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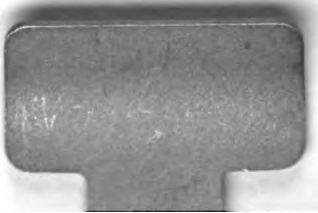
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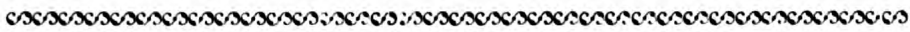
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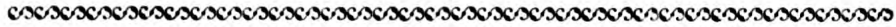
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MASON'S
SATIRICAL POEMS

With Horace Walpole's Notes



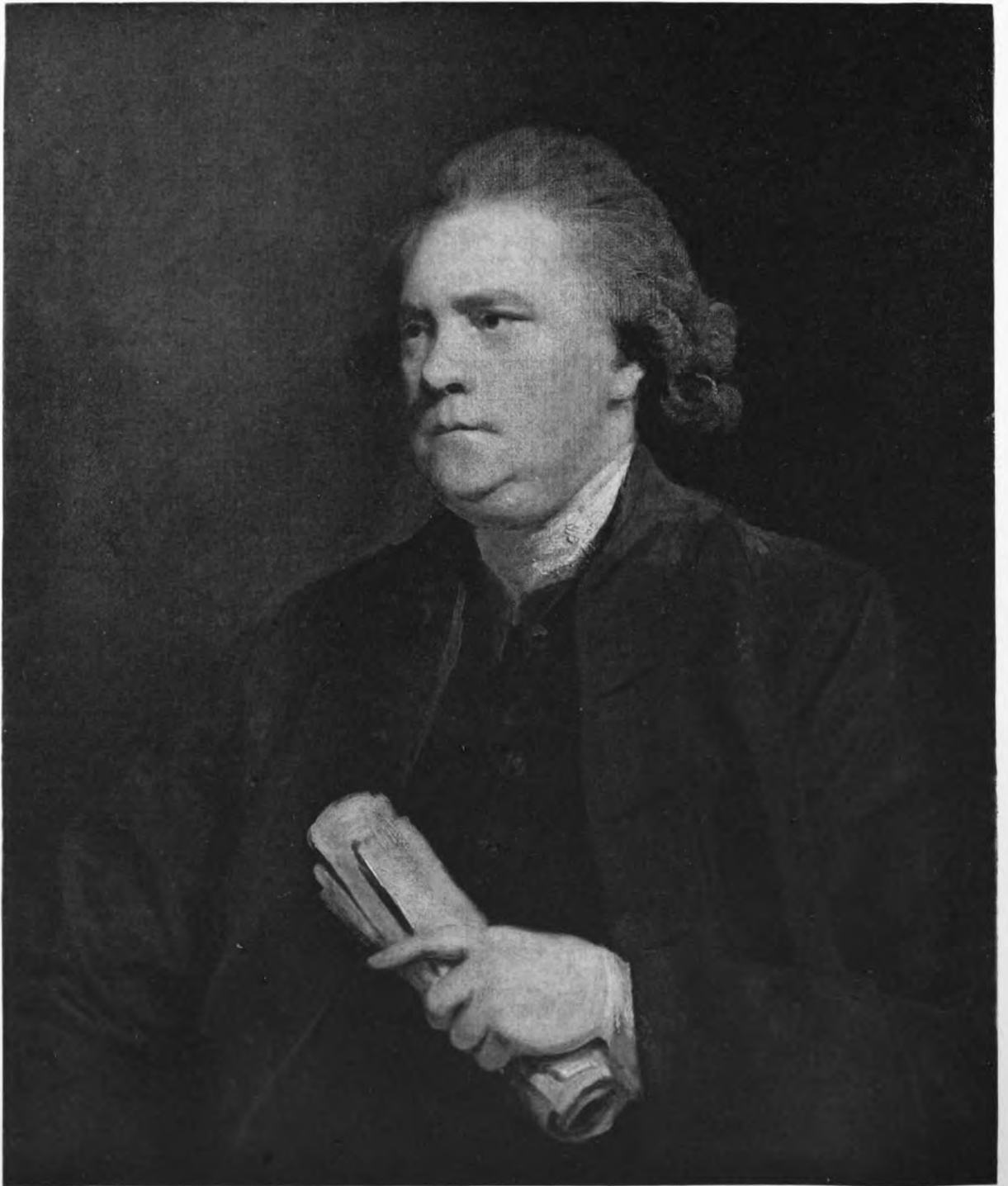
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Rev. William Mason
from painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds

Satirical Poems

Published anonymously

By

WILLIAM MASON

With Notes

By

HORACE WALPOLE

Now first printed from his Manuscript

Edited, with an Exposé of the Mystification, Notes
and Index, by

PAGET TOYNBEE

*M.A., D.Litt.; Hon. Fellow of Balliol College; Hon. LL.D. (Edin.);
F.B.A.; F.R.Hist.Soc.*

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P R E F A C E

*T*HE last entry in Horace Walpole's (unfinished) Short Notes of My Life, under the year 1779, is :

‘ At the end of May wrote a Commentary and Notes to M^r Mafon's later poems.’

The original MS. of this commentary and notes, which have never been published, the Editor had the good fortune to discover among the Walpoliana in the collection of the late Sir Francis Waller, Bt., at Woodcote, Warwick. Walpole's notes are written (in his own hand throughout) in interleaved copies of the original 4to editions of the several poems. They are now printed verbatim et literatim from his MS., together with the text of the poems, which at the present day are not easily accessible, and without which the commentary would be largely denuded of interest. An Exposé of the Mystification, notes, and index (covering the poems, commentary, and notes), have been supplied by the present Editor.*

In the Exposé will be found the evidence for Mafon's authorship of the poems (which was long disputed, and is not even to-day universally

* This collection was sold at Sotheby's in December, 1921. The MS. of Walpole's commentary and notes (lot 64) was bought by Messrs. Maggs for £16, in whose catalogue for April, 1924 (No. 449), it is priced (p. 341) at £52 10s. It is now in the Library of Harvard College.

universally admitted), and for Walpole's privity to them (carefully concealed from his correspondents) before publication.

The Editor desires to express his acknowledgements to his friend, Mr. F. G. Stokes, for assistance in the verification of quotations, and for the collation of the text of several of the poems; and to Mr. Strickland Gibson for information as to editions in the Bodleian.

Fiveways, Burnham, Bucks,

15 August, 1924.

LIST OF PORTRAITS

- REV. WILLIAM MASON *Frontispiece*
From painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds, at Pembroke College, Cambridge (by kind permission of the Master and Fellows).
- SIR WILLIAM CHAMBERS *-facing p. 31*
From mezzotint (1771) by Richard Houston after painting by Francis Cotes.
- JOHN MONTAGU, FOURTH EARL OF SANDWICH „ 52
From mezzotint by Valentine Green after painting by John Zoffany at the Trinity House.
- CHRISTOPHER PINCHBECK „ 85
From engraving by William Humphrey after the portrait by Cunningham.
- DR. JOHN SHEBBEARE „ 101
From mezzotint in British Museum ; engraver and painter unknown.
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EXPOSÉ OF THE MYSTIFICATION

THE poems annotated by Walpole are six in number, namely *An Heroic Epistle to Sir William Chambers*, *An Heroic Postscript to the Public*, *Ode to M^r Pinchbeck*, *An Epistle to D^r Shebbeare*, *An Ode to Sir Fletcher Norton*, and *Ode to the Naval Officers of Great Britain*.

The *Heroic Epistle* and *Heroic Postscript* were published anonymously; and the *Ode to Pinchbeck*, *Epistle to D^r Shebbeare*, and *Ode to Norton*, under the pseudonym of ‘Malcolm M^cGreggor Esq., Author of the Heroic Epistle and Heroic Postscript’. The secret of their authorship was carefully guarded. Among others to whom they were attributed were Christopher Anstey, author of the *New Bath Guide*, Soame Jenyns, Richard Owen Cambridge, William Hayley, William Cowper, Mason himself, and Walpole. In his *Life of Johnson*, under the year 1784, Boswell writes:—

‘Talking to me of Horry Walpole (as the Honourable Horace Walpole is often called), Johnson allowed that he got together a great many curious little things and told them in an elegant manner. . . The celebrated *Heroic Epistle*, in which Johnson is satirically introduced,* has been ascribed both to M^r Walpole and M^r Mason. One day at M^r Courtenay’s, when
a gentleman

* See line 19; also *Ode to Pinchbeck*, ft. xii; *Epistle to Shebbeare*, l. 2; *Ode to Norton*, l. 43.

a gentleman expressed his opinion that there was more energy in that poem than could be expected from Mr Walpole ; Mr Warton, the late Laureate, observed, “ It may have been written by Walpole, and *buckram'd* by Maſon ”.*

In Richard Mant's *Memoir* of Thomas Warton, prefixed to his *Poetical Works* (1802), it is ſtated that when the *Heroic Epistle* was firſt publiſhed, Warton aſcribed it to Maſon, and adduced internal evidence in ſupport of his opinion ; and that Maſon, on learning of this, addreſſed (in 1777) the following letter to Warton :—

‘ I have been told that you have pronounced me very frequently in company to be the author of the *Heroic Epistle* to Sir William Chambers, and I am told too that the premier † himſelf ſuſpects that I am ſo, upon your authority. Surely, Sir, mere internal evidence (and you can poſſibly have no other) can never be ſufficient to ground ſuch a determination upon, when you conſider how many perſons in this rhyming age of our's are poſſeſſed of that knack of Pope's verſification, which conſtitutes one part of the merit of that poem ; and as to the wit, humour, or ſatire which it contains, no part of my writings could ever lead you, by their analogy, to form ſo peremptory a judgment. I acquit you, however, in this procedure of every, even the ſlighteſt degree of

* On which Malone notes: ‘ It is now (1804) *known* that the *Heroic Epistle* was written by Maſon.’ John Huſſey in a MS. note in his copy of the firſt edition (1791) of the *Life* writes: ‘ It is the received opinion that Mr Maſon long ſince acknowledged himſelf to be the Author.’

† Lord North.

of ill-nature : and believe that what you have said was only to show your critical acumen. I only mention it that you may be more cautious of speaking of other persons in like manner, who may throw such anonymous bantlings of their brain into the wide world. To some of these it might prove an essential injury : for though they might deserve the frown of power (as the author in question certainly does) yet I am persuaded that your good nature would be hurt if that frown was either increased or fixed by your ipse dixit.

‘To say more on this trivial subject, would betray a solicitude on my part very foreign from my present feelings or inclination. My easy and independent circumstances make such a suspicion fit mightily easy upon me ; and the minister, nay the whole ministry, are free to think what they please of a man, who neither aims to solicit, nor wishes to accept any favour from them.’

That Walpole was in the secret from the beginning is evident from his correspondence with Mason at the time of the publication of the *Heroic Epistle*, though to others of his correspondents he professes to be as uninformed as the rest of the world. Writing to Lady Ossory on March 11, 1773, a few weeks after the appearance of the poem, he says :

‘Did your Lord bring you the *Heroic Epistle to Sir William Chambers* ? I am going mad about it, though there is here and there a line I hate. I laughed till I cried, and the oftener I read it the better I like it. It has as much poetry as the *Dunciad*, and more wit and greater facility. It is said to be Anstey’s, and certainly is not unworthy of the *Bath*

Guide ; but I shall dread his next production, lest he should tumble again as he did in his second piece.*

Having been taxed by Lady Offory with the authorship, he writes on March 16 :

‘Your Ladyship is but too apt to think of me far above my merit ; yet never did you overrate my parts so much as in bestowing the *Heroic Epistle* on me. However, excuse me for saying that, if in one respect you have done me greatly too much honour, you have at least lowered my character in another. What must I be, if living in intimacy with Lord Holland, and being a frequent witness of his unhappiness, I had stabbed him by a most barbarous line ? † I must be a rascal and a brute : after that need I, and yet I do, give you my honour solemnly that that *Epistle* is not mine. ‡ I hope you, Madam, and Lord Offory will treat me as I should deserve, if you ever find it is. Having said this very seriously, I have no scruple to own how much I admire that poem, and
care

* On July 29, 1766, Walpole writes to Lord Holland : ‘I am sorry to tell you that there is a new edition of the *Bath Guide* with most execrable additions. I shall adhere to the old copy’ (see *Supplement to Letters*, vol. i, p. 138).

† l. 91 : ‘On this (the fane of Vengeance) shall Hell * d’s dying speech be read’ (see Walpole’s note on this line, p. 61).

‡ Walpole refers again to the *Epistle* having been attributed to him in his letter to Lady Offory of January 5, 1774 : ‘If the *School for Wives*, and the *Christmas Tale*, were laid to me, so was the *Heroic Epistle*. I could certainly have written the two former, but not the latter . . . I dare say the Heroic bard is as much offended at being confounded with me, as I am with the others, and with more reason.’

care not who knows I do. To-day I heard that other relations of royalty are more guilty than I am; the *Epistle* is given to Temple Luttrell. I doubt it; but, if he is the author, I am sure the Duchefs of Cumberland* has better poets for her kin than the Duchefs of Gloucester has.'

On March 20, 1773, Maſon wrote to Walpole:

'Lord N[uneham] ſent me above a week ago an *Heroic Epistle* &c. I have heard nothing ſince about it except that Mr Montagu tells me he is affured by C. Fox that Anſty is the author of it, which is a probable conjecture. I was ſorry to ſee a chafm in the 95th line, † 'tis a reflection upon the age we live in that it was not fill'd up. No name could be more proper than Martin's now that Calcraft is dead, and
I adopt

* Hon. Anne Luttrell (afterwards Mrs. Horton), eldeſt daughter of Simon Luttrell, firſt Baron Irnham (afterwards Earl of Carhampton), and ſiſter of Hon. Temple Luttrell, his ſecond ſon, had married in 1771 Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, brother of George III. Walpole's niece, the Dowager Counteſs Waldegrave, had married in 1766 William Henry, Duke of Glouceſter, elder brother of the Duke of Cumberland.

† In the original editions, up to the tenth, all in 1773: 'The R * g * ys, Mungos, B * df * ws there'; in later iſſues: 'The R * g * ys, ———'s, Mungos, B * df * ws there'. Subſequentially Calcraft's name was inſerted in place of the blank ——— (ſee Walpole's note on the line, p. 62). John Calcraft (1726–1772), ſon of a ſolicitor at Grantham, owed his 'aſtounding riſe into wealth and power' to the patronage of Henry Fox, the Paymaſter-General, who appointed him agent for as many regiments as he could, and later made him deputy commiſſary general. In the capacity of contractor for the forces he amaſſed a huge fortune, which drew from Junius the phraſe, 'he riots in the plunder of an army'. In 1763 he deſerted Fox for his rival Pitt (afterwards Earl of Chatham).

I adopt that reading in my own study. I am curious to hear more of the reception of the Poem, because I think it such a one as would make some little noise in the world, at least for a day or two, and therefore I shall hope for some anecdotes concerning it when M^r Alderson returns, who will have my directions to call upon you for these papers in four or five days after he leaves them with you.'

On March 27 Walpole replied :

'I received your letter . . . by M^r Alderson . . . having so safe a conveyance for my thoughts, I must begin with the uppermost of them, the *Heroic Epistle*. I have read it so very often that I have got it by heart, and as I am now master of all its beauties, I profess I like it infinitely better than I did, and yet I thought I liked it infinitely before : there is more wit, ten times more delicacy of irony, as much poetry and greater facility than, and as, in the *Dunciad*. But what signifies what I think ? all the world thinks the same, except a dark corner, where its being so much disliked is still better praise. No soul, as I have heard, has guessed within a hundred miles. I caught at Anstey's name, and I believe contributed to spread that notion. It has since been called Temple Luttrell's, and to my infinite honour mine. Lord Nuneham swears he should think so, if I did not commend it so excessively ! oh, how very vain I am ! Sir William Chambers consoles himself with its having sold him three hundred copies of his book. I do not hear that the patron of the arts* consoles himself with anything, but

* George III.

is

is heartily fore : he *would* read it insultingly to Chambers, but soon flung it down in a passion.* It is already of the fourth edition. Thank you for giving my impatient heir, Sam Martin, †⁷a niche . . .

I believe the Scotch are heartily sick of their Dalrympyan publication. † It has reopened all the mouths of clamour ; and the *Heroic Epistle* arrived in the critical minute to furnish clamour with quotations. You cannot imagine how I used it as fumigation. Whenever I was asked, Have you read Sir John Dalrymple ? I replied, Have *you* read the *Heroic Epistle* ? Betty § is in raptures on being immortalized ; the elephant and ass || are become constellations, and *he has stolen the Earl of Denbigh's handkerchief ¶* is the proverb in fashion.'

On April 27, still keeping up the pretence of his ignorance, he wrote to Cole :

' All the Scotch metaphysicians have sent me their works. I did not read one of them, because I do not understand what is not understood by those that write about it, and I did not get acquainted

* See Walpole's notes to l. 1 of the *Heroic Epistle*, pp. 53-4; and to l. 32 of the *Heroic Postscript*, p. 80.

† See Walpole's note to l. 95 of the *Heroic Epistle*, p. 62.

‡ Sir John Dalrymple published in 1771 *Memoirs of Great Britain and Ireland from the Dissolution of the last Parliament of Charles II until the Sea Battle of La Hogue* (see Walpole to Macon, March 2, 1773).

§ Betty Neale, the fruit-woman ; see l. 116 of the *Heroic Epistle*, and Walpole's note, p. 66.

|| See ll. 74-5 of the *Heroic Epistle*, and Walpole's note, p. 60.

¶ See l. 126 of the *Heroic Epistle*, and Walpole's note, p. 69.

acquainted with one of the writers. I should like to be intimate with M^r Anstey . . . or with the author of the *Heroic Epistle*. I have no thirst to know the rest of my cotemporaries.'

On May 7 Mason wrote to Walpole, presumably in reply to his letter of March 27 :

'The very obliging, I had almost said flattering letter, which you sent me by M^r Alderson, cannot on one of its subjects* be answered by me at present, which I am sorry for, because I have an excellent story to tell you relative to it. It is an account of a stratagem, by which ten golden guineas were obtained from a certain person,† by another,‡ to which such a sum was of great service ; this is all I can say, but the detail of the matter is highly comic, and you shall have it the first safe opportunity . . .

'Lord Holderness has been here § . . . Our talk was entirely on general subjects and literary matters, such as Sir John D. and A. Stewart's book,|| and the *Heroic Epistle*. I contraverted none of his opinions, only as he seemed to think that the *Epistle* had merit, I ventured to say that I thought it worthy of Soame Jennyns, had it suited his polite sentiments ; he replied, " So it was, but S. J. would never have used that *harsh* kind of satire ". From his Lordship's account I find that

* Obviously the *Heroic Epistle*. † Almon, the publisher.

‡ Mason himself, who was paid ten guineas by Almon for the *Heroic Epistle* ; see ll. 7-12 of the *Heroic Postscript*.

