggravate the Errors of any in the Profession; tho' you know a *Physician of great Experience, from whom it was a great Concern to you to differ*, who has been used to act otherwise, and upon all Occasions, when it could answer his Purpose, endeavour'd to lessen the Merit of Men infinitely his Superiors; he has been noted and mark'd out for it, and rose to the Top of his Profession by such mean and vile Steps; he has continued at that Height for many Years, without Dignity; has gain'd a Title, without Honour; is a Doctor without

without Learning ; a Physician without Knowledge ; and a Man without Humanity.

But to leave this Gentleman, and exchange him for another almost of equal Worth, let me ask you, Sir, whether the acquainting the World with the Physicians Opinions, was any Part of the TASK ASSIGNED YOU ? Did you not, in your Preface, promise merely *An historical Detail, to exhibit pure Matter of Fact, without the least Comment or Animadversion whatsoever ?* And how have you kept your Word ? What had the Publick to do with the * CONCERN you was in, to differ from one of the Physicians ? Or that you differ'd at all ? Or of what Consequence was it to any living Soul, to know when my Lord thought of going to *Norfolk*, that you should † *confess, for your Part, you did not imagine such a Journey practicable*

* Page 10 and 11.

† Page 6.

ble for him, without the Conveniency of a Horse-litter? unless it be to publish your Mistake; for he went in his Coach, which gave him no Molestation whatsoever.

You should have been, methinks, a little more upon your Guard, when you was insinuating in several Parts of your NARRATIVE, that your Judgment was equal, and sometimes superior to any of the rest. You should have taken Care not to make the least Mistake. Mankind indeed are all liable to Error, by the very Condition of Humanity, and Persons of Candour and Ingenuity, make proper Allowances; but when a Man goes quite out of his Way to find Fault and depreciate others, to gratify a little low Malice, or bring down the Characters of Gentlemen, upon a Level with his own, or raise his above theirs, he must not expect to be favour'd whenever he is caught tripping; but you stumble so often, Sir, that to set your Blunders in a proper Light, is to transcribe your whole Book. Among the
many,

many, I will instance the following:

* *These ineffectual Essays determined me to call Mr. Cheselden to my Assistance; who succeeded, as it happen'd, no better than myself; the Instrument indeed penetrated farther than before, &c. Well then, did he not succeed better than you did, by the Instrument's penetrating farther?*

Est quadam prodire tenus, si non datur ultra.

If your Birth, Life, Parentage, and Education had not been publicly known, one would have concluded you had received them in the LAND OF BULLS.

Again: In the third Page, you take a Province upon you, you are by no Means qualified for; passing Judgment upon Symptoms. You are there concluding that the concreted Matter had work'd its painful Passage into the Bladder; the immediate

*mediate Ease and Disappearance of the Coffee-colour'd Water, was a plain Indication of that Event. How plain? Why, every Time he now made Water, he expected to discharge what was thus descended into the Bladder. But as those Expectations were entirely fruitless, a Doubt began to prevail, whether it were any thing more than a gravelly Affair, &c. So that this plain Indication of a Stone, at last dwindles into a Doubt of Gravel. By the by, a Doubt's beginning to prevail, is very good Sense, and a gravelly Affair, very good English. I cannot but observe how cautious you are in your Expression, by calling that, concreted Matter, which, Page the Fifth, you told his Lordship, without Reserve, was a Stone which had pass'd from the Kidney to the Bladder. And here I cannot but applaud your Fidelity as an Narrator, in not omitting this Circumstance, which is plainly contradicted by what appeared upon Dissection. * No Defect was*

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discoverable in the Kidneys nor Ureters.
 Had the Stone; or concreted Matter pass'd,
 as you imagined, from the Kidneys to the
 Bladder, would not one of the Ureters, at
 least, been extended beyond its natural
 Dimension?

We will now cast an Eye on your Journal, which it seems was kept *with all imaginable Exactness*, by one of my Lord's Sons, as well as by yourself; Whose Journal is this then, yours or his? There is evidently too much physical Knowledge for him, and too little for you. As for Instance, you tell us, Page 19, 20, 21, that he had *taken Fifty Drops of Liquid Laudanum, and his right Hand was quite cold and clammy, his Pulse sinking every Minute, and Tendons leaping, &c. between Six and Seven, he slept three Quarters of an Hour, and then waked with a total Cessation of his Pains, &c.* Mr. Ranby and Mr. Graham, from this sudden Transition, from great Pain to absolute Ease, were apprehensive of a Mortification of the Parts.

It

It is artful enough to bring Mr. *Graham* in with You ; it seems then you are not acquainted with the Effects of Opium, further than its Sleeping Quality. You must know then, that *the Coldness of the Thighs and Hands, the Numbness of the Feet*, with the above-mentioned Symptoms, are such as naturally follow upon taking too large Quantities of Opiates : And it appears that when the Opiates ceased to overpower him, which it did by Degrees, then its narcotic Quality exerted itself, and *he slept six Hours in all, at three several Times, and at Nine o'Clock the next Morning, his Hands grew warm, &c.*

I cannot help observing, before I finish, that had you not in * a former Work, given us undeniable Proofs of your great Knowledge and Experience of the Virtues of the Bark, one would have imagined you knew as little of that, as of the Virtues of Opium ; for you say, Page 31,

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the

* Vide *Ranby* on Gun Shot Wounds,

the Physicians prescribed him the Extract of Bark twice a Day, in order to restore the Bladder to its proper Tone. Pray what Effect could so small a Quantity as a Dram or two produce? More than that Quantity could not have been given him in two Doses only, and in all Likelihood it was less. Such a Quantity, I say, could not restore the Bladder to its proper Tone, had it been in the Power of the Bark to have done it at all. Besides, the Property of expelling Stones has not, as I know of, yet been attributed to the Bark, and unless they, as the first Cause and Occasion of the bloody Urine, &c. had all came away, the Bladder could not have been restored to its proper Tone, by any Medicine whatsoever.

And now I am inclined to believe, Sir, from this slight View of your Narrative, that you will begin to see how little capable you are of writing, and that it is by no Means your Talent. I suspect you have the Ambition of being an Author
deep

deep at Heart ; but remember I foretell,
 that however well your Works may read
 in Manuscript, they will be spoil'd in the
 Printing. Let me advise you therefore to
 keep your future Lucubrations to yourself,
 for your private Use and Emolument.
 You will reap this further Advantage from
 it, that when your Friends press you to
 publish (as they certainly will) you may
 have the Opportunity of letting your Pru-
 dence pass for Modesty and Diffidence,
 two excellent Qualities you have stood in
 Need of some Time, and of which, tho'
 I despair of ever seeing you really possess'd,
 you may however, by having been long con-
 versant in Courts, put on the Appearance.
 It is owing to the Want of these two
 Qualities, that you have presumed to give
 a Character of the great Earl of Orford;
 a *Task* much above the Reach of your
 Capacity, that was never assign'd you, nor
 at all expected from you. You have so
 over-charged his great Qualities, by your
 awkward Flattery, that his Friends are in-
 censed to think that his Memory should
 be

be turn'd into Ridicule, by your Efforts to magnify it. So easy is it for Beauty to pass into Deformity, when attempted to be drawn by an unskilful Hand.

Upon the whole, I hope you will take my Advice, and lay aside all Thoughts of appearing again in print, till you have made yourself Master of your Subject, and learnt to write good Sense, and plain *English*.

I am,

With the utmost Indifference,

SIR, Yours, &c,

F I N I S.