

An epistle to John Ranby, Esq. : ... on the subject of his Narrative of the last illness of the late Earl of Orford, as far as it relates to Sir Edward Hulse, Dr. Jurin, and Dr. Crowe.

Contributors

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A N
E P I S T L E
T O

John Ranby, Esq;

Principal Serjeant Surgeon to HIS MAJESTY,
And F. R. S.

On the Subject of his

NARRATIVE

Of the Last Illness

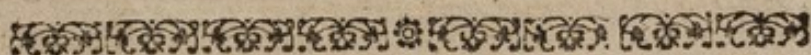
Of the late

EARL of ORFORD,

As far as it relates to Sir EDWARD HULSE,
Dr JURIN, and Dr CROWE.

THE SECOND EDITION:

With a large Additional Postscript.



L O N D O N :

Printed for JACOB ROBINSON, at the *Golden*
Lyon in Ludgate-street.

M. DCC. XLV.

(Price Six-pence.)

APPENDIX

TO

THE

REPORT

OF

THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

LAND OFFICE

IN

THE

STATE OF

NEW YORK

FOR THE

YEAR 1860



T O

JOHN RANBY, Esq;

S I R,



HOWEVER solemn
and sacred a Duty
fulfilling the Will
of the Dead may
have been look'd upon in all
Ages, it is a Point past all
manner of Controversy, that
abusing the Living by Inve-
ctives, under a specious Pre-
text

text of inviolably performing the Will of the Dead, has ever been detested by all Mankind, into whom have been instill'd even the first Principles of Morality ; or who have at any time imbibed never so small an Idea of common Honour and Integrity.

The Earl of ORFORD was indisputably possess'd of every great Quality you insinuate of him : was sagacious, penetrating, generous, and, above all, endued with an incomparable Humanity. For which Reason, whatever His Lordship's other Requests in his last Moments

ments might be, it is very difficult to imagine it to have been in the least his Intention, that a Journal should be publish'd of his Case after his Decease, couch'd in Terms, which must unavoidably reflect Dishonour on the Character of Those, for whom he had long been known to entertain Sentiments of the most exalted Friendship and Esteem. An Injunction of this Nature could not possibly be the so inconsistent *Cura Cadentis* of him.

The Declaration, you make
at the End of your Preface,
of

of giving a Detail of Facts without any Manner of Comment, is, in my Opinion, entirely superfluous: it being evident at first Sight to every Reader, that the whole Thread of your Relation by no means wants one.

However, be that as it will, the Gentlemen aim'd at in your Scheme have one no small Consolation on this Emergency, that, Thanks to their Stars, their Physical Reputation is establish'd on too firm and solid a Basis, to be shaken by any indirect Innuendos scatter'd here and there
in

in your egregious Narrative :
 which is apparently calculated
 more with a View of lessen-
 ing Persons of an unexception-
 able Character, than of pro-
 moting any Good in regard
 of the Publick. Of which
 more hereafter,

The Earl of ORFORD a
 long while labour'd under an
 incurable Distemper ; took
 Medicines, prescribed him by
 Some of the most Eminent in
 their Profession, without any
 successful Effect ; and, con-
 sequently, finish'd the na-
 tural Course of his latterly
 tedious Mortality. What

B

then ?

then? Must the Chit-chat, and unguarded Expressions, dropt amongst intimate Acquaintance, and supposed Friends, in a Bedchamber, be immediately on such an Event published to the World, no ways interested in it; and formally set forth in an historical Tract, as if they had been the grave Result of the most solemn Deliberations? The Kidneys were, perchance, imagined to have been principally affected in his Lordship's Illness; the Bladder secondarily only: whereas, on Dissection, the Bladder seem'd to have much suffer'd; the
Kidneys

Kidneys to be little or nothing alter'd from a natural State. Now, a Person, unacquainted with Physical Matters, would conclude, from this Situation of Things, that the Earl of ORFORD's Death was consequential to some enormous Failure of Judgment in the Physicians who attended him: inasmuch as they were so misguided in their Opinions, as really not to be at a Certainty in so essential a Point, as That must, seemingly, unquestionably be, of detecting the Seat of any inveterate Disorder. Whereas, in effect, 'tis an Axiom, known to the whole

whole Medical World, endow'd with the least Portion of Sagacity, that the Method of Relief in either Case (where Cutting is impracticable) is ever the very same. Medicines of a diluting, and soft, lubricating, Nature, such as you tell the Public were administer'd my LORD, [*Page 6.*] accompanied with Opiates, are constantly prescribed for easing the painful Symptoms, which are wont to supervene on those deplorable Occasions, whether derived from the Kidneys, or the Bladder.