§ Afton, Yorks, of which Mason was rector.

|| Andrew Stewart's *Letters to Lord Mansfield* (see Walpole to Lady Offory, January 25 ; and to Mason, February 1, 1773).

that it is generally supposed to be Temple Lutterell's, although Almon declares it to be the work of a young man, and his first work. After all we live in an age of miracles, that two such writers as he and Junius should keep themselves concealed.'

Walpole replied on May 15 :

'You may imagine I am impatient to hear the history of the ten golden guineas. Though anybody will take such a sum, I thought few would fish for so little. We are in a higher style of cheating and plundering. . . .

'Lord Holdernesse and you, who ought to be better judges than I am of the capabilities of court-bards, must excuse me if I think Soame Jenyns could no more have written the *Heroic Epistle* than I could the best scene in Shakespeare. Please to point out any poetry in Jenyns's works : his best are humour rhymed ; and sneers checked by the Court of Chancery from laughing out. Pope is more likely to have written the *Heroic Epistle* since his death, than Soame Jenyns during his life.'

On June 28 Mason wrote from York :

'This dull place affords me no news except that her Majesty's Zebra* who, according to the advertisement in our *York Courant* of this day, it seems was lately the property of Mr Pinchy † and purchased by him of one of her domestics (though as I rather suspect given to him for the valuable consideration of his friendship) died the 3rd day of April last at Long Billington near Newark.

' This

* See above, p. 15, n. ||

† That is, Pinchbeck ; cf. l. 39 of *Epistle to Dr Shebbeare*.

‘This advertisement further adds that “the Proprietor has caused her skin to be stuffed, and that upon the whole the outward structure being so well executed, she is as well if not better now than when alive, as she was so vicious as not to suffer any stranger to come near her, and the curious may now have a close inspection—which could not be obtained before. She is at present exhibited at the Blue Boar in this city, with an Oriental tiger, a magnanimous lyon, a miraculous porcupine, a beautiful leopard, and a voracious panther, &c. &c.”

‘Pray do not you think the fate of this animal truly pitiable, who after having, as the same advertisement says, “belonged to her Majesty full ten years”, should not only be exposed to the close inspection of every stable boy in the kingdom, but *her* immoralities while alive thus severely stigmatised in a country newspaper. I should think this anecdote might furnish the author of the *Heroic Epistle* with a series of moral reflections which might end with the following pathetic couplet :

Ah beauteous beast ! thy cruel fate evinces
How vain the ass that puts its trust in princes !

‘I am informed that M^r Cambridge, instigated by the great fame of the forementioned author, has awakened his muse (who you may remember fell asleep in the Dutchess of Norfolk’s assembly-room* fifteen years ago, and never
wakened

* An allusion to his *Elegy written in an empty Bath Assembly Room*, published in 1756. Macon travesties a line from it in his *Epistle to Dr Shebbeare* (l. 196).

wakened since) and has added forty lines to the *Heroic Epistle*. I am promised the fight of them, but have not yet had that happiness.'

In his letter in reply, dated July 5, Walpole, after speaking of the Duke of Gloucester (his nephew by marriage), writes :

'I am too much occupied by another nephew,* to have time for being the historian of the royal one. I am not *the Ass that puts his trust in Princes*, nor that believes that Mr Cambridge can come within a thousand leagues of the *Epistle*. Indeed, I should have thought him as little likely to attempt adopting that vein as my Lord Bristol, who vows he would as soon read blasphemy.'†

The ensuing correspondence deals with the *Heroic Postscript*. On November 23 Mason wrote :

'Mem : any packet how large soever, will be sent me from Fraser ‡ at Lord Suffolk's § office. . . . I remember in one of your letters that you told me the Earl of Bristol said he would sooner read blasphemy than a certain poem. || Did this come to your hands in such a manner, that it might be ridiculed safely ? . . .

'I know

* The Earl of Orford, at that time suffering from one of his periodical attacks of insanity.

† Mason referred to this in l. 62 of the *Heroic Postscript* (see below, his enquiry with regard to this saying in his letter to Walpole of November 23, 1773 ; and Walpole's reply in the P.S. to his letter of November 27).

‡ William Fraser, Under-Secretary of State for the Northern Department, under whose cover the secret correspondence between Walpole and Mason was conveyed.

§ Secretary of State for the Northern Department. || The *Heroic Epistle*.

‘ I know not how to fill up my letter, and therefore I will transcribe part of an Heroic postscript address’d to the publick on their favourable reception of &c. * * * but you must promise to burn it instantly.

For now my Muse thy fame is fixt as fate.
 Tremble ye fools I scorn, ye knaves I hate,
 I know the full-fledg’d vigor of thy wings,*
 I know thy voice † can pierce the ear of Kings.
 Did China’s monarch here in Brittain doze,
 And was like western kings, a King of Prose,
 Thy song could cure his Asiatic spleen,
 And make him wish to see, and to be seen,
 That solemn vein of irony so fine,
 Which, e’en Reviewers own, adorns each line,
 Would make him soon against his greatness, sin,
 Desert his sofa, mount his palanquin,
 And post whene’er ‡ the Goddess led the way,
 Perchance to proud Spithead’s imperial bay ;
 There should he see, as others may have § seen,
 That ships have anchors, and that seas are green,
 Should own the tackling trim, the streamers fine,
 With S—d—h || prattle and with B—d—w ¶ dine,
 And then sail back, amid the cannons ** roar,
 As safe, as sage as when he left the shore.’ ††

Walpole’s

* l. 31: ‘ I know the vigour of thy eagle wings.’

† l. 32: ‘ strains’. ‡ l. 41: ‘ where’er’. § l. 43: ‘ as other folks have’.

|| l. 46: ‘ Sandwich’. ¶ ‘ Bradshaw’. ** l. 47: ‘ cannon’s’.

†† ll. 29–48. The foregoing variants are from the text of the poem as first printed in 1774.

Walpole's reply is contained in the postscript to his letter of November 27 :

'P.S. Since I wrote my letter . . . I have received your letter, and most delightful lines : you are sure I think them so, and should if they were not yours. The subject prejudices me enough, without my affection for your writings. I cannot recollect now . . . who told me the story of the blasphemy, and I will never affirm to you anything where I cannot quote my evidence. Perhaps I shall remember ; the story however ought not to be lost, and may be reserved for even a twentieth edition. . . . I shall get some courtier to direct this, that it may pass safe . . .

'I cannot possibly recollect who told me the story above, but I am certain it was related as an undoubted fact, nor does it found at all like invention.'

To which Mason answered on December 3 :

'The story shall not be lost, I assure you. I was only afraid it had been said to yourself, but I find to my comfort, 'tis *publici juris*.'

On January 4, 1774, Mason sent Walpole the completed MS. of the *Heroic Postscript* :

'I have at last found out an opportunity of sending you safely, what I have for some time wished you to see. I shall now wish for your opinion of it, which you may send me too safely enough, if franked by some courtier. . . . I have laid my scheme so that the thing will come out soon after the meeting of parliament,* *nisi tu Docte dissentis*. . . .

* It was published on February 10, 1774.

'I must

‘I must now return to the thing you receive with this. You must know I have expunged a full third of it, about the liberty of the press. I mean to make that a separate piece for hereafter,* if there be occasion. It destroyed the unity of this . . . I think as it stands at present there is a proper mixture of the comic and serious; I do not expect it will please so much as the former, but I believe it will frighten some folks much more, and you’ll own there is merit in doing that. However, as I said before, I shall depend entirely on your opinion as to publication, only give me your assent or dissent soon.’

Walpole was very uneasy at the thought of being made privy to the *Heroic Postscript* before publication, and was afraid that if it became known his niece, the Duchess of Gloucester, might have to suffer in consequence. He wrote to Mason on January 14 :

‘Dear Sir — whom I respect and admire more and more, do not be surpris’d at my sending an express : † the subject of your letter is of too much consequence to venture the answer by the post, ‡ and I do not mind the expense, when it is to show my zeal for you and *the cause*, and enables me to speak more plainly.

Never was a man less fit to give advice than I, who want
it

* This he did eventually in the *Epistle to Dr Shebbeare*, published in 1777.

† Mason was staying with his friend Mr Palgrave, at Palgrave, near Diss in Norfolk.

‡ In his letter to Mason of December 14 he said : ‘I have reason to think all letters to and from me are opened since my relation to royalty’.

it myself to the highest degree*. . . Judge of my perplexity about what you have sent me. It is glorious—it is truth ; has the noblest dignity of authoritative poetry,—must do good,—is wanted. Your country wants an avenger ; you can do what a whole dirty nation will not do. Then what am I that would check your career a moment ; yet hear me. D^r —— delivered it to me with great marks of apprehension, and protested he knew not what it contained ; that he was ordered to deliver it to a person who was to call for it. This struck me extremely ; the person I conclude is Almon, whom I know and have found to be a rogue. He has already bragged such a poem was coming out, and remember, if he guesses the author, that you must manage him. Money will be offered him to tell, and he will take it and tell. Hence arises my first difficulty, and on your account, who I am sure would not for the world hurt D^r ——, whom Almon will name. My next difficulty is relating to myself. If D^r ——, whom I cannot know, should name me, it would fall on one whom I am as tender of as myself, the Dukes of Gloucester . . .

‘ If her uncle could be proved to be privy to your piece, she would be still more undone than she is ; nay, what could I say, if the Doctor should name me ? I never could tell a lie without colouring, and I trust you know that my heart is set on acting uprightly ; that I lament my faults, and study
to

* His nephew had suddenly recovered his senses, and the physicians had declared themselves bound in consequence to leave him to his own devices, which Walpole feared would end in his making away with himself.

to correct myself; in short, I would give the world the poem had gone to the press without coming to me in the manner it did. Do not imagine that a man who thinks and tells you he should colour if he lied, would betray you to save his life. I give you my honour that I have not to the dearest friend I have named you for author of the other,* nor would for this. I can answer for myself; I cannot for the Doctor, and I dare not hazard the Duchess.

‘The result, therefore, of all is that I wish you could contrive to convey the poem to Almon without the intervention of D^r ——, whom I may mistake, but who seemed uneasy; and as he did not venture to trust me with his knowledge of the contents, I am not in the wrong to be unwilling to trust. I will keep it till I get your answer; and shall enjoy reading it over and over. If it is more serious than the former, though it has infinite humour too, the majesty of the bard, equal to that of the Welsh bards, more than compensates. If it appears, as I hope, I will write to you upon it, as a new poem, *in which I am much disappointed, and think it very unequal to the first.*† (This is the common style of little critics, who I remember said just so of the three last parts of the *Essay on Man*.) It will be hard if my letter is not opened at the post, when we wish it should. I am alone disappointed in not finding a hecatomb offered to Algernon Sydney. . . . I hope it is in the part on the press ‡ . . .

‘How

* The *Heroic Epistle*.

† See his letters to Lady Offory of February 12, and to Mason of February 14, quoted below, p. 27.

‡ See *Epistle to D^r Shebbeare*, ll. 12–15.

‘How I wish I could see you but for a day: I am chained here by the foot to a madman; but can I avoid wishing you could steal to town for a day? It might be a secret; I would come to you wherever you would appoint. At least acquit me of royalty or court-serving. I am not a traitor—I am not corrupted: I am hated at court, and detest it. Keep my letter and print it in the *Gazette* either before or after my death, if I deceive you. Tell, show here, under my hand, that I exhorted you to publish both the *Heroic Epistle* and the *Postscript*. I glory in having done so, but I own I would not have you risk hurting D^r —, nor would I have my niece, who is ignorant and innocent, suffer for the participation of her uncle.’

Mason replied from Palgrave the next day (January 15). As he was at this time engaged upon his *Life of Gray*, for the purposes of which Walpole had lent him a number of Gray’s letters to himself, Mason adopted the expedient of referring to the *Heroic Postscript* as ‘letters of Gray’, in order to deceive the authorities in the event of his and Walpole’s letters being opened in the post. He wrote:

‘You are under much greater apprehensions than you need to be on this subject. Hear a plain narrative. I sent up the packet to the D^r by M^r Varelst’s servant, desired him, the D^r, to send it to you by some safe hand, and when he had received it back, to keep it till called for. The person who was to call for it was not by any means him whom you suspect, but the young man who received the ten golden guineas for the last. He cannot come to town

these ten days, and when he does, I meant that he should negotiate this matter as he did the former. On his prudence and good management I can fully rely. As to the D^r you may be quite as easy on this subject, and have nothing to do but to seal the packet up, and send it to him by your servant with charge to deliver it into his own hand. If after all you have fears as being made privy to it, I give you full liberty to burn it instantly ; and as there is no other copy extant, you may be assured it will perish completely. A.* knows nothing about the matter yet . . . ; for God's sake no more expresses. I have been at my wits end to account for this to my present host, but have made a tolerable excuse : in your letter you need only say whether or no you permit me to publish those letters of M^r Gray's, which you lately sent me, and I shall understand you. Was I to come to town in the present crisis, and be seen by any person, it would cause more suspicion than anything else ; indeed in my own opinion it would be the only dangerous step that could be taken in the whole transaction.'

Walpole, adopting Mason's blind as to the 'letters of Gray', wrote on January 21 :

'I have returned those letters of Gray to your friend, and earnestly beg, as well as consent myself, that they should be printed. I should never forgive myself their being suppressed, as they will do him so much honour, and you have perfectly satisfied me that the lady in question cannot be affected by them, which was my whole concern. I beg you will excuse

* Almon. all

all the trouble I have given you . . . ; my dread of doing wrong, when it is so difficult to do right in the variety of relations in which I stand, made me fearful that even so innocent a thing as Gray's letters might hurt a person of whom I have no cause to complain ; but I will say no more.'

On February 3 Mason wrote from Aston :

'I received, while at Cambridge, your permission to print those letters of M^r Gray, and have taken my measures accordingly. I have nothing, therefore, to say at present on that subject, only to repeat my firm belief that they cannot do any harm to the person you mentioned.'

On February 12, two days after the publication of the poem, Walpole wrote to Lady Offory :

'There is published a *Postscript* to the *Heroic Epistle*, with some excellent lines, but inferior to the first, as second parts generally are.'

And, to keep up the deception, he wrote in the same tone of depreciation two days later to Mason :

'There is published a *Postscript to the Heroic Epistle*, certainly by the same author, as is evident by some charming lines, but inferior to the former, as second parts are apt to be.'

Mason replied from York on March 3 :

'We see nothing here but newspapers. If I send for a new pamphlet it is above a fortnight before it arrives. This was the case with the *Heroic Postscript* which you mentioned in your last. But you did not tell me that I had the honour of being placed in the same line with D^r Goldsmith ; *

* See l. 79, where Mason introduces his own name as a blind. if

if you had I should hardly have sent for it. However I am more contented with my company, than Garrick will be with his.* I think much the same about the piece itself as you do and as there is certainly less comic humour in it than in the former, I should think neither its reputation nor its sale would be so great; but here I find from the last paper, ministry steps in as usual, and by the voice of Col. Onslow † stamps the reputation it might want upon it, and hereby enhances Almon's profit. Were it not for this I'll be bound to say not three persons in York would have read it; now it will spread through the county.'

In the summer of 1777 the *Epistle to Dr Shebbeare*, and *Ode to Sir Fletcher Norton*, were published together. As in the case of the previous poems Walpole and Maſon in their correspondence feigned to be in ignorance as to their authorship.

Maſon wrote from Aſton on July 27: †

* See l. 80.

‘ Nobody

† See Walpole's note to l. 97 of *Epistle to Dr Shebbeare*, p. 118.

‡ In the previous April he had written to Walpole from York: ‘ I saw, near three weeks ago, the advertisement of a *Familiar Epistle to the Author of the Heroic Epistle and Postscript*; if it had been good for any thing I imagine you would have mentioned it, as you know I liked those publications. Is not their author yet found?’¹

¹ Five years later Walpole appears to have treated Maſon's authorship of the *Heroic Epistle* as more or less an open secret, for on July 15, 1783, he wrote to Lady Ossory: ‘ The other day the Jerninghams brought to see my house—whom do you think?—only a *Luxembourg*, a *Lusignan*, and a *Montfort*! I never felt myself so much in the castle of Otranto. . . Still I was a very uncourteous châtelain. I did not appear. In short, Mr Maſon, whom I had not seen for a year, was at dinner with me, and was to pass but that one day with me—*cedant arma togæ*—I preferred the *Heroic Epistle* to a troop of heroes; that is, the supposed author of the one to what I do not suppose the others’. Norton Nicholls, in his *Reminiscences of Gray* (written in 1805), after saying that much

‘Nobody sends me any thing but you. It was but yesterday that the *Epistle to Dr Shebbeare* reached Aston, and that not sent to me, but to Mr Verelst. There are good lines in it and a happy mixture of the careless and serious, the burlesque and heroic. The *Ode* * too has its merit, but it seems *manqué*, all the lines in Horace are not alluded to . . . which in these kind of imitations ought always to be observed. Tell me whether this criticism be not a just one.’

Walpole replied on August 4 :

‘I think you are too difficult about the *Ode* and the *Epistle to Shebbeare*, which will survive when all our trash is forgotten. What do you think of the immortal lines on Cox’s Museum? † I beg your pardon too, if I cannot see the sin of omission in some lines of Horace not being paraphrased in so heinous a light. The author does not profess a translation, and surely was at liberty to take only what parts he found to his purpose.’

As to the authorship of the *Ode to the Naval Officers of Great Britain* there was no mystery, as Mason put his own name to it when it was first published in March, 1779.

of Mason’s poetry appeared to him to be without force, and languid, excepts the *Heroic Epistle*, which he qualifies as an ‘admirable work’, and remarks: ‘There is no doubt of Mason being the author of the *Heroic Epistle to Sir W. Chambers*. Palgrave, who probably derived his information from the source, affirmed it. Dr. Burgh, Mason’s great friend, told me “he knew the author”; and Mason himself, many years ago, when he was supposed to have taken particular offence at the K— reflecting on him with severity on some occasion, I said, “that is a trifle for you to say, who are the author of the *Heroic Epistle*”. Mason replied instantly, in a surly, nasal tone, which was not unusual to him, “I am told the K— thinks so, and he is welcome”’ (Lond. 1843, p. 40).

* The *Ode to Sir Fletcher Norton*.

† See Walpole’s note on l. 204 of the *Epistle to Shebbeare*, p. 122.







Sir William Chambers

from mezzotint by R. Houston after F. Cotes

INTRODUCTION*

M^R MASON'S earlier poems, being written on general Subjects, want no exposition. His later works, tho equally clear and intelligible to the present age, abound in allusions to persons & events of the times; and woud become obscure to Posterity, unless accompanied by some account of the anecdotes referred to, which often are barely hinted at.

Many of the Characters recorded are, it is true, of that class that is called *Noble* and *Illustrious*: yet as neither their names nor their actions will be to be found in the Temple of Fame, where M^r Mason's works will be for ever preserved, it woud be unjust to his Readers to send them to seek the commentary in the bureaus of Infamy. Some of his Heroes indeed must be registered in History. Their crimes and blunders have brought such misfortunes and disgrace to their Country, that their names will be inseperable from the annals of England. But the mass of their actions has been so contemptible & ridiculous; and national Justice has so little secured their memories by that great preservative, public punishment, that future Ages will wonder how so many destructive crimes could have been committed, almost without their knowing who were the Criminals. So strange a Mystery woud injure the Wit & beauties of M^r Mason's poems, who, indignant at the fate of his Country, & convinced that Reason and Argument no longer influence his deluded & thoughtless & corrupt Countrymen, endeavoured to rouse

* By Walpole.

rouse them by making them laugh, & revive their spirit by the sole remaining object of their attention, Diversion. Horace amused himself & the degenerate Romans by ridiculing insignificant Coxcombs. Pope revenged his own quarrel on Dunces. M^r Maſon, uninjured himself, but provoked at the Enemies of his Country, exerted the light but sharp weapon of gay Satire to reclaim a prostitute and sinking Nation. Many of his themes, tho below the notice of History, were judiciously chosen to strike a trifling Age—and if he descends to chastize very ignoble & very ignominious Wretches, it ought to be remembered that They were the individual Tools employed by tyrant Prerogative to corrupt the morals & maxims, & pervert the Patriotism of a once high-spirited & long-triumphant Nation, of a Nation long-determined to preserve its Liberty and unique Constitution. S^r William Chambers was a harmless Innovator on Taste; but Shebbeare, S^r John Dalrymple, Macpherson and D^r Johnson were Assassins pensioned to asperse the Champions & Martyrs of Freedom, & to recommend the chains & massacres prepared for America. Pensioners of Lord Bute & Lord Mansfield, they were debauched from the pay of booksellers, & handed down from the pillory to wage war on the Laws & Common Sense. They were hired by substantial pensions from the service of the indigent House of Stuart to promote the self same Cause for which the Stuarts had been expelled; and were retained to asperse the memory of King William by the Third Prince of that Family, on which, tho the youngest branch of the line, King William had bestowed the Crown of Great Britain.

Such culprits called for the asperity of a JUVENAL—and met with one in Churchill. But as the graces & delicate ironies of Horace have always found ten Readers for One that frowns with Juvenal, the sportive smiles of M^r Maſon will charm when Churchill offends; & nothing could prevent the Heroic Epistle &c. from ranking
with

INTRODUCTION BY WALPOLE 33

with the most engaging of the Roman Classics, but the want of a key to the most minute touches, of which the circumstances might be lost, unless preserved by a Cotemporary.

This is the view of the following Exposition ; in which the Writer does not presume to aim at the wit which raised Swift's notes on the Dunciad to a level with that immortal Poem itself. Dr Johnson, who confounds all Truth, as much as all Taste, endeavours to make Mankind believe, contrary to their Senses, that few now read the Dispensary.* The inimitable compliments in that harmonious Satire to our Heroic Deliverer made the monkish Pedant attempt to obliterate so deathless a Chef d'œuvre ; & his own unequalled Vanity prompted him to flatter himself that his clumsy and tasteless pages of bombast & biography would persuade the World to believe him rather than their own eyes & judgment —Posterity will decide between the shining yet solid merits of King William, Lord Ruffel, Algernon Sydney, Milton, Locke, Garth, Gray, & Mason, on one side ; & the impudent, yet puny efforts of King George the Third, Sr John Dalrymple, Macpherson, Doctors Shebbeare & Johnson, & Dean Tucker,† on the other,

those Classics of an Age that knew of None,‡

to deny the Heroes, & depreciate the Luminaries, that gave us Freedom, the use of our Understanding, and a Parnassus of our own.

HORACE WALPOLE.

* By Samuel Garth (1661–1719), first published in 1699 ; See Johnson's *Life of Garth*, ad fin.

† Dr Tucker, Dean of Gloucester, wrote a Confutation, as he fancied, of Mr Locke's *Treatise on Government* : & the University of Oxford, once more devoted to the Cause of Ignorance, gave its Sanction to the Priest's work. *Walpole*.—Josiah Tucker (1712–1799), Dean of Gloucester (1758), published his *Treatise concerning Civil Government* in 1781.

‡ 'The classics of an age that heard of none', *Dunciad*, i. 148.

¹ William Chambers (1726–1796), architect; he was in charge of the new buildings at Kew for the Princess Dowager of Wales, where among other oriental buildings he erected the well-known Chinese pagoda; subsequently he was appointed Comptroller General of Works to George III. In 1771 he was created by the King of Sweden a Knight of the Polar Star. In the following year he published a *Dissertation on Oriental Gardening*, which gave rise among other satires to this *Heroic Epistle* of Mafon's and to his *Heroic Postscript*.

² Mafon's own notes, which consist chiefly of quotations from Chambers's *Dissertation*, have been omitted for the most part, as being devoid of interest at the present time; such few as have been retained are marked M. Unsigned notes are by the present Editor.

³ According to a MS. note by Walpole on the title-page of a copy of the first edition, the *Epistle* was first published in February 1773.

A N
H E R O I C E P I S T L E

T O

SIR WILLIAM CHAMBERS, Knight,¹
COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S WORKS,

And Author of a late Differtation on

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MDCCLXXVII.³

P R E F A C E.*

THIS Poem was written last summer, immediately after the publication of Sir William Chambers's Differtation ; but the bookfeller, to whom it was offered, declined publishing it, till the town was full. His reason for this is obvious ; yet it would hardly have weigh'd with the author, had he not thought, that his hero's fame would increase in proportion to his publisher's profit. However, he foresaw, that, by this delay, one inconvenience might arise, which this preface is written to remove. Readers of the present generation are so very inattentive to what they read, that it is probable, one half of Sir William's may have forgotten the principles which his book inculcates. Let these, then, be reminded, that it is the author's profest aim in extolling the taste of the Chinese, to condemn that mean and paltry manner which Kent introduced, which Southcote, Hamilton, and Brown followed, and which, to our national disgrace, is called the English style of gardening. He shews the poverty of this taste, by aptly comparing it to a dinner, which consisted

* By Mason.

lifted of three grofs pieces, three times repeated ; * and proves to a demonftration, that Nature herfelf is incapable of pleafing, without the affiftance of Art, and that too of the moft luxuriant kind. In fhort, fuch art as is difplayed in the Emperor's garden of Yven-Ming-Yven, near Pekin ; where fine lizards, and fine women, human giants, and giant baboons, make but a fmall part of the fuperb fcenery. He teaches us, that a perfect garden muft contain within itfelf all the amufements of a great city ; that *Urbs in rure*, not *Rus in urbe*, is the thing, which an improver of true tafte ought to aim at. He fays - - - but it is impoffible to abridge all that he fays : - - - Let this therefore fuffice, to tempt the reader again to perufe his invaluable Differtation, fince without it, he will never relifh half the beauties of the following epiftle ; for (if her Majesty's Zebra, † and the powder-mills at Hounflow ‡ be excepted) there is fcarce a fingle image in it, which is not taken from that work.

But though the images be borrowed, the author claims fome fmall merit from his application of them. Sir William fays too modestly, “ that European artifts muft not hope to rival Oriental fplendor ”. The poet fhews, that European artifts may eafily rival it ; and, that Richmond gardens, with
only

* See vv. 45-52.

† See v. 76 and note.

‡ See vv. 85-6.

only the addition of a new bridge to join them to Brentford,* may be new modelled, perfectly *à la Chinois*.† He exhorts his Knight to undertake the glorious task, and leaves no cause to doubt, but that, under the auspicious patronage he now so justly enjoys, added to the *ready* vote of those, who furnish ways and means, the royal work will speedily be completed.

Knightbridge, Jan. 20th, 1773.

* See vv. 109–10.

† *Sic.*

NOTES TO THE AUTHOR'S PREFACE.*

Paltry manner which Kent introduced] William Kent,† Painter & Architect in the reign of George the 2^d was Author of the modern taste in English gardening; or in other words, the First who discovered that the Imitation of Nature was the true Style in gardening, as in all other Arts. See a full account of Kent and his Science in the 4th volume of the Anecdotes of Painting.‡

Southcote] Philip Southcote Esq. a Roman Catholic gentleman, second Husband of Anne Pulteney Duchess Dowager of Cleveland,§ but better known by the Memoires of Con. Philips,|| was the first Designer

* By Walpole.

† Kent (1684–1748), after being apprenticed to a coach-painter, started as an artist in London in 1703, and a subscription having been raised for him by some of his patrons for the purpose in 1710 went to Rome. There he remained till 1719, when he was brought back to England by the Earl of Burlington, with whom he lived till his death, which took place at Burlington House in 1748. He was employed by Sir Robert Walpole on the decoration of Houghton, and was the architect, among other buildings, of Lord Leicester's house at Holkham, of Devonshire House, Piccadilly, and of the Horse Guards and Treasury buildings.

‡ Walpole there says of him: 'He was a painter, an architect, and the father of modern gardening. In the first character, he was below mediocrity; in the second, he was a restorer of the science; in the last, an original, and the inventor of an art that realizes painting, and improves nature.'

§ Anne (d. 1746), daughter of Sir William Pulteney (grandfather of 1st Earl of Bath), married 1. (1694) Charles Fitzroy, (1662–1730), Duke of Cleveland, natural son of Charles II by Barbara Palmer; 2. (1733) Philip Southcote (d. bef. Oct. 1758).

|| Teresa Constantia Phillips (1709–65), a notorious courtesan, who in 1748–9 published *An Apology for the Conduct of Mrs Teresa Constantia Phillips*, in three volumes,

Designer of the Ferme Ornée ; but tho' That appellation is more humble than That of garden, the composition is rather less natural, at least as M^r Southcote exhibited It. The Profusion of flowers & the delicacy of *keeping* betray more wealthy expence than is consistent with the œconomy of a Farmer, or the rusticity of labour. Woburn farm near Weybridge in Surry where M^r Southcote displayed his peculiar Style with happiness & Taste, is the habitation of such Nymphs & Sheperds as are represented in landscapes & novels, but do not exist in real life.

Hamilton] Charles Hamilton,* younger Brother of James Earl of Abercorn, struck into a bolder style than Kent or Southcote, at his territory called Paine's hill near Cobham in Surry. There is a savage Scenery at the termination of the grounds that is a perfect Contrast to the trim neatness of the Ferme Ornée.† Each might be admitted with propriety into different parts of a larger domain.

Brown]

as a means of blackmailing her acquaintance. She married a Dutch merchant named Muilman. Her name occurs several times in M^{rs} Delany's Correspondence (Nov.—Dec. 1750) in connexion with a letter to Lord Chesterfield.

* Fifth son (d. 1787) of 6th Earl of Abercorn.

† In his *Essay on Modern Gardening* Walpole contrasts the three kinds of gardens favoured respectively by Kent, Southcote, and Hamilton:—'In the historic light, I distinguish them into the garden that connects itself with a park, into the ornamented farm, and into the forest or savage garden. Kent, as I have shown, invented or established the first sort. M^r Philip Southcote founded the second, or ferme ornée (at Wobourn-farm in Surry) . . . [By] the third . . . I mean that kind of alpine scene, composed almost wholly of pines and firs, a few birch, and such trees as assimilate with a savage and mountainous country. M^r Charles Hamilton, at Pain's-hill, in my opinion has given a perfect example of this mode in the utmost boundary of his garden. All is great and foreign and rude; the walks seem not designed, but cut through the wood of pines; and the style of the whole is so grand, and conducted with so serious an air of wild and uncultivated extent, that, when you look down on this seeming forest, you are amazed to find it contain a very few acres.' (*Works of Lord Orford*, ii. 541.)

Brown] Lancelot Brown* had been Kitchen gardiner to Lord Cobham at Stowe, and became the best Imitator of Kent, & the most fashionable Designer of Grounds & Gardens. At last He applied to Architecture, and with no bad success. The House he built for Lord Clive at Claremont is one of the best disposed Mansions in England for its Dimensions.

Sr William Chambers, who was far from wanting Taste in Architecture, fell into the mistake of the French, who suppose that the Chinese had discovered the true Style in Gardens long before Kent; and in order to deprive Him and England of the honour of originality, the French call our Style the Anglo-Chinois Garden: whereas the Chinese wander as far from Nature as the French themselves, tho in opposite extremes. Regularity, Uniformity, Formality and Sameness are the characteristics of all French gardens: Irregularity and Extravagance of the Chinese. Nature is artfully & laboriously avoided & destroyed by Both. A jet d'eau, a Cascade falling down a flight of marble steps, or an explosion of *Water* to imitate *Fire* works, are not more unnatural than insulated rocks in the midst of a flat meadow, or canals conducted at right angles in troughs of Stone. The landscapes they create are as absurd as those they paint; and their best commendation is that they have a most ingenious want of taste.

Taste, which cannot exist without Simplicity, yet is not inconsistent with Grandeur, because nothing is so grand and simple as the Sublime, was first discovered by the Grecians in their Poetry, in their Eloquence, in their Architecture, in their Statuary. It was adopted in all by the Romans. It was revived in Architecture & Statuary by the Italians; who, we may say, applied Taste to Painting too, for at least they did not borrow it from the Ancients, of whose genius in Painting we cannot judge;

* Commonly known as 'Capability Brown,' 1715-1783. nor

nor from anything that has come down to us, have we reason to believe that they approached to Raphael*, Guido †, the Caracci ‡ & Titian §. In Poetry the Taste of the Italians has never been pure; & still less in Eloquence. The French Writers of the Age of Louis 14th formed their taste on the models of the Ancients; Pouffin || & the greater Le Sœur ¶, on the Antique & Raphael; while France in Architecture and Gardening (the Façade of the Louvre excepted) retained as much barbarism as the most tasteless Ages could show.

The imitation of Nature in Gardens, or rather in laying out Ground, still called Gardening for want of a specific term to distinguish an Art totally new, is Original, & indisputably English. It is as much ours as Tragedy & Comedy were of Grecian growth. The Chinese had dramatic Exhibitions, perhaps as anciently; and so might the Assyrians, Phenicians or Egyptians. We had monkish mysteries & pageants; & so we might have had, tho' Athens had never possessed a Stage. But Æschylus, Euripides and Sophocles invented the Greek Theatre; & it is no more to be disputed with them, than Statuary with Praxiteles, because the Natives of Otaheite scrape bones into something that is meant for the representation of a human figure. Savages aim at Arts; but it is Taste, & the imitation & improvement of Nature, that decide in favour of that Country that has produced Standards in any of the fine Arts.

It was to deride the Corruption of true Taste, that the Heroic Epistle was written. To send us, when possessed of the Models established by Kent, Hamilton and Brown, to the vagaries of the Chinese, was exactly that passion for Pantomime that has been
a reproach

* Raphael, 1483-1520.

† Guido Reni, 1575-1642.

‡ Lodovico, 1555-1619; Agostino, 1557-1602; and Annibale, 1560-1609.

§ Titian, *c.* 1477-1576.

|| Nicolas Poussin, 1594-1665.

¶ Eustache Le Sueur, 1616-1655.

a reproach to our Theatre. To recommend the introduction of bears, monkees, elephants &c. into our gardens was identically what has been practiced on our Stage; & whether his Majesty or the Mob would be delighted with such fights at Kew or Drury lane, the idea is barbarous, and never to be admitted into our beautiful real landscapes. Yet as Taste is seldom permanent, no doubt the Great Vulgar and the small will corrupt our genuine taste in Gardening in spite of the Heroic Epistle; which will only remain a deathless monument of the wit & taste of the Author; as Addison's Spectators on the absurdities of our Italian Operas are read with admiration even by those whom they have not corrected.

But not content with anathematizing *Falſe Taſte*, nor, like those Tyrants who delight in punishing offences, yet take no pains to inculcate into their subjects the practice of Virtue, Mr Maſon in his *English Garden** has laid down rules not only for exercising Taste, but for preserving it in its purity. Like Aristotle & Longinus he has formed a system from the examples of the greatest Masters; & by his superior felicity of being a Poet & Painter too, he has illustrated the beauties of the Third, the youngest, Sister by the assistance of the other Two with such happy art, that Poetry, Painting & Gardening, or the science of Landscape, will forever by men of Taste be deemed Three Sisters, or *the Three New Graces* who dress and adorn Nature.

In Mr Maſon's Georgic, of which the Subject is more elegant than the Roman's, the living landscapes of Kent, Hamilton & Brown will be preserved, when their groves are felled, & their lawns restored to the ploughshare, or desolated by Tyranny & Tax-gatherers. His Poem will preserve the Science, or restore it, should no specimens remain. At least it will show what a Paradise
was

* Poem in four books, published respectively in 1772, 1777, 1779, and 1782.

was England while She retained her Constitution—for perhaps it is no paradox to say, *that the reason why Taste in Gardening was never discovered before the beginning of the present Century, is, that It was the result of all the happy combinations of an Empire of Freemen, an Empire formed by Trade, not by a military & conquering Spirit, maintained by the valour of independent Property, enjoying long tranquillity after virtuous struggles, & employing its opulence & good Sense on the refinements of rational Pleasure.*

Let it be considered that the Composition of our Gardens depends on wealth, on extended possession, on the beauties & animation of Agriculture, Farming, and Navigation. Walls are thrown down to admit the prospect of inclosures, villages, great roads & moving Life. What would be the View from a Nobleman's garden in an arbitrary monarchy, if views of the country were called in?—Defolation, poverty, misery; barren rocks, & plains covered with thistles.

There never was an Empire so extensive as the British before the American War, that was at once so free, & so little constitutionally military. The Romans, while free themselves, breathed nothing but conquest & usurpation over the rest of mankind. When they became masters of the wealth of the world, they became slaves. The riches of the universe were possessed by the Emperors & their Favourites—& so far were those Spoilers from conceiving the beauties of opulent landscapes, that they could behold no such thing—they had annihilated them. Their Villas spoke nothing but luxury and apprehension. The endless ranges of colonades were ambulatories after bathing; or at once the prisons & places of exercise of the Prætorian guards. The amenities of the country were not cultivated, but traversed by gigantic aqueducts & superb public roads—roads not calculated for the intercourse of Trade, but to facilitate the march of legions against insurrections, or to convey Governors & messengers to distant provinces.

Considered

Considered in this light, Mr Mason's *English Garden* is a beautiful Set of Cuts to a Commentary on our once-blessed Constitution. When he gives laws to every man of property for the decoration of his grounds, he insinuates the blessing of laws that ascertain Property. If our Tory Country Gentlemen, who are so foolish as to expect to be Bakhaws under a Sultan & a Grand Vizir, would recollect that an English Garden cannot be mowed & kept in an arbitrary country, no more than their favourite game-acts retained, they would be less eager for Despotism. Grass must not be mowed near the residence of the Court or of a Prince of the blood, lest the eggs of Pheasants & Partridges, which are not the game of the Country Gentleman, should be destroyed.

The English Taste in Gardening is thus the growth of the English Constitution, & must perish with it. It must be rare under any arbitrary Government, because extensive property is possessed by very few, & by Those only while in favour. Timber trees, the first essential of English Gardens, depend on the necessities or caprice of the Crown; and are rare in every monarchic country, but in those deserts of the North, where the tyranny of the Sovereign concurring with the rigour of the climate leaves nothing but trees on the waste, because they have driven off the Inhabitants.

Should Mr Mason's *English Garden* survive the Constitution its pictures, as it probably will for many ages, He will be the Second of our great Bards and Patriots, who has left a poem on *Paradise Lost*.