Therefore,

Therefore, since the Physicians, even from your own Account, could lie under no Imputation of the smallest Neglect, in respect of the Course pitch'd upon, in order to give some Respite to His LORDSHIP's intense Pains; some other Cause, rather than That of being exact in your Relation, must be assign'd, why you are so minute and circumstantial in exhibiting to the World a Detail of an Affair, which not a Mortal upon Earth can be concern'd in, or reap the least Benefit or Advantage from whatsoever.

The

The Compliment you make Sir *Edward Hulse* [Pag. 11.] in calling him a Physician of great Experience, is indisputably extremely just : and to go about to shew the Adequateness of such an Expression would be like entering on the Province of demonstrating the clearest Truth in Nature. And yet, perhaps, those three or four Words, where they stand in your accurate Piece, are not impregnated with the greatest Sincerity imaginable. For, to speak without Restraint, I don't know how it is, but,

Timeo

---Timeo Danaos, et Dona ferentes.
Virg.

The Hoof of *Satan* will still be conspicuous, and display it's cloven Properties, whatever, even an Angelic, Form that *Arch-Spirit* may assume, in order to conceal his other Deformities.

The Concern, arising in you [*Page 11.*] from a Point of no material Consequence, might, according to my humble Apprehension of Things, have been, with much more Propriety, reserved for your own important Occasions:
where

where there may, peradventure, be frequently an urgent Demand for Emotions of the Mind of the same tender Nature with That, which, with great Parade, you here bestow on Those, who do not in the least want it; and who would think themselves sunk in Credit exceedingly low indeed, were they to be affected in any Degree with what you deliver as your Sentiments in such Cases, as These, one way or other: however deep the Foundation may be laid, whereon is built the Reputation imputed to you of singular Penetration, and consummate

mate Judgment. *Ne Sutor ultra crepidam* is a Proverb very ancient, and very significant. Nor would I be thought in this Place to lug it in Head and Shoulders sarcastically. Your Profession is confessedly a reputable and a Gentleman-like one. But, notwithstanding, it is to be remember'd, that, however ardent we may be for an unrestrain'd Career, we ought never to attempt making Excursions beyond the Length of our proper Tether.

From the Report you give
us of Sir *Edward Hulse's* Sug-
C ggestion,

gestion, that the Bladder was not furnish'd with a sufficient Number of Blood-Vessels, to supply so large a Quantity of Blood, as was from time to time discharged, I conclude you would have it surmised, that this Gentleman has not an adequate Anatomical Notion of the Texture of those Parts; when, in reality, with the smallest Grain of ordinary Indulgence, he might be understood to mean only this, *viz.* that Part at least of so profuse a Flux might probably proceed from the Kidneys; which Dr. Crowe, it seems, [Page 27:] was strong in Opinion,

nion, (in Allusion, I conceive
to that satyrical Line of
Garth,

In Reason faint, but in Opinion strong,)

is the sole Source, whence all
Stones, coagulated Blood, &c.
are accustomed to flow. Now,
by the bye, it is an establish'd
Truth, that an obstinate Te-
naciousness is by no means
the Doctor's Characteristic:
that unpliant Temper of
Mind being as foreign to the
Dictates of his better Sense,
as it is to his unaffected Plain-
ness, and primitive Simpli-
city, to recur to such a new-
fangled and conceited a Phrase,
as

as is put in his Mouth a little below; where he is said to have known the Kidneys PLUG'D up on several Occasions. You might with equal Justness have set him off, Cavalier-like, with a Bag-wig, a long-waisted Coat with short Skirts, and a Hat and Feather.