AN HEROIC EPISTLE

T O

SIR WILLIAM CHAMBERS, Knight, &c. &c.

K NIGHT of the Polar Star ! by Fortune plac'd
To shine the Cynosure of British taste ;
Whose orb collects, in one refulgent view,
The scatter'd glories of Chinese Virtù ;
And spread their lustre in so broad a blaze, 5
That Kings themselves are dazzled while they gaze.
O let the Muse attend thy march sublime,
And, with thy prose, caparison her rhyme ;
Teach her, like thee, to gild her splendid song,
With scenes of Yven-Ming,* and sayings of Li-Tfong ; † 10
Like

* One of the Imperial gardens at Pekin. M.

† A Chinese author of great antiquity. M.

HEROIC EPISTLE

47

Like thee to scorn Dame Nature's simple fence ;
 Leap each Ha Ha of truth and common sense ;
 And proudly rising in her bold career,
 Demand attention from the gracious ear
 Of Him, whom we and all the world admit, 15
 Patron supreme of science, taste, and wit.
 Does Envy doubt? Witness ye chosen train!
 Who breathe the sweets of his Saturnian reign ;
 Witness ye H*lls, ye J*ns*ns, Sc*ts, S*bb*s,
 Hark to my call, for some of you have ears. 20
 Let D**d H*e, from the remotest North,
 In fee-faw sceptic scruples hint his worth ;
 D**d, who there supinely deigns to lye
 The fattest Hog of Epicurus' sty ;
 Tho' drunk with Gallic wine, and Gallic praise, 25
 D**d shall bless Old England's halcyon days ;
 The mighty Home bemir'd in prose so long,
 Again shall stalk upon the stilts of song ;
 While bold Mac-Offian, wont in ghosts to deal,
 Bids candid Smollet from his coffin steal ; 30
 Bids Mallock quit his sweet Elysian rest,
 Sunk in his St. John's philosophic breast,
 And, like old Orpheus, make some strong effort
 To come from Hell, and warble *truth at Court*.*

There

* Vide (if it be extant) a poem under this title, for which (or for the publication of Lord Bolingbroke's philosophical writings) the person here

There was a time, 'in Esſher's peaceful grove, 35
 When Kent and Nature vy'd for Pelham's love,'*
 That Pope beheld them with auſpicious ſmile,
 And own'd that Beauty bleſt their mutual toil.
 Miſtaken Bard ! could ſuch a pair deſign
 Scenes fit to live in thy immortal line ? 40
 Hadſt thou been born in this enlighten'd day,
 Felt, as we feel, Taſte's oriental ray,
 Thy ſatire ſure had given them both a ſtab,
 Called Kent a Driveller, and the Nymph a Drab.
 For what is Nature ? Ring her changes round, 45
 Her three flat notes are water, plants, and ground ;
 Prolong the peal, yet ſpite of all your clatter,
 The tedious chime is ſtill ground, plants, and water.
 So, when ſome John his dull invention racks,
 To rival Boodle's dinners, or Almack's, 50
 Three uncouth legs of mutton ſhock our eyes,
 Three roasted geefe, three butter'd apple-pies.

Come then, prolific Art, and with thee bring
 The charms that riſe from thy exhauſtleſs ſpring ;

To

mentioned, received a conſiderable penſion in the time of Lord B-te's
 adminiſtration. M.—Mallet printed anonymously in 1761 a poem called
Truth in Rhyme: addreſſed to a certain Noble Lord. Walpole poſſeſſed a copy,
 on the title-page of which he has written 'By David Mallet'. This poem,
 which was addreſſed to Cheſterfield, figures in Churchill's *Ghoſt* (iii. 497-502).

* From Pope's *Epilogue to the Satires*. *Dialogue* ii. 66-7. Eſher Place
 was Pelham's feat in Surrey.

HEROIC EPISTLE

49

To Richmond come, for fee, untutor'd Brown 55
Destroys those wonders which were once thy own.
Lo, from his melon-ground the peasant slave
Has rudely rush'd, and levell'd Merlin's Cave ;
Knock'd down the waxen Wizzard, seiz'd his wand,
Transform'd to lawn what late was Fairy land ; 60
And marr'd, with impious hand, each sweet design
Of Stephen Duck, and good Queen Caroline.
Haste, bid yon livelong Terras re-ascend,
Replace each vista, straighten every bend ;
Shut out the Thames ; shall that ignoble thing 65
Approach the presence of great Ocean's King ?
No ! let Barbaric glories feast his eyes,
August Pagodas round his palace rife,
And finish'd Richmond open to his view,
" A work to wonder at, perhaps a " Kew. 70
Nor rest we here, but, at our magic call,
Monkies shall climb our trees, and lizards crawl ;
Huge dogs of Tibet bark in yonder grove,
Here parrots prate, there cats make cruel love ;
In some fair island will we turn to grafs 75
(With the Queen's leave) her elephant and asfs.
Giants from Africa shall guard the glades,
Where hiss our snakes, where sport our Tartar maids ;
Or, wanting these, from Charlotte Hayes we bring,
Damsels alike adroit to sport and sting. 80

Now

Now to our lawns of dalliance and delight,
 Join we the groves of horror and affright ;
 This to atchieve no foreign aids we try,
 Thy gibbets, Bagshot ! shall our wants supply ;
 Hounslow, whose heath sublimer terror fills, 85
 Shall with her gibbets lend her powder mills.
 Here too, O King of Vengeance, in thy fane,
 Tremendous Wilkes shall rattle his gold chain ;*
 And round that fane on many a Tyburn tree,
 Hang fragments dire of Newgate-history ; 90
 On this shall H*ll*d's dying speech be read,
 Here B-te's confession, and his wooden head ;
 While all the minor plunderers of the age
 (Too numerous far for this contracted page)
 The R*g*ys, ——'s, Mungos, B*df*ws there,† 95
 In straw-stufft effigy, shall kick the air.
 But say, ye powers, who come when Fancy calls,
 Where shall our mimic London rear her walls ?

That

* This was written while Mr Wilkes was Sheriff of London, and when it was to be feared that he would rattle his chain a year longer as Lord Mayor. M.—Wilkes became Sheriff of London in 1771, and Lord Mayor in 1774.

† In *The New Foundling Hospital for Wit* (new ed., Lond. 1786, vol. ii, p. 13) the line is printed 'The R*g*ys, C*lc*ft's, Mungos, B*df*ws there'. (See Mason's letter to Walpole of March 20, 1773, quoted in *Exposé*, p. 13, and note †, p. 13.)

HEROIC EPISTLE

51

That Eastern feature, Art must next produce,
Tho' not for present, yet for future use ; 100
Our sons some slave of greatness may behold,
Cast in the genuine Asiatic mould ;
Who of three realms shall condescend to know,
No more than he can spy from Windfor's brow ;
For Him that blessing of a better time, 105
The Muse shall deal awhile in brick and lime ;
Surpass the bold ΑΔΕΛΦΙ in design,
And o'er the Thames sling one stupendous line
Of marble arches, in a bridge, that cuts
From Richmond Ferry slant to Brentford Butts. 110
Brentford with London's charms will we adorn ;
Brentford, the bishoprick of Parson Horne.
There at one glance, the royal eye shall meet
Each varied beauty of St. James's Street ;
Stout T*lb*t there shall ply with hackney chair, 115
And Patriot Betty fix her fruitshop there.
Like distant thunder, now the coach of state
Rolls o'er the bridge that groans beneath its weight.
The Court have cross'd the stream ; the sports begin ;
Now N**l preaches of Rebellion's sin : 120
And as the powers of his strong pathos rise,
Lo, brazen tears fall from Sir Fl**r's eyes.
While skulking round the pews, that babe of grace,
Who ne'er before at sermon shew'd his face,

See

See Jemmy Twitcher shambles ; stop ! stop thief !* 125
 He's stol'n the E* of D*nb*h's handkerchief.
 Let B*rr*t*n arrest him in mock fury,
 And M**d hang the knave without a jury.
 But hark the voice of battle shouts from far,
 The Jews and Macaroni's are at war : 130
 The Jews prevail, and, thund'ring from the stocks,
 They feize, they bind, they circumcise C*s F*.
 Fair Schw***n smiles the sport to see,
 And all the Maids of Honour cry Te ! He !
 Be these the rural pastimes that attend 135
 Great B*nw*k's leisure : these shall best unbend
 His royal mind, whene'er from state withdraw'n,
 He treads the velvet of his Richmond lawn ;
 These shall prolong his Asiatic dream,
 Tho' Europe's balance trembles on its beam. 140
 And thou, Sir William ! while thy plastic hand
 Creates each wonder, which thy Bard has plann'd,
 While, as thy art commands, obsequious rise
 Whate'er can please, or frighten, or surprize,
 O ! let that Bard his Knight's protection claim,
 And share, like faithful Sancho, Quixote's fame. 146

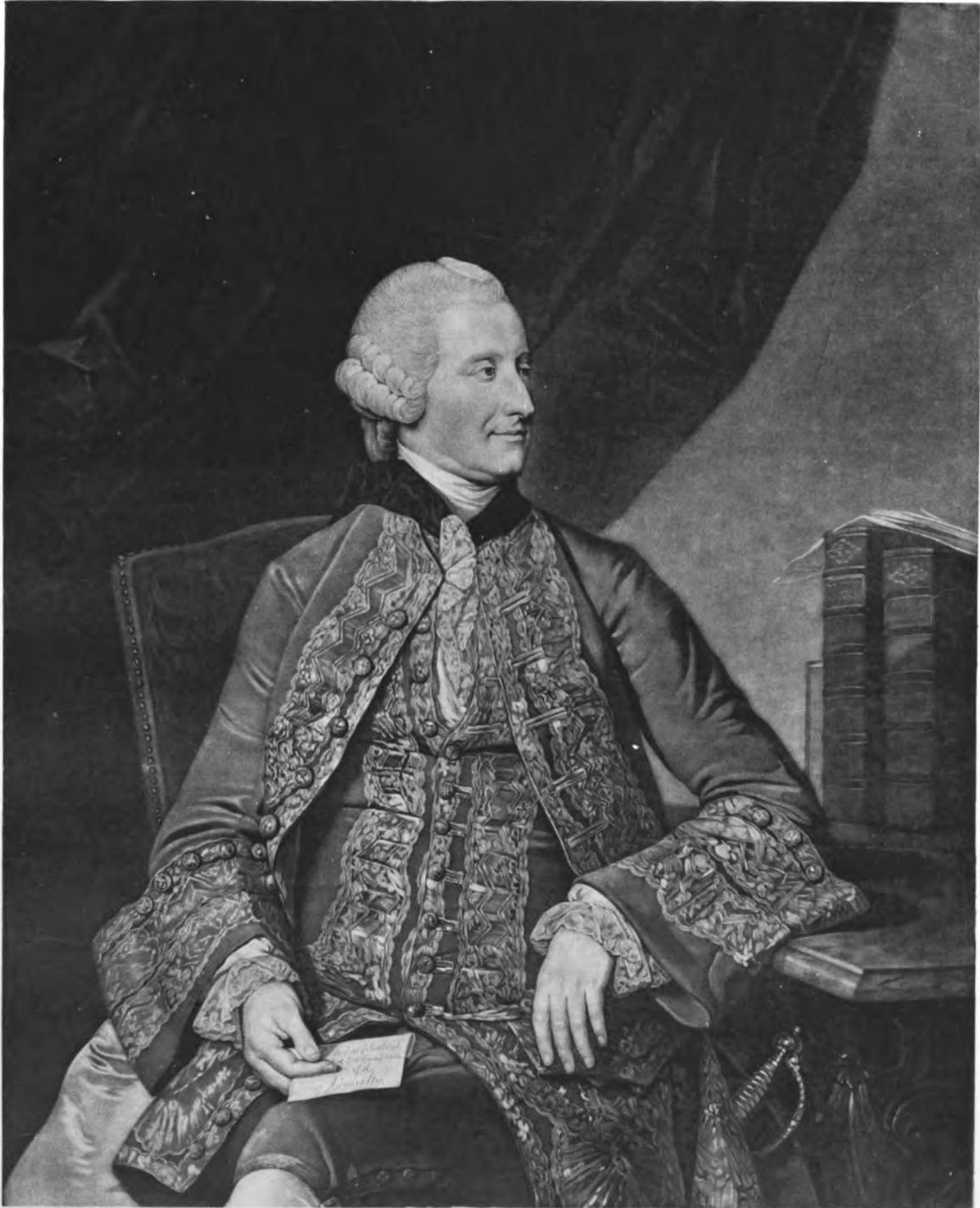
* Compare Gray's description of Jemmy Twitcher in *The Candidate*, of which this appears to be a reminiscence :—

'Such a sheep-biting look, such a pick-pocket air !

* * * * *

Then he shambles and straddles so oddly—'

[NOTES



John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich
from mezzotint by V. Green after J. Zoffany

[NOTES BY WALPOLE TO THE
HEROIC EPISTLE]

Knight of the Polar Star] ¹ S^r William Chambers was born in Yorkshire, was early in his life in Sweden, & afterwards in China. The Order of the Polar Star is a Swedish Order often bestowed on Litterati & Artists, & was conferred on S^r William ² some years before he assumed the title, which, he said, he did at the desire of King George. The same honour was imparted to D^r Hill ³ the Botanist, & of late, on Lord Macleod, ⁴ Son of the attainted Earl of Cromartie, who was invested with it at St James's in 1779 by his Majesty, at the request of the King of Sweden, ⁵ probably requested by the King to request it. It is well known that on the publication
of

¹ v. 1.

² In 1771.

³ John Hill (c. 1716-1775), miscellaneous writer, originally an apothecary, who obtained a diploma of medicine from the University of St. Andrews. In 1761 he was appointed gardener at Kenfington Palace (see Walpole to Zouch, Jan. 3, 1761). On the occasion of his farce *The Route* being hissed off the stage he venomously attacked Garrick, who replied with the epigram:

‘For phyfic and farces, his equal there scarce is;
His farces are phyfic, his phyfic a farce is.’

He was the author of *The Vegetable System* (1759-75). (See Walpole's note on v. 19.) Walpole was incensed against him on account of his having published a pamphlet in 1759 in defence of Walpole's *Royal and Noble Authors*, which had been attacked in the *Critical Review*. (See Walpole's *Journal of the Printing-Office at Strawberry Hill*, under Feb. 10, 1759; and his *Short Notes of my Life*, of the same date; and his letter to Gray of Feb. 15.) He figures as ‘Proteus Hill’ in Churchill's *Rosciad* (vv. 105-14).

⁴ John Mackenzie (1727-1789), eldest son of 3rd Earl of Cromarty.

⁵ Gustavus III, King of Sweden, 1771-1792.

of the Heroic Epistle, his Majesty sent for it, & began to read it to Sr William to laugh at him; till presently perceiving his own share in the ridicule, he threw it away in a passion.¹

Witness ye Hills]² Sr John Hill, mentioned before. He was a Physician, Quack, Botanist, Author of a paper called the Inspector, & of various other things, especially of many Folios of natural History, & above all, at the head of the Plagiaries of the age. He wrote easily, & in a good style; & all these superficial merits, particularly his skill in botany, recommended him to Lord Bute, in comparison of whom Dr Hill was profoundly learned in any thing that Either pretended to. The late Mrs Selwyn³ and I stood by, & were witnesses to a Conversation at Leicester House between the late Prince of Wales,⁴ Archibald Duke of Argyll⁵ & his Nephew Lord Bute,⁶ in the drawing room. The Prince was talking to them of Hannibal's melting the Alps with vinegar, & asked in what Author that Tale was mentioned? Lord Bute bowed & said with his usual solemnity, 'In Lee's Sophonisba,⁷ Sr'.

Johnsons]⁸ Dr Samuel Johnson, Author of the Rambler, & many other Works, particularly of the Dictionary of the English language, in which the most memorable passage is the Satire on pensions, which proved a more severe satire on himself by his accepting a pension himself. He had been a Jacobite & Writer against the Court during

¹ See Walpole to Mason, March 27, 1773. ² v. 19. 'H*lls' in text.

³ Mary (d. 1777), daughter of General Farrington, and mother of George Augustus Selwyn.

⁴ Frederick Louis (1707-1751), Prince of Wales (1729), father of George III.

⁵ Archibald Campbell (1682-1761), 3rd Duke of Argyll (1743).

⁶ John Stuart (1713-1792), 3rd Earl of Bute (1723); his mother was Anne Campbell, daughter of 1st Duke of Argyll, and sister of 3rd Duke.

⁷ Written in 1676 by Nathaniel Lee (c. 1653-1692).

⁸ v. 19. 'J*nl*ns' in text.

during the glorious reign of George 2^d. a Convert & Writer for it during the present ignominious reign. See more of him hereafter.

Scotts] ¹ a scandalous Parson attached to Lord Sandwich & richly preferred by him for writing papers called Anti Sejanus, & many other Libels, for & against the Court, & for & against Lord Chatham, according as Lord Sandwich was in or out of place.

Shebbears] ² a more infamous Libeller, fet in the pillory in the last reign for abusing King William & K. George 1st in his letters to the people of England; pensioned in the present reign & employed to abuse King William ten times more grossly.

Let David Hume] ³ An Epicurean Philosopher in every sense, & historic Panegyrist of the Stuarts. He was Secretary to Lord Hertford's Embassy at Paris, where he was exceedingly in fashion amongst the French Philosophers male and female. He was also pensioned by K. George 3^d, whether for writing for the Stuarts or against Religion is uncertain. Dr Beattie ⁴ was pensioned by the same pious & judicious Prince for writing against D. Hume.

the mighty Home] ⁵ a Scottish Parson, who wrote Douglas, a tragedy
of

¹ v. 19. 'Sc*ts' in text. James Scott (1733-1814); his 'Anti-Sejanus' papers were written in 1765 against Bute.

² v. 19. 'S*bb*s' in text. John Shebbeare (1709-1788); he was pilloried in 1758, and pensioned in 1762. He is satirized by Churchill in the *Author* (vv. 293-304).

³ v. 21. 'D**d H*e' in text. Hume (1711-1776) accompanied Lord Hertford's Embassy to Paris in 1763, and was appointed Secretary in June, 1765; he acted as chargé d'affaires from July till the arrival of the Duke of Richmond, Lord Hertford's successor, in the following October.

⁴ James Beattie (1735-1803), author of an *Essay on Truth* (1770) and of the *Minstrel* (1771, 1774).

⁵ v. 27. John Home (1722-1808); his *Douglas* was produced in 1756 in Edinburgh, and in 1757 at Covent Garden; Garrick produced his *Agis* at Drury Lane in 1758; his *Siege of Aquileia* (1760) and *Alfred* (1778) were failures, but *Alonzo* (1773) was a success.

of merit, for which being censured by the Kirk, he quitted his gown, and (as if he could only write well when it was out of Character) he wrote four other wretched Tragedies, called, Agis, the Siege of Aquileia, Alonzo & Alfred. In Alonzo a Spanish Nobleman goes to Persia, and hears there (by the newspapers or the post) that a duel is to be fought in Spain in defence of an injured Princess, sets out & arrives in time to combat for her. In Alfred, the Character of that great Prince is so much misrepresented, that a line in the play was applied to it as a Motto, 'I shall surprize you much; my name is Alfred'.

bold Mac-Offian]¹ Macpherfon,² the Editor and probably Writer of the greater part of the pretended poems of Offian. Another pensioner of the Court & Writer for it in Newspapers.

Candid Smollett]³ a Jacobite Ship-Surgeon, & Writer for book-fellers. He compiled the History of England in two years, in which having grossly abused the late Duke of Cumberland for quelling the Rebellion, it intituled him to Ld Bute's favour & a pension, for which also he wrote against the North Briton. Like Shebbeare in all his merits, he had been sentenced by the King's bench for a libel on Admiral Sr Charles Knowles;⁴ tho with inferior merit to

¹ v. 29.

Shebbeare,

² James Macpherfon (1736-1796); he published the alleged Offianic poems, *Fingal* (1762) and *Temora* (1763); he was subsequently (from 1766) employed by the North ministry to defend their American policy.

³ v. 30. Tobias George Smollett (1721-1771), author of *Roderick Random* (1748), *Peregrine Pickle* (1751), and *Humphrey Clinker* (1771); he published a *History of England* in 1757; in 1759 he was imprisoned for a libel on Sir Charles Knowles in the *Critical Review* (May, 1758), in connexion with the abortive expedition against Rochefort in 1757, when Sir Charles had been second in command as Vice-Admiral under Hawke. Churchill satirizes him in his *Apology* (vv. 298-313), and (as Publius) in his *Author* (vv. 107 ff.).

⁴ Sir Charles Knowles (1704-1777), Governor of Jamaica, 1752-58; Admiral of the Blue, 1760; created a Baronet, 1765.

Shebbeare, for he had not passed thro the pillory to the royal Closet, to which the Latter declared in print he had been introduced by S^r John Philipps,¹ another Jacobite who had resumed his gown as a lawyer to present the Affociations in favour of the Crown during the last Rebellion in Westminster-hall as illegal.

Bids Mallock]² a Scot who softened his name to Mallet, which D^r Johnson thought important enough to be fatirized in his Dictionary³—but it was before Scottish names were so much favoured at Court. As David Hume & D^r Beattie were both rewarded by the King for writing for & against religion & each other, so also were David Mallet & D^r Warburton.⁴ The best & almost the only good verses written by Mallet were a little poem in compliment to Pope in the notes to the Dunciad—but after Pope's death Mallet cruelly abused him at the instigation of their common friend Lord Bolinbroke⁵ for having privately printed many copies of the Latter's tracts ; which at worst indicated the high opinion that
Pope

¹ Sir John Philipps (c. 1701–1764), of Pilton, Pembroke, 6th Bart. (1743); he was a barrister, and M.P. for Carmarthen, 1741–7; Petersfield, 1754–61; Pembrokeshire, 1761–4; Privy Councillor, 1763. He figures in Churchill's *Candidate* (vv. 689–94).

² v. 31. David Mallet, originally Malloch (c. 1705–1765), author of the ballads *William and Margaret* (1723) and *Edwin and Emma* (1760); he was under-secretary to Frederick, Prince of Wales, in 1742; and in 1763 was given a finecure of £300 a year by Bute. Three letters from him to Horace Walpole are printed in *Walpole Supplement*, vol. iii, pp. 164–5, 169.

³ Not in the folio or quarto editions, but in Johnson's own octavo abridgement (1756), in which he wrote: '*Alias* means otherwise, as Mallett *alias* Malloch, that is otherwise Malloch'.

⁴ William Warburton (1698–1779), Bishop of Gloucester (1759).

⁵ Henry St. John (1678–1751), Viscount Bolingbroke (1712); by his direction Mallet prepared an advertisement to an edition (published in 1749) of Bolingbroke's *Patriot King*, in which he attacked the memory of Pope for having clandestinely edited and printed the work in 1738.

Pope had conceived of their merit. George 3^d also gave a place to Mr Edw. Gibbon,¹ & money to a clergyman at Oxford for writing against Mr Gibbon's History. In the new life of Bowyer the printer,² it is asserted that Mallet had a prior pension in the late reign for contributing by a pamphlet to the murder of Admiral Byng.³

Boodle's & Almack's]⁴ Two fashionable Taverns and gaming Clubs in Pall Mall.

melon ground]⁵ it has been mentioned before that Mr Brown had been a Kitchen-gardiner.⁶

Merlin's Cave]⁷ an Edifice erected in Richmond garden by Queen Caroline,⁸ who made great pretensions to Learning & Taste, with not much of the former & none of the latter. The building
in

¹ Edward Gibbon (1737-1794), M.P. for Lifkeard, 1774-80, and for Lymington, 1781-3, was Commissioner of Trade and Plantations, 1779-82.

² William Bowyer (1699-1777); in 1778 John Nichols published, in an edition of fifty-two copies only, *Biographical and Literary Anecdotes of William Bowyer, Printer*, which was reprinted in 1782, and afterwards enlarged into the well-known *Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century* (9 vols., 1812-1815),

³ John Byng (1704-1757), sentenced to death for neglect of duty in the defence of Minorca (May, 1756), and shot at Portsmouth, March 14, 1757. Mallet issued in 1757 'a discreditable party indictment' against Byng by a 'Plain Man', in reference to which Johnson said: 'he was ready for any dirty job; he had wrote against Byng at the instigation of the Ministry, and was equally ready to write for him, provided he found his account in it' (see the *Collectanea* at the end of 1770 in Boswell's *Life of Johnson*).

⁴ v. 50. Boodle's Club House (28 St. James's Street) was erected about 1765. Almack's (on the site of the present Marlborough Club) was founded by William Almack (d. 1781) in 1764; it was notorious for high gaming (see Walpole to Mann, Feb. 2, 1770).

⁵ v. 57.

⁶ See above, p. 41.

⁷ v. 58.

⁸ Charlotte Caroline of Brandenburg-Anspach (1683-1737), married (1705) George Augustus of Hanover, afterwards (1714) George II of England.

in question was designed by Kent, & was by no means a cave but a thatched House with small gothic windows, & furnished with bookcases.¹ At one end were Six waxen figures large as life : Merlin & his Secretary writing at a table, & Two female personages standing on one hand & two on the other, representing the Queen of Henry 7th,² Queen Elizabeth, & two Characters out of Ariosto, who celebrated the House of Este from which the House of Brunwick descended. This unintelligible puppethow, of which Stephen Duck, the Thresher-Poet,³ patronized by Q. Caroline, was Librarian, was demolished in the present reign. The Hermitage, another injudicious & ostentatious Whim of the same Princess, still exists.

yon livelong Terras]⁴ the last of Q. Caroline's works in Richmond-garden was very magnificent ; but was destroyed by Mr Brown in conformity to the modern taste.

August Pagodas]⁵ the epithet is very just, alluding to Augusta Princess dowager of Wales foundress of the superb Pagoda in Kew garden on a design of Sr William Chambers, who had published a folio on Chinese Architecture. The Pagoda, erected during the favour of Lord Bute,⁶ & in the Scene whence his favour was dated,
gave

¹ It was erected in 1735 ; the *Gentleman's Magazine* for that year (p. 331) describes it as a 'subterraneous building, adorned with astronomical figures & characters'. It is several times referred to by Pope in his *Imitations of Horace* (2 *Epist.* i. 355 ; 2 *Epist.* ii. 139).

² Elizabeth of York, daughter of Edward IV, married Henry VII in 1486.

³ Stephen Duck (1705-1756), so called from his having been originally an agricultural labourer ; he was appointed librarian of Merlin's Cave in 1735.

⁴ v. 63.

⁵ v. 68.

⁶ It was begun in 1761 (see Walpole to Lord Strafford, July 5, 1761), and was estimated to cost £12,000, as Walpole records in the notes of his visit to Kew in 1761 ; he says it was 160 feet high, 'yet fees neither London nor the Thames, nor has one room in it'.

gave occasion to an excellent bon mot of the famous Ethelreda Lady Townshend.¹ A gentleman telling her it was exactly of the same height as the Monument of the fire of London, She replied, 'Yes; & like That, it is *erected* in the very *spot* where the *fire* began'.

a work to wonder at]² A work to wonder at, perhaps a Stowe. Pope.³

with the Queen's leave]⁴ an Elephant & a Zebra were kept at Buckingham, now the Queen's house. A print of the latter animal was engraven by the title of the *Queen's Afs*: on which came out another print representing Lord Bute, and inscribed, *the King's Afs*.

Charlotte Hayes]⁵ a well known Woman of pleasure, who, advancing in years, took her Doctor's degrees, & became Instructress of Damsels of her profession.

Tremendous Wilkes]⁶ the noted John Wilkes is aptly introduced immediately after mention of the King of vengeance & Bagshot heath, as besides the prosecutions he suffered in the House of Commons, & in the King's bench, he was challenged by & fought Lord Talbot⁷ on Bagshot heath; by Samuel Martin,⁸ by whom he was wounded, by one of the Frazer's⁹ at Paris; his life was threatened

¹ Ethelreda Harrison (d. 1788), married (1723) 3rd Viscount Townshend.

² v. 70.

³ *Moral Essays*, iv. 70 (to Boyle).

⁴ v. 76. (See Walpole to Maſon, March 27, 1773, *ad fin.*). Mrs. Winifred Jenkins in *Humphrey Clinker* (1771), writing from London on June 3 to Mrs. Mary Jones, mentions among the fights she had ſeen, 'the king's and queen's magiſterial purſing, and the ſweet young princes, and the hillyfents, and pye-bald aſs, and all the reſt of the royal family'. The zebra died in April, 1773, and was ſtuffed for exhibition. (See Maſon to Walpole, June 28, 1773, quoted in *Expoſé*, p. 17.)

⁵ v. 79.

⁶ v. 88. John Wilkes (1727-1797).

⁷ William Talbot (1710-1782), 2nd Baron Talbot (1737), 1st Earl (1761); his duel with Wilkes was fought in 1762 (ſee Walpole to Mann, April 30, 1763).

⁸ See note on v. 95, p. 62, n. 4.

⁹ A ſlip for 'Forbes's'; this duel was in 1763 (ſee Walpole to Mann, Sept. 1, 1763).

threatened & attempted by Alexander Dun¹—yet he survived all the revenge of the Court & the Scots, & became Alderman & Lord Mayor of London.²

Holland's dying speech]³ Henry Fox Lord Holland,⁴ Paymaster of the forces and Coadjutor of Lord Bute in the last year of his Administration.⁵ His dying Speech and Lord Bute's Confession are poetic fictions, tho the unhappy End of Lord Holland's life surpassed an execution.⁶

Rigby]⁷ Richard Rigby, Pupil & Successor of Ld Holland in the Pay Office, & an active Instigator of the American War. When the Lord Advocate Dundas⁸ pleaded in the house of Commons for the horrid act for starving five thousand fishermen & their families, & recommended that severity by a new word of his own Coinage, STARVATION,⁹ a word that ought to be perpetuated in our Dictionaries
in

¹ Alexander Dunn, 'a sea-lieutenant', who proved to be infane; the incident occurred in December, 1763 (see Walpole to Mann, Dec. 12, 1763; to Lord Hertford, Dec. 16). He figures with Forbes in Churchill's *Duellist* (iii. 75).

² In 1774.

³ v. 91. 'H*ll*d's' and 'B*te's' in text.

⁴ Henry Fox (1705-1774), Secretary at War, 1746-55; Secretary of State, 1755; Leader of House of Commons, 1755-6, 1762-3; Paymaster-General, 1757-65; created Baron Holland, 1763.

⁵ 1762-3.

⁶ See Walpole to Mafon, Dec. 1, 1773; to Lady Offory, March 16, and Dec. 30, 1773; to Mann, May 15, 1774; and below, Walpole's note on v. 132, p. 70.

⁷ v. 95. 'R*g*ys' in text. Richard Rigby (1722-1788), Paymaster-General, 1768-84.

⁸ Henry Dundas (1742-1811), Lord Advocate, 1775-83; created Viscount Melville, 1802; First Lord of the Admiralty, 1804-5; impeached for malversation at the Admiralty, but acquitted, 1806.

⁹ The speech referred to by Walpole was delivered on March 6, 1775 (several weeks before Dundas was appointed Lord Advocate), in favour of the bill for restricting the trade of the New England Colonies. In reply to a member who pointed out the injustice of an act which starved alike innocent and guilty, Dundas declared that the bill 'had his most hearty approbation', and that 'as to the famine which was so pathetically

in abhorrence of the Coiner, & some compassion contended for in behalf of those poor men, Rigby joked & said, 'Why they were not Otters, nor obliged to live only on fish.' In a former Interval of Opposition when M^r George Grenville and the Bedford faction, called *the Bloomsbury Gang*,¹ had forced the King to recall them to his service, & they hesitated on the terms, Rigby swore 'by God, he should not have power to appoint one of his own footmen'.²

—] In this blank stood the name of Martin, which the Printer was probably bribed to omit, the Person satirized having good cause to wish his name should for ever be forgotten. This Person was M^r Samuel Martin,⁴ Secretary of the Treasury under Lord Bute. Being reproached in the North Briton with his baseness by the noted John Wilkes, he practiced shooting at a target for six months, unwilling to challenge his Accuser till perfect in the Science of Manslaughter, & then fought & wounded him.⁵ For this great & other lesser Services he was rewarded with the reversion of my place of Usher of the Exchequer;⁶ and on my falling, as he flattered himself, dangerously ill not long after,⁷ he applied

to

lamented, he was afraid it would not be produced by this act' (*D. N. B.*). See Walpole's *Last Journals*, March 6, 1775; and letters to Macon of April 25, 1781; Feb. 7, and July 1, 1782.

¹ See Walpole's *Memoirs of George III*, ed. 1894, vol. ii, p. 313, n. 1.

² This was in May, 1765 (see *Memoirs of George III*, ed. 1894, vol. ii, p. 125, n. 1).

³ v. 95. ⁴ M.P. for Camelford, 1747-68; Secretary of the Treasury, 1758-62.

He was the hero of Churchill's *Duellist*.

⁵ In November, 1763, in Hyde Park (see Walpole to Lord Hertford, Nov. 17, 1763; to Mann of same date; to Macon, March 2, 1773; and *Memoirs of George III*, ed. 1894, vol. i, pp. 157 n., 252).

⁶ Walpole's memory played him false here—the duel with Wilkes (see above) took place six months after Martin received the reversion of his place (see his letter to Montagu of April 14, 1763).

⁷ It was ten years after (see the first of Walpole's letters to Macon of March 2, 1773; and that of March 27).

to my Deputy, M^r Charles Bedford, to know the income of the post, & on being rebuffed, had the grosser indecency to threaten to discard him as soon as I should be dead; but on my recovery, his greediness was indemnified by an additional pension.

Mungo] ¹ Jeremiah Dyson, ² a most useful Tool of Lord Bute, and of every succeeding Administration—but Lord Rockingham's. He was Son of a Taylor & was bred a Republican; was made Clerk of the House of Commons by that Steady Whig Nicholas Hardinge, ³ the first Clerk; but was converted to the service of Prerogative by Lord Bute, & converted his friend D^r Akenfide ⁴ to the same cause. The Latter on being appointed Physician to the Queen, corrected his poem on the Pleasures of the Imagination, substituting other words to those of Liberty & similar Images. ⁵ Dyson's origine & conversion were recorded in this Epigram,

That Republican Jerry should prove a King's Friend,
Is no Wonder—a Taylor a Turncoat may end.

The nickname of Mungo was humorously affixed on him by Col. Barré ⁶
in

¹ v. 95.

² Jeremiah Dyson (1722–1776), a Clerk of House of Commons, 1748; M.P. for Yarmouth (I. of W.), 1762–8; for Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, 1768–74; for Horsham, 1774–6; Joint Secretary of the Treasury, 1762–4; Lord of Trade, 1764–8; Lord of Treasury, 1768–74; Cofferer of the Household, 1774–6. (See *Memoirs of George III*, ed. 1894, vol. i, pp. 316–17).

³ Nicholas Hardinge (1699–1758), Clerk to the House of Commons, 1731–52; M.P. for Eye, 1748–58; Joint Secretary of the Treasury, 1752.

⁴ Mark Akenfide (1721–70), published *Pleasures of the Imagination* in 1744; he was appointed Physician to the Queen in 1761; F.R.S. 1753.

⁵ See *Memoirs of George III*, ed. 1894, vol. i, p. 317 n.

⁶ Isaac Barré (1726–1802), M.P. for Chipping Wycombe, 1761–74; for Calne, 1774–90; Joint Vice-Treasurer of Ireland, 1766–8; Treasurer of the Navy, 1782; Paymaster-General, 1782–3. Walpole originally wrote 'Mr. Burke'.

in a speech in the House of Commons from the farce of

‘It is Mungo here, Mungo there, Mungo every where.’²

Bradshaw]³ Thomas Bradshaw, from the Son of a Smugler, became a Clerk of the Treasury, Pimp to Lord Barrington,⁴ Confident of the Duke of Grafton,⁵ & Spy on him to Lord Bute, & a personal Favourite of the King—yet with such fortune, his extravagance was greater, & he put an end to his own life.⁶ The King bestowed a pension of 800£ a year on his Widow.

ΑΔΕΛΦΙ]⁷ Adam & his Brothers⁸ were Scottish Architects, patronized by Lord Bute and Lord Mansfield.⁹ The streets, which

¹ Walpole has left a blank, and has written in pencil, ‘insert name of the farce’.

² The speech in question was made on January 26, 1769. Dyson interposed so often in the business of the house, that Colonel Barré provoked general laughter by remarking, ‘The honourable gentleman, Mr. Dyson, has the devil of a time of it—“Mungo here, Mungo there, Mungo everywhere”’ (*D.N.B.*). The quotation comes from Isaac Bickerstaffe’s comic opera *The Padlock* (1768); Mungo being a black slave:

‘Dear heart, what a terrible life am I led!
A dog has a better dat’s sheltered and fed . . .
Mungo here, Mungo dere,
Mungo everywhere . . .
Me wish to de Lord me was dead.’

³ v. 95. ‘B*df*ws’ in text.

⁴ William Wildman Barrington (1717–93), 2nd Viscount Barrington (1734); M.P. for Berwick, 1740–54; for Plymouth, 1754–78; Lord of the Admiralty, 1745–6; Secretary at War, 1755–61; Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1761–2; Treasurer of the Navy, 1762–5; Secretary at War (again), 1765–78.

⁵ Augustus Henry Fitzroy (1735–1811), 3rd Duke of Grafton (1757); Prime Minister, 1766–70.

⁶ See Walpole to Mann, Nov. 11, 1774; and to Lord Strafford of same date; and *Walpole Supplement*, vol. ii, p. 146.

⁷ v. 107.

⁸ Robert Adam (1728–92), and his brothers John, James (d. 1794), and William.