These little Efforts up and down are only random Shots; your main Battery being erected against Dr *Jurin's Lithontriptic Lixivium*. Perhaps you may be such an Infidel in regard of Physic and Mechanical Powers, as not to give in
to

to the Possibility of combining different Bodies, so as to form a Medicine, endued with such Faculties, and Manner of Agency, as is requisite for dissociating those concreted Particles in the Human Machine; which, arrived at a determin'd Bulk, and lodged either in the Kidneys, or Bladder, obtain the Name of the Stone.

But, whatever may be your Sentiments in this Matter, the ingenious Dr *Schaw*, Physician to His Royal Highness, the Prince of WALES, in a set Dissertation for that Purpose, has put the Question out of

of all manner of Doubt ; and
fix'd it, like other Mathema-
ticle Demonstrations, on an
absolute Certainty.

This being really Fact, it
remains in the next place to
examine how far the specific
Lixivium on the Carpet may
merit the Appellation of a
Dissolvent. You tell us [*Pag.*
18.] in Consequence of my
Lord's taking it, that he
voided a Stone, among others,
' compacted of three, very
' slightly cemented together ;
' being unable, seemingly, to
' bear even the least Touch,
' without danger of falling
' afunder.'

‘ afunder.’ Now, what should thus loosen this Cement, but the powerful Efficacy of the Medicine, he had been taking in fo large a Quantity, as fix and thirty Ounces, [*Pag. 13.*] and which would infallibly have clear’d His Lordship’s Bladder of the few remaining Calculous Concretions, had there fubfifted a competent Fund of Strength of Nature, to have fupported him thro’ a Scene or two more of that Tragedy, which, as you fay, [*Page 11.*] after ten Years’ Intermission, began to be re-acted the preceding *May*.

From

From the unparallel'd Artifice, with which you tell the Story, an unwary Reader would be apt to conclude, that the bloody Urine my Lord so frequently made, after Dr *Furin* had visited him, was altogether occasioned by this *Lixivious* Medicine. For, thro' the whole Series of your hopeful Journal, you do not so much as once remind us, that this shocking Symptom had been almost a constant Complaint, long before the Earl of ORFORD entered on this dissolving Method.

But,

But, it is notorious, it was not your Désign from the Beginning to be nicely scrupulous in point of Honour in conveying to the Publick the State of this Case: nor to be a downright Slave to that Fairness and Impartiality, which essentially guide the Pen of every faithful Historian. Hence you are not content with an open and barefaced Impeachment of the Judgment of the Doctors; but, out of an Abundance of your Good-will, must into the Bargain be insidiously undermining a Remedy, which, from repeated Trials of it's peculiar

D liar

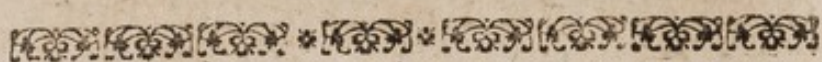
liar Virtues, was, even before the Doctor's additional Improvements, deem'd by the Parliament of *Great Britain* worthy of National Encouragement: who allotted no less a Premium than five thousand Pounds to the making it publick for the Good of Mankind.

I flatter myself, you are sensible by this time, that you shot your Bolt a little too hastily. You will, perhaps, in your future Productions of this Kind, be somewhat more cautious and circumspect. But, should you, contrary to Expectation,

dectation, be incorrigible, notwithstanding this sober Admonition, and proceed in your Attempts on the Reputation of your Superiors, it will behove you to take especial Care, that your own Artillery does not hap to recoil upon you ; and, while you are endeavouring to pluck Plumes from the Caps of Others, your own does not by such reversed Policy become all of a sudden entirely destitute of a Feather.



POST.



POSTSCRIPT.

IT has been a great Pleasure to me, since the foregoing Remonstrance, to find I am not single in this Humour of Chastizing you for your indifferent Treatment of the Doctors; and blabbing out those Sneer-creating Secrets, which a Man of ordinary Prudence, and with half an Eye to his own Interests, would have eternally buried in a Silence as profound as Hell; and have wrapp'd round with ten thousand Folds, more complicated, if possible, than those which ever enveloped even *Egyptian* Mysteries.