⁹ William Murray (1705–93), Baron Mansfield (1756), and Earl of Mansfield (1776); Lord Chief Justice, 1756–88.

which they erected on the bank of the Thames behind the Strand, they named in honour of themselves *the Adelphi-buildings*,¹ & they are a monument of their bad taste, tho they did not want Taste in many of their designs ; thro pretending to correct Lord Burlington² & M^r Kent,³ who had erred by too much ponderosity, the Adams fell into a style that was as trifling & insubstantial in the other extreme. Having ruined themselves by their project of the Adelphi-buildings, Lord Mansfield procured for them a public Lottery,⁴ which proved a notorious cheat, the Fortunate finding their prizes some thousands short of the estimated Value. To colour over an Act of Parliament that had favoured so fraudulent a job, the same grace was granted to Coxe, the proprietor of a Museum, that will be mentioned in the Epistle to D^r Shebbeare.⁵ It was believed to be in compliment to the Adams & S^r W. Chambers, that his Majesty, who particularly affected to be an Architect himself, & the Patron of Architecture, never went to see that Model of Taste, the Pantheon,⁶ designed by M^r Wyat,⁷ tho it was the only instance of the Queen's visiting any public place without the King. His Majesty was the Patron of Painting too, & very profuse of his royal Person to portrait-Painters ; yet he never sat to S^r Joshua Reynolds, the greatest portrait-Painter of the Age, till 1779, nineteen years after his accession.

The Eldest Adam had suggested a Compliment to the King, that was most graciously accepted, tho not meant as a Compliment,
yet

¹ These were erected in 1769-71.

² Richard Boyle (1694-1753), 3rd Earl of Burlington (1704), well known as an amateur architect and patron of Kent.

³ See above, p. 39, n. †.

⁴ In 1773.

⁵ See below, p. 122.

⁶ See Walpole to Mann, April 26, 1771 ; to Maſon, May 9, 1772 ; and July 29, 1773.

⁷ James Wyatt (1746-1813).

yet was a double one, as it coincided with his Majesty's royal Averfion to his Uncle. It had been propofed by the Inhabitants of Berkeley fquare to erect in the middle of their Quadrangle an equeftrian Statue of William Duke of Cumberland.¹ Adam, who like other Scots, detefted that great Prince for having fuppreffed the Rebellion & chaftized their Country (which had been fome merit to the King) defeated the plan by advifing the Inhabitants to erect a Statue of the King, to which they agreed, & He had the littlenefs to accept!²

Parfon Horne]³ He was Minifter of the new Chapel at Brentford; had been a warm Partizan of Wilkes, became as warmly his Enemy, tho without being a profelyte to the Court; & like Wilkes, fuffered a long imprifonment for his political writings.

Stout Talbot]⁴ William Earl Talbot, better known for his athletic than his rhetoric qualifications. He was an excellent boxer; & the Duchefs of Beaufort⁵ was divorced on his account. It was not fo clear why he was raifed to be Steward of the Houfehold foon after his prefent Majesty's acceffion.

Patriot Betty]⁶ Elizabeth Munro was a celebrated fruit-woman in St. James's

¹ William Auguftus (1721-1765), Duke of Cumberland (1726), defeated the rebels at Culloden, 1746.

² See *Memoirs of George III*, ed. 1894, vol. ii, pp. 159-60. The ftatue, executed by Beaupré, reprefenting George III as Marcus Aurelius, was erected in 1766.

³ v. 112. John Horne (1736-1812), who affumed the additional name of Tooke in 1782; he was imprifoned in 1778.

⁴ v. 115. 'T*lb*t' in text. See above, note on v. 88, p. 60. He was Steward of the Houfehold, 1761-82 (fee the account of him in *Memoirs of George III*, ed. 1894, vol. i, pp. 35-6). He figures in Churchill's *Duellift* (i. 92), and *Ghoft* (iv. 929 ff.)

⁵ Frances (1711-1750), daughter and heirs of 2nd Vifcount Scudamore; married (1729) Henry Somerfet (1707-45), 3rd Duke of Beaufort (1714); divorced, March 1744 (fee Walpole to Mann, June 10, 1742).

⁶ v. 116. Betty Munro, otherwife Betty Neale (1730-1797). In his letter to Mafon

St. James's street, who took great liberties with the Court in her Conversation—her Shop was consequently much frequented by the Opposition.

Noel] ¹ Dr Noel of Oxford had been censured in the House of Commons for a Sermon that breathed the rankest Sentiments of Despotism.

S^r Fletcher's] ² S^r Fletcher Norton, Speaker of the House of Commons. See more of Him in Churchill's works.

Jemmy

of March 27, 1773, Walpole writes, in reference to this passage, 'Betty is in raptures on being immortalized'. Her death is recorded as follows in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1797 (Part ii, p. 891): 'Aug. 30. Aged 67, at her house, facing St. James's Street at the top of Park Place, M^{rs} Elizabeth Neale, better known by the name of *Betty*. She had kept, for very many years, a house in St. James's Street, as a fruit-shop, from which she had retired about 14 years. She had the first pre-eminence in her occupation, and might be justly called the Queen of Apple-women. Her knowledge of families and characters, of the last and present age, was wonderful. She was a woman of pleasing manners and conversation, and abounding with anecdote and entertainment. Her company was even sought for by the highest of our men of rank and fortune. She was born in the same street in which she ever lived, and used to say she never slept out of it but twice, on a visit to a friend in the country, and at a Windfor installation.'

¹ v. 120. 'N**1' in text. The reference, no doubt (see Walpole to Macon, July 23, 1772), is to Thomas Nowell (1730-1801), Fellow of Oriel, 1753; Public Orator, 1760; Principal of St. Mary Hall, and D.D., 1764; Regius Professor of Modern History, 1771. On Jan. 30, 1772, he preached at St. Margaret's, Westminster, before the Speaker and members of the House of Commons, the usual sermon on King Charles, in the course of which George III was compared to Charles I, and the then House of Commons was likened to the opponents of Charles, and the grievances of the subjects of both monarchs were declared to be illusory. Though a vote of thanks to the preacher had been passed without protest, a few weeks later, after a suggestion that the sermon should be burned by the common hangman, the record of the vote of thanks was ordered to be expunged without a division. (*D.N.B.*)

² v. 122. 'Fl**r's' in the text. Fletcher Norton (1716-1789), M.P. for Appleby, 1754-61; for Wigan 1761-8; for Guildford, 1768-82; Solicitor-General in Newcastle Administration, 1761-3; Attorney-General in Grenville's Ministry, 1763-5;

Jemmy Twitcher]¹ a nickname for John Montagu Earl of Sandwich as familiar to Him as his title, & conferred on him by the unanimous voice of an audience at the Beggar's Opera, soon after his notorious Information against his comrade John Wilkes.² See more of this Peer in Churchill's works,³ in the Earl of Bristol's Motion for removing him in May 1779,⁴ & in the 14th Number of

dismissed on formation of Rockingham Administration, July, 1765; Speaker of House of Commons, 1770-80; created (1782) Baron Grantley. He was satirized by Churchill in Book III of *The Duellist* (vv. 269-344). Mason addressed an ode to him, in imitation of Horace, in 1777, which was annotated by Walpole (see below, pp. 124-31).

¹ v. 125. John Montagu (1718-1792), 4th Earl of Sandwich (1729); Lord of the Admiralty, 1744-8; First Lord of the Admiralty, 1748-51, 1763, 1771-82; he had also been Ambassador at the Hague, 1746-8; Joint Vice-Treasurer of Ireland, 1755-63; Secretary of State for the South, 1763-5; Joint Postmaster-General, 1768-70; and Secretary of State for the North, 1770-1.

² In November, 1763, Sandwich produced in the House of Lords a copy (procured through the treachery of one of the printers) of Wilkes's 'bawdy and blasphemous' *Essay on Woman*, and proceeded to indite Wilkes. In consequence of this shameful betrayal by Sandwich of his former associate, 'the public indignation went so far that the *Beggar's Opera* being performed at Covent Garden Theatre soon after the event, the whole audience, when Macheath says, *That Jemmy Twitcher should peach me, I own surprises me*, burst out into an applause of application; and the nickname of *Jemmy Twitcher* stuck by the Earl so as almost to occasion the disuse of his title' (see Walpole's *Memoirs of George III*, ed. 1894, vol. i, pp. 245-9; and his letters to Lord Hertford, and to Mann, of Nov. 17, 1763).

³ Churchill satirized him in *The Duellist* (Nov. 1763), *The Author* (Dec. 1763), and *The Candidate* (June 1764). Gray also satirized him in his poem, *The Candidate*, when Sandwich was standing (in 1764) for the High-Stewardship of Cambridge University (see the *Correspondence of Gray, Walpole, West, and Ashton*, vol. ii, pp. 226-7).

⁴ Augustus John Hervey (1724-1779), 3rd Earl of Bristol (1775), served in the Navy, and became Rear-Admiral in 1775, and Vice-Admiral of the Blue, 1778. He was M.P. for Bury St. Edmunds, 1757-63, 1768-75; for Saltash, 1763-8; Chief Secretary for Ireland, 1766-7; Lord of the Admiralty, 1771-5. In the House of

of the Englishman,¹ & in the notes to the following Ode addressed to the Naval Officers of Great Britain.²

Earl of Denbigh's]³ Basil Fielding Earl of Denbigh, a most worthless Tool & Spy of Lord Bute & the Court. Either of the Earls of Sandwich or Denbigh might have been introduced with more propriety as the Thief than as the person robbed.

Barrington]⁴ William Shute Viscount Barrington, Secretary at War: an insipid Tool, who was never animated but by Servility; & then commonly to sustain some notorious falsehood.

Mansfield]⁵ The inveteracy of Lord Chief Justice Mansfield to the inestimable mode of Trial by Juries will be known as long as his Name is recorded. Nothing but his Cowardice preserved him from being as criminal as Jefferies. The bolder Villain dared where Mansfield only ventured to undermine.

Jews & Maccaronis]⁶ *Maccaroni* is synonymous to *Beau, Fop, Coxcomb, Petit Maitre*, &c. for Fashion having no foundation in Sense, or in the flower of sense, Taste, deals in forms & names, by altering which it thinks it invents. *Maccaroni* was a name adopted by
or

Lords he supported Keppel against Sandwich, and his speech on April 23, 1779, on the condition of the Navy (which was printed shortly after) ended with a motion for the removal of Sandwich from his office of First Lord.

¹ A short-lived periodical, conducted by Sheridan, Charles James Fox, and Hon. John Townshend, of which only 17 numbers were published in 1779.

² See below, pp. 140-1.

³ v. 126. 'E*l of D*nb*h's' in text. (See Walpole to Macon, March 27, 1773, *ad fm.*) Basil Feilding (1719-1800), 6th Earl of Denbigh (1755); Master of the Foxhounds, 1761-82; a Lord of the Bedchamber, 1763-1800.

⁴ v. 127. 'B*rr*t*n' in text. William Wildman Barrington-Shute, 2nd Viscount Barrington (see above, note on v. 95, p. 64). His father's name was Shute, which he changed to Barrington in 1716 on inheriting the estate of Francis Barrington.

⁵ v. 128. 'M**d' in text. See above, note on v. 107, p. 64.

⁶ v. 130.

or given to the young Men of fashion who returned from their Travels in the present reign, & is supposed to have been derived from the Italian paste of that denomination. It is remarkable that a very grave & very learned Author, M^r Bryant,¹ has described them in his Analysis,² without intending it. Under his radical Word, Macar, he says, *the Macaronis were a happy people, & lived in an Island.* The Chiefs of the Maccaronis became known beyond the limits of their fantastic Dominion by their excessive Gaming, & the more enormous usury which they paid for the loan of money, whence they contracted Alliance with Jew-Brokers, with whom They are here unjustly represented at War—Unjustly, for whatever ties of Society the Maccaronis burst, they were faithful to their engagements to their dishonorable Allies, as long as able to perform them. The most memorable Treaty on Record between these Jews & Gentiles is preserved in the bill brought into the House of Lords in 1778, by which it was proposed to set aside the Will of Thomas Lord Foley³ for the relief of his Two Elder Sons,⁴ who during their Father's life had contracted to pay Seventeen thousand five hundred pds per annum to Jews for money borrowed of them to liquidate Debts at play & Newmarket.⁵

Charles Fox]⁶ that prodigy of parts, Charles Fox,⁷ & his Elder Brother

¹ Jacob Bryant (1715–1804).

² *A new System, or An Analysis of Ancient Mythology.* 3 vols. 4to, 1774–6.

³ Thomas Foley (1716–1777), 1st Baron Foley (n. c.) (1776).

⁴ Thomas Foley (1742–1793), 2nd Baron Foley (1777); and Edward Foley (d. 1803), M.P. for Worcester County, 1768–1803.

⁵ See Walpole's *Last Journals*, vol. ii, pp. 224–7; and letters to Mann of Aug. 11, 1776; and to Maſon, of April 18, and May 12, 1778.

⁶ v. 132. 'C*s F*' in text.

⁷ Charles James Fox (1749–1806). See Walpole to Conway, May 28, 1781; frequent references to his gambling occur in Walpole's letters.

Brother Stephen,¹ Sons of Henry Lord Holland, dissipated three hundred thousand pds, before their Father's death, & before either was five & twenty. This note explains what was said before of the Father's death.²

Schwellenberg]³ a German Woman, who attended the Queen from Mecklenburgh, & was her principal Favourite—so great a Favourite, that M. de Luc⁴ in his printed letters from Swisserland addressed to her Majesty, thought fit to acquaint the Queen & the public with the part that Woman took in the journey.

¹ Stephen Fox (1745-1774), 2nd Baron Holland (1774).

² See above, note on v. 91, p. 61.

³ v. 133. 'Schw***n' in text. Mrs. Schwellenberg was Keeper of the Robes to Queen Charlotte. Fanny Burney was second Keeper under her for five years (1786-91), and gives a very unpleasing impression of her in her *Diary*.

⁴ Jean André de Luc, a Swiss gentleman in the household of Queen Charlotte; his name occurs repeatedly in Fanny Burney's *Diary*. He was author of *Lettres Physiques et Morales sur les Montagnes et sur l'Histoire de la Terre et de l'Homme, adressées à la Reine de la Grande Bretagne*, La Haye, 1778, on the title-page of which he is described as 'Citoyen de Genève, Lecteur de Sa Majesté, Membre de la Société Royale de Londres, et Correspondant des Académies Royales des Sciences de Paris et de Montpellier'. In the preface to this work he says: 'Quelques voyages où j'ai accompagné une Personne attachée à Sa Majesté, ont été l'occasion de ces lettres'. In the letters themselves this personage is designated 'Mlle S....', the name of Schwellenberg being nowhere printed in full. In the following year M. de Luc published a lengthy philosophical work in five volumes with the same title (save that 'sur les Montagnes' is omitted), in which all mention of 'Mlle S.' is suppressed.

According

¹ According to a MS. note by Walpole on the title-page of a copy of the first edition, the *Heroic Postscript* was first published on Feb. 10, 1774. Such of Maſon's own notes as have been retained are marked M. Unsigned notes are by the preſent Editor.

A N
H E R O I C P O S T S C R I P T

T O
T H E P U B L I C

Occasioned by their favourable Reception of a late

H E R O I C E P I S T L E

To Sir WILLIAM CHAMBERS, Knt. &c.

By the AUTHOR of that EPISTLE.

Sicelides mufæ, paullo majora canamus.

VIRGIL.

The Ninth Edition

L O N D O N

Printed for J. ALMON, oppofite BURLINGTON-HOUSE, in PICCADILLY
MDCCLXXVII.†

AN HEROIC POSTSCRIPT

TO

THE PUBLIC

I THAT of late, Sir William's Bard, and Squire,
March'd with his helm and buckler on my lyre,
(What time the Knight prick'd forth in ill-farr'd haste,
Comptroller General of the works of taste,*)
Now to the Public tune my grateful lays, 5
Warm'd with the sun-shine of the Public praise ;
Warm'd too with mem'ry of that golden time,
When Almon gave me reason for my rhyme ;

* Put synonymously for his Majesty's works. See Sir William's title-page. M.

AN HEROIC POSTSCRIPT 75

— glittering orbs,* and, what endear'd them more,
Each glittering orb the sacred features bore 10
Of George the good, the gracious, and the great,
Unfil'd, unsweated, all of sterling weight ;
Or, were they not, they pass'd with current ease,
Good seemings then were good realities :
No Senate had convey'd, by smuggling art, 15
Pow'r to the mob to play Cadogan's part ;
Now, thro' the land, that impious pow'r prevails,
All weigh their Sov'reign in their private scales,
And find him wanting : all save me alone,
For, sad to say ! my glittering orbs are gone. 20
But ill befits a Poet to repent,
Lightly they came, and full as lightly went.
Peace to their manes ! may they never feel
Some keen Scotch banker's unrelenting steel ;
While I again the Muse's fickle bring 25
To cut down Dunces, wheresoe'er they spring,
Bind in poetic sheaves the plenteous crop,
And stack my full-ear'd load in Almon's shop.
For now, my Muse, thy fame is fixt as fate,
Tremble ye Fools I scorn, ye Knaves I hate ; 30
I know the vigour of thy eagle wings,
I know thy strains can pierce the ear of Kings.

Did

* See Maſon's letter of May 7, 1773, quoted in *Exposé*, p. 16.

Did China's monarch here in Britain doze,
 And was, like western Kings, a King of Prose,
 Thy song could cure his Asiatic spleen, 35
 And make him wish to see and to be seen ;
 That solemn vein of irony so fine,
 Which, e'en Reviewers own, adorns thy line,*
 Would make him soon against his greatness sin,
 Desert his sofa, mount his palanquin, 40
 And post where'er the Goddess led the way,
 Perchance to proud Spithead's imperial bay ;
 There should he see, as other folks have seen,
 That ships have anchors, and that seas are green,
 Should own the tackling trim, the streamers fine, 45
 With Sandwich prattle, and with Bradshaw dine,
 And then sail back, amid the cannon's roar,
 As safe, as sage, as when he left the shore.
 Such is thy pow'r, O Goddess of the song,
 Come then and guide my careless pen along ; 50
 Yet keep it in the bounds of sense and verse,
 Nor, like Mac-Homer,† make me gabble Erse.
 No, let the flow of these spontaneous rhymes
 So truly touch the temper of the times,

That

* 'A fine vein of solemn irony runs through this piece.' See *Monthly Review*, under the article of the Heroic Epistle to Sir William Chambers. M.

† See, if the reader thinks it worth while, a late translation of the *Iliad*. M.—An allusion to Macpherson's translation published in 1773.

AN HEROIC POSTSCRIPT 77

That he who runs may read ; while well he knows, 55
 I write in metre, what he thinks in prose ;
 So shall my song, undisciplin'd by art,
 Find a sure patron in each English heart.
 If this it's fate, let all the frippery things
 Be-plac'd, be-pension'd, and be-starr'd by Kings, 60
 Frown on the page, and with fastidious eye,
 Like old young Fannius,* call it blasphemy.†
 Let these prefer a levee's harmless talk,
 Be ask'd how often, and how far they walk,
 Proud of a single word, nor hope for more, 65
 Tho' Jenkinson is blest with many a score :
 For other ears my honest numbers sound,
 With other praise those numbers shall be crown'd,
 Praise that shall spread, no pow'r can make it less,
 While Britain boasts the bulwark of her prefs. 70
 Yes, sons of freedom ! yes, to whom I pay,
 Warm from the heart, this tributary lay ;
 That lay shall live, tho' Court and Grub-street figh,
 Your young Marcellus was not born to die.

The

* Before I sent the M.S. to the prefs, I discovered, that an accidental blot had made all but the first syllable of this name illegible. I was doubtful, therefore, whether to print it Fannius or Fannia. After much deliberation, I thought it best to use the masculine termination. If I have done wrong, I ask pardon, not only of the Author, but the Lady. *The Editor.* M.

† The noble personage here alluded to, being asked to read the Heroic Epistle, said, 'No, it was as bad as blasphemy'. M.—See below, note on v. 62, p. 81.

78 *MASON'S SATIRICAL POEMS*

The Muse shall nurse him up to man's estate, 75
 And break the black asperity of fate—
 Admit him then your candidate for fame,
 Pleas'd if in your review he read his name,
 Tho' not with Mason and with Goldsmith put,
 Yet cheek by jowl with Garrick, Colman, Foote; 80
 But if with higher Bards that name you range,
 His modesty must think your judgment strange—
 So when o'er Crane-Court's philosophic Gods,
 The Jove-like majesty of Pringle nods,
 If e'er he chance to wake on Newton's chair, 85
 He 'wonders how the devil he came there'.*
 Whate'er his fame or fate, on this depend;
 He is, and means to be his country's friend.
 'Tis but to try his strength that now he sports
 With Chinese gardens, and with Chinese courts: 90
 But if that country claim a graver strain,
 If real danger threat fair Freedom's reign,
 If hireling P**rs, in prostitution bold,
 Sell her as cheaply as themselves they fold;
 Or they, who honour'd by the People's choice, 95
 Against that People lift their rebel voice,
 And, basely crouching for their paltry pay,
 Vote the best birthright of her sons away, Permit

* From Pope's *Epistle to Arbuthnot*: 'But wonder how the devil they got there' (v. 172).

AN HEROIC POSTSCRIPT 79

Permit a nation's in-born wealth to fly
In mean, unkingly prodigality ; 100
Nor, e'er they give, ask how the fums were spent,
So quickly squander'd, tho' so lately lent—
If this they dare ; the thunder of his song,
Rolling in deep-ton'd energy along,
Shall strike, with Truth's dread bolt, each miscreant's name,
Who, dead to duty, senseless e'en to shame 106
Betray'd his country. Yes, ye faithless crew,
His Muse's vengeance shall your crimes pursue,
Stretch you on satire's rack, and bid you lie
Fit garbage for the hell-hound, Infamy. 110

[NOTES

[NOTES BY WALPOLE TO
HEROIC POSTSCRIPT¹]

Good seemings then were good realities]² Character of the King in a single line.

Cadogan]³ Charles Sloane Lord Cadogan, Master of the Mint.⁴ He got above thirty thousand pounds by the recoinage of the gold.⁵ An Act⁶ had previously passed to decri the light guineas, which occasioned their being frequently weighed before accepted in payment.

I know thy strains can pierce the ear of Kings]⁷ alluding to the King's reading the heroic Epistle to Sr William Chambers himself, as mentioned before.⁸

Spithead's imperial bay]⁹ The naval Review at Portsmouth made by Lord Sandwich to pay his Court to the King,¹⁰ & which delayed the fleet to the great detriment of the Service in America. v. the Englishman.¹¹

Bradshaw]¹² See a note to the Heroic Epistle.¹³

Mac-Homer]

¹ First published on Feb. 10, 1774.

² v. 14.

³ v. 16. Charles Sloane Cadogan (1728-1807), 3rd Baron Cadogan (1776), and 1st Earl (n.c.) Cadogan (1800). He married in 1777 Walpole's niece, Mary Churchill.

⁴ He was Master of the Mint, 1769-84.

⁵ 1773-6.

⁶ 1774.

⁷ v. 32.

⁸ See above, Walpole's note on v. 1 of the *Heroic Epistle*, pp. 53-4.

⁹ v. 42.

¹⁰ Sandwich was First Lord of the Admiralty, 1771-82; the review was in May, 1778, during a visit (May 2-9) of the King and Queen to Portsmouth (see Walpole to Mann, May 9, 1778; and *Last Journals*, May 5, 1778).

¹¹ See above, note on v. 125 of *Heroic Epistle*, p. 69, n. 1.

¹² v. 46.

¹³ See above, Walpole's note on v. 95 of *Heroic Epistle*, p. 64.

Mac-Homer]¹ a nickname excellently well chosen for Macpherson, the Creator of *Offian*,² & Destroyer of Homer.³

Fannius]⁴ old young Fannius is as happily applied to Lord Bristol, as MacHomer to Macpherson. Pope called Lord Hervey Lord Fanny.⁵ His Son George William Earl of Bristol⁶ was a yet more effeminate figure than his Father.

Be asked how often, and how far they walk]⁷ His Majesty's constant questions at the Levee & drawingroom. Lord Bristol Groom of the Stole,⁸ was not only the most assiduous attendant at Court, but being as proud as fervile, was a mimic of all the little etiquettes & puerilities of the Court. On his Public days in the Country, he did not appear till all the Company was assembled, & then walked round the room & asked just such silly questions to all his guests, as the Royal family are forced to do in the Drawing room, before he asked anybody to sit down.

Jenkinson]⁹ Charles Jenkinson, originally a Clerk to Ld. Holderness,

¹ v. 52.

² See above, Walpole's note on v. 29 of *Heroic Epistle*, p. 56.

³ He published a translation of the *Iliad* in 1773, which was received with ridicule in England.

⁴ v. 62. 'Like old young Fannius, call it blasphemy.' In his letter to Macon of July 5, 1773, Walpole wrote, with reference to the *Heroic Epistle*, 'my Lord Bristol vows he would as soon read blasphemy'.

⁵ *Satires*, i. 6; ii. 101. Pope calls him 'Fannius' in *Satires of Donne*, iv. 178.

⁶ George William Hervey (1721-1775), succeeded his father as Baron Hervey, 1743, and his grandfather as Earl of Bristol, 1751.

⁷ v. 64.

⁸ He was Groom of the Stole and First Lord of the Bedchamber, 1770-5.

⁹ v. 66. Charles Jenkinson (1727-1808), M.P. for Cockermouth, 1761-7; for Appleby, 1768-72; for Harwich, 1772-4; for Hastings, 1774-80; for Saltash, 1780-6; Private Secretary to Lord Holderness, 1756-8, and to Lord Bute, 1760-1; Under-Secretary for the South, 1761-2; Treasurer of the Ordnance, 1762; Joint Secretary to the Treasury, 1763-5; Lord of the Admiralty, 1766-7;

nefs,¹ then Secretary to Lord Bute, & at last an especial Favourite of the King, who made him Secretary at war in 1779, & designed him for Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mafon]² The Author himself; inserted as a blind.

Goldsmith]³ Oliver Goldsmith, Author of the *Traveller* & of many other pieces in prose & verse of far inferior merit.

Garrick, Coleman, Foote]⁴ Garrick, Coleman, & Foote are not less known. Garrick⁵ was the great Actor, and a very indifferent Writer. Coleman⁶ was a Writer too, of more merit. Foote⁷ was not only a Mimic like Garrick, an excellent Actor in his own pieces, tho a bad one in those of others, but an original Genius & an Author of singular humour. All three were Patentees of Theatres.⁸

Pringle]⁹ Sr John Pringle, a Scottish Physician, President of the Royal Society.

Chinese

Lord of the Treasury, 1767-73; Joint Vice-Treasurer of Ireland, 1772-5; Secretary at War, 1778-82; Lord of Trade, 1784; created Baron Hawkesbury, 1786; and Earl of Liverpool, 1796; President of Board of Trade, 1786-1804; Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, 1786-1803. From 1763 to 1765 he was leader of the party known as 'the King's friends' in the House of Commons.

¹ Robert D'Arcy (1718-1778), 4th Earl of Holderness (1722), Secretary of State, 1751-61.

² v. 79. William Mafon (1724-1797).

³ v. 79. Oliver Goldsmith (1728-1774); his *Traveller* was published in 1764.

⁴ v. 80.

⁵ David Garrick (1717-1779).

⁶ George Colman (1732-1794).

⁷ Samuel Foote (1720-1777).

⁸ Garrick, at Drury Lane; Colman, at Covent Garden and Haymarket; Foote at Drury Lane and Haymarket.

⁹ vv. 83-4. John Pringle (1707-1782), youngest son of Sir John Pringle, Bart., after studying medicine at Leyden, where he graduated M.D. in 1730, settled as physician in Edinburgh. As army physician he was present at Dettingen and Culloden. Having settled in London, in 1749 he was appointed physician to the Duke of Cumberland, in 1761 to the Queen, and in 1744 to the King. He had been created

Chinese courts]¹ These two lines were omitted by the Printer

As He that fired at Mawkins² crows had shit on
To learn to lodge his Slugs in the North Briton.

They allude to Samuel Martin, who undoubtedly bribed the Printer to suppress them. See more on that subject in the notes to the *Heroic Epistle*.³

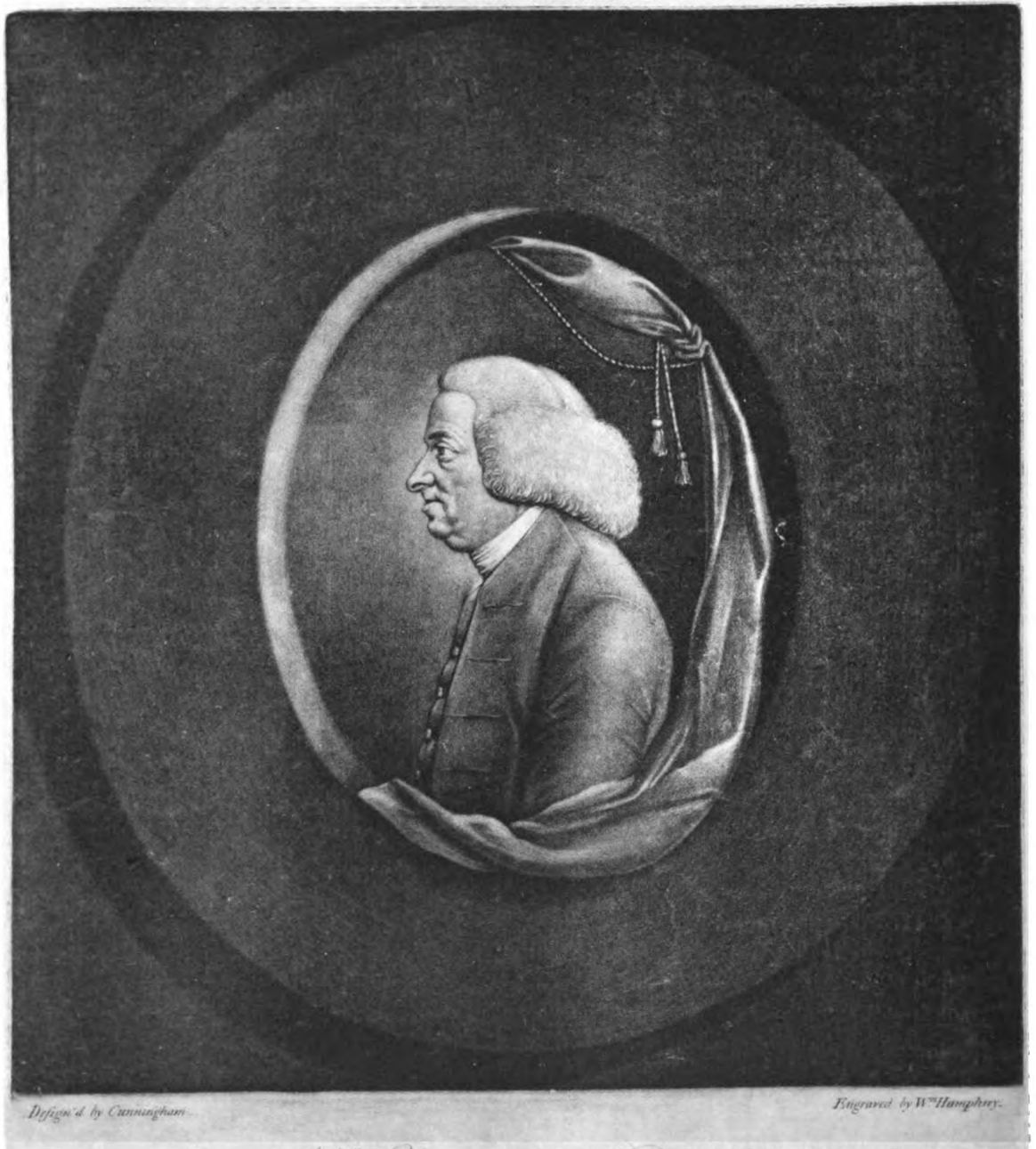
a Baronet in 1766, in which year he attended Horace Walpole (see letters to Lady Mary Coke of Sept. 1766). He was President of the Royal Society, 1772-8; and died in London in 1782. The Royal Society met in Crane Court, Fleet Street, from 1710 to 1780.

¹ v. 90.

² Scarecrows; cf. Swift, *Journal to Stella* (Dec. 13): 'Dressing up a hat on a stick and calling it Harley: then . . . discharging a pistol with the other hand at the maukin.' In his letter to Mann of April 8, 1742, Walpole applies the term to an effigy of his (illegitimate) sister, Lady Mary.

³ The allusion is to Martin's duel with Wilkes. See above, Walpole's note on v. 95 of the *Heroic Epistle*, p. 62.

¹ The first edition was published in this same year. Such of Mason's own notes as have been retained are marked M. Unsigned notes are by the present Editor.



Mr. Christopher Pinchbeck.

O D E

T O

Mr P I N C H B E C K,

UPON HIS NEWLY INVENTED

P A T E N T C A N D L E - S N U F F E R S,

By M A L C O L M M' G R E G G O R, Esq;

Author of the Heroic Epistle to SIR WILLIAM CHAMBERS, and the
Heroic Postscript.

Quousque ergo frustra pascemus ignigenum istum? Apuleii Met. Lib. 7

Why should a Patent be granted to this Candle-Snuffer in vain?

T H E F I F T H E D I T I O N

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. ALMON, opposite BURLINGTON-HOUSE, PICCADILLY.
MDCLXXVI¹

[Price SIX-PENCE]

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

EVER since my first Publication, the Curiosity, not to say Anxiety, of the World concerning my Name, has been so great, that it has frequently given me Pain to conceal what the World will now see it was not possibly in my Power to discover.

In short, I had no Name, till the Royal Favour lately restored my very antient and honourable Clan to its pristine Title and Honours. I was therefore in the same deplorable Case with a certain nameless Lady, whom I have long had the Honour to call my Neighbour, and who, I sincerely hope, will soon, by the same Favour, be restored to that Title, which, upon my Honour, I believe, she has erroneously, and not intentionally forfeited.

I have only to add, that now, when the Public is in possession of my real Name, it will not, I hope, suffer any national Prejudice to prevent it from receiving this my first Lyrical Attempt with its former Candour. But I must needs say, that if this Ode does not sell as well as M^r CUMBERLAND's, I shall be apt to impute it, not to any inferiority of Lyrical Ordonance, but merely to its having been written by a Scotchman.

Knightsbridge, May 6, 1776.

O D E

O D E

T O

Mr. PINCHBECK

I.

ILLUSTRIOUS PINCHBECK ! condescend,
Thou well-belov'd, and best King's-Friend,
These Lyric Lines to view ; 3
O ! may they prompt thee, e'er too late,
To snuff the Candle of the State,
That burns a little blue. 6
It

II.

It once had got a stately Wick,
 When in its Patent Candlestick
 The Revolution put it ; 9
 As white as Wax we saw it shine
 Thro' two whole Lengths of BRUNSWICK'S Line,
 Till B--- first dar'd to smut it. 12

III.

Since then ---- but wherefore tell the Tale?
 Enough, that now it burneth pale,
 And forely wastes its Tallow : 15
 Nay, if thy Poet rightly weens,
 (Though little skill'd in Ways and Means)
 Its Save-all is but shallow. 18

IV.

Come then, ingenious Artift, come,
 And put thy Finger, and thy Thumb,
 Into each polish'd Handle ; 21
 On thee alone our Hopes depend,
 Thy King's, and eke thy Country's Friend,
 To trim old England's Candle. 24

V.

But first we pray, for its Relief,
 Pluck from its Wick, each Tory Thief,
 It else must quickly rue it ; 27

While

ODE TO MR. PINCHBECK 89

* While N----- and M----- sputter there,
Thou'lt ne'er prevent with all thy Care,
The melting of the Suet. 30

VI.

There's TWITCHER too, that old He-witch,
Sticks in its Bole as black as Pitch,
† And makes a filthy pother ; 33
When curst with such a sorry Fiend,
And lighted too at either End,
'Twill soon be in a smother. 36

VII.

I fear me much in such a plight,
Those Tapers blest would lose their Light,
Canadian Fanes that deck ; 39
Which pious † --*--- ordains to blaze,
And gild with their establish'd Rays,
Our Lady of Quebec. 42
His

* These Initials, like those in the Banns of Marriage published between N. and M. may be filled up at the Reader's Pleasure. *Vide Common Prayer Book.* M.

† Our ingenious Inventor's Snuffers are peculiarly calculated to remedy this evil, to which indeed all Candles are more or less subject. *See the Patentee's Advertisement.* M.

‡ George.

VIII.

His Arms, thou hallowed Image ! blefs,
 And surely thou canst do no lefs,
 He is thy Faith's Defender ; 45
 Thou oweft thy Place to him alone,
 As other Jacobites have done,
 And not to the Pretender. 48

IX.

Hafte then, and quafh the hot Turmoil,
 That flames in Bofton's angry Soil,
 And frights the Mother-Nation : 51
 Know, Lady ! if its Rage you ftop,
 PINCHBECK fhall fend you, from his Shop,
 A moft fuperb Oblation. 54

X.

His Patent-snuffers, in a Dish
 Of burnifh'd Gold ; if more you wifh,
 His Cyclops fhall beftir 57
 Their brawny Stumps, and for thy fake,
 Of PINCHBECK's own Mixt-metal make
 A huge Extinguifher. 60

XI.

To form the Mafs -----, thy Zeal
 Shall furnifh that well-temper'd Steel,
 Thou didft at Minden brandifh ; 63
 Nor

ODE TO MR. PINCHBECK 91

Nor yet shall G --'s reverend Dean,
Counting its Worth, refuse, I ween,
His ponderous leaden Standish. 66

XII.

Poor Doctor JOHNSON, I'm afraid,
Can give but metaphoric Aid ;
His Style's case-harden'd Graces : 69
M'PHERSON, without Shame, or Fear,
Sir JOHN DALRYMPLE, and SHEBBEARE
Shall melt their brazen Faces. 72

XIII.

And sure, this mixt metallic Stuff,
Will yield Materials large enough
To mold the mighty Cone ; 75
But how transport it, when 'tis cast
Across the deep Atlantic Vast,
'Twill weigh some thousand Stone ? 78

XIV.