It is no Wonder, that you are nettled, if not at what I have said,
yet

yet, however, at the Advice given you by a shrewd Gentleman, in a late excellent Epistolary Performance: a Piece, in my Sentiments, as poignant, tho' at the same time modest, and as judicious, well-connected, and dexterously compacted, as ever groan'd beneath the Press. The Author whereof is not only, indisputably, a Hero, in regard of *Aretæus's Greek*; but, what is very surprizing, seems, moreover, to be actually such an absolute Master of the *English Language*, tho' a very difficult one, as to be able at any time, from an occasional Jumbling together of the Elemental Atoms of it, to produce in a trice, (at least with the Help of some few additional Particles from the *Irish Chaos*) a World of the most noble and Rhetorical Periods, that have display'd themselves.

selves since the elevated Days of
Laconic BUNYAN.

As I have a peculiar Relish for those little temporary Narratives, which are still consequent to all publick Days at that celebrated Theatre in the Road to *Paddington*; I felt infinite Delight in turning over this Expostulatory Epistle: the masterly Strain of which (with great Submission I utter it) corresponds exactly to that of those elegant Historical Accounts of “the Birth, Life, Parentage, and Education,* &c.” which confirms me in an Opinion, that this Lucubration is not the first Essay of this Medically-satyirical Personage: and, if I am right in my Conjecture, will not, as Eating is a good Thing, be the last. Which Consideration, inasmuch as
it

* *Vid. p. 16. of the Advice, &c.*

it must keep you within the Bounds of proper Decorum, to speak the Truth, perfectly charms me.

Your Back, I fancy, smarting sufficiently already by the thick Laying on of this heavy-handed Antagonist, I have not such Fero-city in my Nature, not I, as to carry my Passion to so great an Ex-travagance, as to enter on his Task of Lashing you unmercifully: es-pecially, as I am not without Hopes, that, let whatever Clouded-ness of Understanding (even a Match for That of unletter'd D---CE) prevail among the Facul-ty, it will be a never-to-be-forgot-ten Maxim with you hereafter to clap your Hand close, very close, upon your Mouth; as much as to say, (more pathetically than were you to harangue for an Hour to-gether) M U M !

But,

But, to be serious; That One of such very groveling Faculties, as seem to be the miserable Allotment of this Author of *Advice, &c.* should arrogantly usurp the Province of a Writer; and, with no more Conceit in him, than, as *Shakespeare* says, there is in a Mallet, take upon him, without any Provocation, to heap together a Parcel of old scrub Phrases, and then apply them, by way of Character, to Those, whose true, genuine, Merit has long rendered them the just Object of great Veneration; an Insult, I say, of this Kind is perfectly shocking to Human Nature; and a monstrous Instance of the most shameful Prostitution imaginable of (What, under more moral, or less hodge-podge Direction, might have been made subservient to some little Amuse-

Amusement at least, if not solid Instruction) Pen, Ink, and (justly so stiled, Fool's-cap) Paper.

You, Sir, no doubt, by your late Transactions, had made yourself a publick Mark for any Man, either skilful or unskilful at the Bow, to shoot at : whence you are forced to put up with mine, let them be never so rough, or any other Garetteer's Compliments. But what has Sir *Edward* and those other worthy Gentlemen done, that they must be drawn to the Stake in this unprecedented Manner ; and furiously baited, contrary to all the Laws of the Garden, in the Dark : and That in a paltry Pamphlet, address'd to you ? The Author of which, for any Connection there is between the Title-page, and Body of the blessed Work, would

E

be

be non-suited in any Court, not downright *Grubstreet*, in *Christendom*.

I lodge high, God knows, as well as he does; have spent a Fortune as well as he has; and yet, I thank my Stars, am not so reprobate, as to abandon my Bread-and-Cheese Hours to lamentably low-lived Lampoons, and most wretched, dismal, Infamy.

Were you One, who delighted in Calumny, I should really imagine you yourself had put this Spark on this glorious Work; and had hired him underhand to fling that Dirt without any Ceremony, which you did not care to have detected distaining your own Fingers. But, to do you Justice, I believe you abhor such outrageous Proceedings, and therefore am, &c.