'Leave that to me' our Lady cries,
'Howe'er gigantic be its Size,
'I have a Scheme in petto ; 81
'I'll fly with it from Shore to Shore,
'Safe as my footy Sister bore,
'Her Cottage to * Loretto. 84 'Swift

* Loreto, near Ancona, where is the Santa Casa ('Holy House') of the

XV.

' Swift to the Congress with my Freight
 ' I'll speed, and on their Heads its Weight
 ' Soufe with such Skill and Care ; 87
 ' That PUT'NAM, WASHINGTON beneath,
 ' And gasping LEE shall wish to breathe
 ' * A Pint of PRIESTLEY'S Air. 90
 ' The

Virgin, in which is a black image of the Virgin. According to the legend the Virgin's house at Nazareth, which had been converted into a church by the Apostles, & embodied in a basilica by the Empress Helena, when threatened with destruction by the Turks, was carried (in 1291) by angels through the air & deposited first at Terfatto in Dalmatia, & thence (in 1294) across the Adriatic to a wood (*lauretum*) near Recanati, whence it derived its name 'Sacellum gloriosae Virginis in Laureto'. It was subsequently (in 1295) transferred to its present site (*Encyc. Brit.*).

* This great Philosopher has lately discovered a Method of fabricating a new Species of Air, of so infinitely superior salubrity and duration to that vulgar atmospherical Air, which for want of better we have been obliged to breathe for upwards of five thousand Years, that it is to be supposed that no Macaroni, Savoir Vivre, or in plain English, no body that knows what's what, will in future condescend to respire any Air, that is not sealed with the Doctor's own Arms, and signed with his own hand-writing. It is to be feared, however, that his Pneumatic Vials will be liable to be counterfeited, as our Philosopher has not Interest enough at Court to procure a Patent. Indeed, were such a Patent granted, it might supersede Mr. PINCHBECK'S; because that in this Air a Candle is found to burn with so bright and continued a Flame, that it could never want snuffing. See Vol. II. of Dr. Priestley's *Experiments on Air*. M.—The allusion is to Joseph Priestley's (1733-1804) isolation in 1774 of what he termed 'dephlogisticated air', subsequently named oxygen by Lavoisier. Priestley's *Experiments and Observations on different Kinds of Air* was published in London in three volumes in 1774-5-7

ODE TO MR. PINCHBECK 93

XVI.

- ‘The Deed is done, thy Foes are dead,
‘No longer England, shalt thou dread
 ‘Such Presbyterean Huffers ; 93
‘Thy Candle’s Radiance ne’er shall fade,
‘With now and then a little Aid,
 ‘From PINCHBECK’s Patent-snuffers.’ 96

[NOTES

[NOTES BY WALPOLE TO THE
ADVERTISEMENT]

No Name]¹ As the Author had in the Heroic Postscript ironically assumed the title of S^r W. Chambers's Bard, & affected in the same tone to celebrate the King & Administration, he here adopts a Scottish name, as that Nation was peculiarly distinguished by the Royal Countenance; & calls himself Macgregor, a Clan that for their infamous barbarities had been deprived of their appellation by act of Parliament in 1633. It was restored to them in 1661 for their loyalty & attachment to the Crown; was again suppressed in 1693² on account of a horrid massacre committed by the same Clan; and as George 3^d was fond of subverting the Acts of K. William, & of copying those of the Stuarts, the Macgregors were reinstated in 1776.

nameless Lady]³ Elizabeth Chudleigh, married⁴ while Maid of honour to Augustus John Hervey,⁵ afterwards Earl of Bristol, & married,

¹ 'I had no Name, till the Royal Favour lately restored my very antient and honourable Clan to its pristine Title and Honours.'

² It was in consequence of this act that the celebrated Robert Macgregor, best known as Rob Roy (1671-1734), adopted his mother's name, Campbell, as his surname. For an account of the successive penal acts against the Macgregors, see Scott's Introduction to *Rob Roy*.

³ 'I was therefore in the same deplorable Case with a certain nameless Lady.'

⁴ In 1744, while Maid of Honour to Augusta, Princess of Wales.

⁵ See above, note on v. 125 of *Heroic Epistle*, p. 68, n. 4.

married,¹ while wife of Mr Hervey, to Evelyn Pierpoint Duke of Kingston, which marriage was declared void by the House of Lords.² She built a magnificent House at Knightsbridge, which she called Chudleigh-House,³ while yet Maid of Honour.

erroneously & not intentionally]⁴ When the Peers were severally asked by the Lord High Steward on her Trial, whether they believed Elizabeth Ducheſs of Kingston guilty or not guilty, Henry Clinton Duke of Newcastle,⁵ one of her Friends, replied, 'erroneously, but not intentionally, guilty, upon my honour'.⁶

Mr Cumberland's]⁷ Richard Cumberland, Author of the banishment of Cicero, and the battle of Haſtings, tragedies; of the *Brothers*, the *West Indian*, & other Comedies; & of two or three exceedingly dull Pindaric Odes, that would have been eternally forgotten, if not recorded in this place.

¹ In 1769.

² She was tried for bigamy and found guilty, 1776; she died in Paris in 1788.

³ According to Wheatley and Cunningham's *London* (art. 'Knightsbridge') it was ſubſequentlly called Kingſton Houſe.

⁴ 'Who I ſincerely hope, will ſoon, by the ſame Favour, be reſtored to that Title, which, upon my Honour, I believe, ſhe has erroneouſly, and not intentionally forfeited.'

⁵ Henry Fiennes Pelham-Clinton (1720-1794), 9th Earl of Lincoln (1730), ſucceeded his uncle as 2nd Duke of Newcastle (1768).

⁶ See Walpole to Maſon, April 23, 1776.

⁷ 'If this Ode does not fell as well as Mr. Cumberland's.' Richard Cumberland (1732-1811), the original of Sir Fretful Plagiary in Sheridan's *Critic*; his *Brothers* was produced in 1769, the *West Indian* in 1771, and the *Battle of Haſtings* in 1778; he published ſome *Odes to Romney* in 1776.

[NOTES BY WALPOLE TO
ODE TO MR. PINCHBECK]

Illustrious Pinchbeck]¹ Pinchbeck was a celebrated Toyman, Son of the Inventor of the mixed metal called by his name. The Son was a fertile Inventor of baubles too, as new modes of buckles, & the candle snuffers, that gave occasion to the following ode. He was not less known as a personal Favourite of the King, who had particular delight in new fashioned watches and dials; and thence Pinchbeck was satirically enrolled in the List of the secret Tools, who first affected to call themselves & were afterwards so justly odious as *the King's Friends*, & as the Authors or Agents of all those ruinous measures that disgraced & sunk the Nation. Pinchbeck is here styled *the Best* of those Friends, as he certainly was the most harmless of them.

the Candle of the State, That burns a little blue]² alluding to the ill success of the American War.

Bute]³ John Stuart Earl of Bute, whose vigour by being most unfortunately misplaced, gave a wrench to the reign of George 3^d at its outset, that biased all its Councils, & made them lean towards every error that had disgraced and ruined the successive Princes of the House of Stuart—and with worse consequences; as the crimes & blunders of the Stuarts fell only on their own heads;
Those

¹ vv. 1-2. Christopher Pinchbeck (c. 1710-1783), son of a clock-maker of the same name (d. 1732), the inventor of 'pinchbeck', an alloy of copper and zinc.

² vv. 5-6.

³ v. 12. 'B---' in text.

Those of George 3^d subverted the glory, trade, power & interest of Great Britain.

North & Mansfield] ¹ Frederic Lord North, ² Son of the Earl of Guilford, ³ and William Murray Earl of Mansfield, ⁴ were the Two principal Instruments of the American War. The First was nominal Prime-Minister, & Conductor of the War; the Second, the secret Adviser of it, & of almost all its steps, at least of the tyrannous Acts & Codes that drove the Americans to rebell. The First had the courage to undertake the War against his Conscience & Conviction; the Other, the Cowardice to deny his advice, & often to decline supporting it. North damped it by his laziness & carelessness, while his honour was at stake to promote it: Mansfield was indefatigable in inflaming it under hand. The First neither blushed at what he did or left undone: the Second trembled, whether his advice was adopted or miscarried.

Twitcher] ⁵ John Earl of Sandwich is admirably termed an old He-witch, as his Genius was more turned to the little mischiefs & diableries of an old Hag, than to the great machinery of Government.

Our Lady of Quebec] ⁶ The Code of laws for Canada had long been under meditation; but on the eruption of the American Rebellion, Ld Mansfield suddenly produced it, with that peculiar toleration
of

¹ v. 28. 'N----' and 'M----' in text.

² Frederick North (1732-1792), afterwards 2nd Earl of Guilford (1790); Prime Minister, 1770-82.

³ Francis North (1704-1790), 3rd Baron Guilford (1729), 1st Earl of Guilford (1753).

⁴ William Murray (1705-1793), Earl of Mansfield (1776); Lord Chief Justice, 1756-88.

⁵ v. 31: 'Twitcher too, that old He-witch'; see above, Walpole's note on v. 125 of *Heroic Epistle*, p. 68.

⁶ v. 42. The Quebec bill was passed in 1774.

of Popery that was so natural to a Scottish Jacobite, whose elder Brother the titular Earl of Dunbar¹ had been many years Prime Minister to the Pretender.

other Jacobites]² It would be endless to specify instances not only of restoration, but of favours, places, emoluments of all kinds bestowed even on outlawed Jacobites during the whole course of the present reign.

Boston's angry Soil]³ it is well known that the American Rebellion began at Boston the Capital of New England—but it ought always to be remembered that it began merely by a tumultuous insurrection of the Mob on the landing of some Chests of Tea;⁴ & that no Attempts of the Opposition in Parliament, no deprecations of the Colonies, could mollify the British Administration, who heaped violence & cruel acts of Parliament on one another, till they had united all the Colonies in a Common Cause, & then endeavoured to dragoon them by fire, sword, & massacre into unlimited Submission.

Germaine]⁵ Lord George Sackville Germaine⁶ had been declared by a Court martial incapable of any military Command for his disobedience of his General Prince Ferdinand's orders at the battle of Minden. He was appointed Secretary of State for the Colonies⁷ not long after the breaking out of the War.

Gloster's

¹ James Murray (c. 1690–1770), second son of 5th Viscount Stormont, created Earl of Dunbar by the Old Pretender in 1721. Walpole met him in Rome in 1740 (see letter to Ashton, May 14, 1740).

² v. 47.

³ v. 50.

⁴ Dec. 16, 1773 (see Walpole to Mann, Feb. 2, 1774).

⁵ vv. 61–2. '-----' in text.

⁶ Lord George Sackville (1716–1785), third son of 1st Duke of Dorset; court martialled and dismissed the service in 1760 for misconduct at Minden in the previous year.

⁷ In 1775, which office he held until Lord North's resignation in 1782.

Gloster's reverend Dean] Dr Tucker¹ Dean of Gloucester was a visionary Writer for Government, but who advised to leave the Colonies to themselves.

Johnson, Mcpherson, Dalrymple, Shebbeare]² of Three of these prostitute Hirelings enough has already been said.³ Of the Fourth, Dalrymple, an account will be given in a note on the following Epistle to his pilloried colleague, Shebbeare.⁴

Puttenham, Washington & Lee]⁵ Three American generals; ⁶ the Second has realized the talents & services ascribed to the Dictator Camillus⁷ by the fabulous Historians of Rome. Lee was a galant Adventurer whom George 3^d disgusted by an absolute breach of promise, and drove into the service of the Colonies.

¹ See above, note on Walpole's Introduction (*ad fin.*) to *Heroic Epistle*, p. 33, n. †.

² vv. 67, 70, 71.

³ See above, Walpole's notes on vv. 19 and 29 of *Heroic Epistle*, pp. 54-6.

⁴ See below, p. 114.

⁵ vv. 88-9.

⁶ Israel Putnam (1718-1790); George Washington (1732-1799), subsequently first President of the United States (1789-96); Charles Lee (1731-82), who had served in the English Army (1746-74), was taken prisoner in Dec. 1776, but was exchanged two years later.

⁷ M. Furius Camillus (d. 365 B.C.), who was five times dictator, and liberated Rome from the Gauls under Brennus (390).



† The first edition was published in the same year. Such notes of Maſon's own as have been retained are marked M. Unſigned notes are by the preſent Editor.



Johannes Shebbeare, M.D.
Reg. Academ. Scient. Paris. Soc.
from anonymous mezzotint after unknown painter

A N
E P I S T L E
T O
D R. S H E B B E A R E:

TO WHICH IS ADDED

A N O D E

TO SIR FLETCHER NORTON,

IN IMITATION OF HORACE ODE VIII, BOOK IV.

By MALCOLM MACGREGGOR, of Knightsbridge, Esq.
Author of the Heroic Epistle to Sir William Chambers, &c.

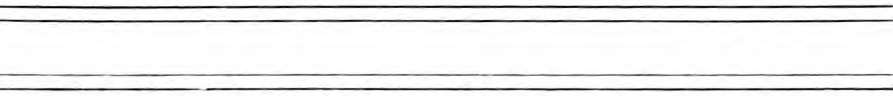
THE FOURTH EDITION.

L O N D O N :
Printed for J. ALMON, opposite Burlington-House, in Piccadilly.
MDCCLXXVII.

[Price One Shilling and Six-pence.]

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

THOUGH I look upon this Poem, in point of elevation of diction and sublimity of sentiment, to be as highly heroical, as my Epistle to Sir William Chambers, yet I have not thought proper to add that epithet to it on the title-page. I am willing to wish that first production of my muse may preserve the distinction which it now possesses, of being called *The Heroic Epistle, par excellence*. Besides this consideration, the different ranks of the two persons, to whom these two works are addressed, require a difference to be made in this matter ; and it would be unpardonable in me not to discriminate between a Comptroller of his Majesty's Works, and the Hackney Scribbler of a Newspaper ; between a Placeman and a Pensioner, a Knight of the Polar Star, and a broken Apothecary.



A N
E P I S T L E
T O
D R. S H E B B E A R E.

O FOR a thousand tongues ! and every tongue
Like Johnson's, arm'd with words of six feet long,
In multitudinous vociferation
To panegyricize this glorious nation,
Whose liberty results from her taxation. } 5
O, for that passive, pensionary spirit,
That by its prostitution proves its merit !
That rests on RIGHT DIVINE, all regal claims,
And gives to George, whate'er it gave to James :
Then

Then should my tory numbers, old Shebbeare, 10
 Tickle the tatter'd fragment of thy ear !
 Then all that once was virtuous, wife or brave,
 That quell'd a tyrant, that abhorr'd a slave,
 Then Sydney's, Ruffel's patriot fame should fall,
 Besmear'd with mire, like black Dalrymple's gall ; 15
 Then, like thy prose, should my felonious verse
 Tear each immortal plume from Naffau's hearse,
 That modern monarchs, in that plumage gay,
 Might stare and strut, the peacocks of a day.
 But I, like Ansty, feel myself unfit 20
 To run, with hollow speed, two heats of wit.
 He, at first starting, won both fame and money,
 The betts ran high on *Bladud's Ciceronè ;
 Since distanc'd quite, like a gall'd jade he winces, 24
 And † lashes unknown priests, and praises well-known princes.

* Anglicè, Bath Guide. M. So

† Without a note posterity will never understand this line. Two or three years ago this gentleman found himself libelled in a newspaper; and on suspecting a certain clergyman to be the author, he wrote a first canto of a poem, called *The Priest Dissected*, in which he prepared all chirurgical matters previous to the operation. In the mean time the parson proved an *alibi*, and saved his bacon. To this first and unique canto the author prefixed a something in which he exculpated himself from being the author of the *Heroic Epistle*, which it seems had been laid to his charge during the time the clan of Macgreggors continued without a name,¹ and which, as the world well knows, was the only reason which prevented me from claiming the merit of that production. It is to this something, that the latter part of the line alludes. For in it he had told the public, that his Majesty had

¹ See the Advertisement to the *Ode to Mr. Pinchbeck*.

So I, when first I tun'd th' heroic lay,
 Gain'd Pownall's praise, as well as Almon's pay.
 In me the nation plac'd its tuneful hope,
 Its second Churchill, or at least its Pope :
 Proudly I prick'd along, Sir William's squire, 30
 Bade kings recite my strains, and queens admire ;
 Chaste maids of honour prais'd my stout endeavour,
 *Sir Thomas swore 'The fellow was damn'd clever'.
 But popularity, alas ! has wings,
 And flits as soon from poets as from Kings. 35
 My pompous Postscript found itself disdain'd
 As much as Milton's Paradise regain'd—
 And when I dar'd the Patent Snuffers handle,
 To trim with Pinchy's aid, Old England's candle,
 The lyric muse, so lame was her condition, 40
 Could hardly hop beyond a fifth edition.
 Yes, 'tis a general truth, and strange as true,
 (Kenrick shall prove it in his next Review) That

ten children,¹ which it knew very well before. Hence the epithet, *well-known*. M.

* The Petronius of the present age needs not the addition of a firname to make the world certain who is meant by this appellative. He was better known by the name of Long Sir Thomas. M.—That is, Sir Thomas Robinson. On him was written the epigram :

'Unlike my subject now shall be my song,
 It shall be witty and it shan't be long'.

Walpole mistakenly identifies 'Sir Thomas' with Sir Thomas Milles (see his note, p. 117).

¹ 'Who 'mid the toils of state his hours employs
 On ten sweet pledges of connubial joys?'

That no one bard, in these degenerate days,
 Can write two works deserving equal praise. 45
 Whether the matter of which minds are made
 Be grown of late mephitic and decay'd,
 Or wants phlogiston, I forbear to say,
 The problem's more in Doctor Priestley's way.
 He knows of spirit the material whole, 50
 For Priestley has the cure of Sh. lb...e's foul.
 Enough of souls, unless we waste a line,
 Shebbeare! to pay a compliment to thine:
 Which forg'd, of old, of strong Hibernian brass,
 Shines through the Paris plaister of thy face, 55
 And bronzes it, secure from shame, or sense,
 To the flat glare of finish'd impudence.
 Wretch that from Slander's filth art ever gleaning,
 Spite without spirit, malice without meaning:
 The same abusive, base, abandon'd thing, 60
 When pilloried or pension'd by a King.
 Old as thou art, methinks, 'twere sage advice,
 That N..th should call thee off from *hunting Price.
 Some younger blood-hound of his bawling pack
 Might forer gall his presbyterian back. 65
 Thy toothless jaws should free thee from the fight;
 Thou canst but mumble, when thou mean'st to bite.

Say,

* See a series of wretched letters written by Shebbeare, in the Public Advertiser, and other papers. M.

EPISTLE TO DR. SHEBBEARE 107

Say, then, to give a *requiem* to thy toils,
What if my muse array'd her in thy spoils,
And took the field for thee, thro' pure good nature ; 70
Courts prais'd by thee, are curs'd beyond her satire.
Yet, when she pleases, she can deal in praise :
Exempli gratia, hear her fluent lays
Extol the present, the propitious hour,
When Europe, trembling at Britannia's power, 75
Bids all her princes, with pacific care,
Keep neutral distance, while she wings the war
Cross the Atlantic vast ; in dread array,
Herself to vanquish in America.
Where soon, we trust, the brother chiefs shall see 80
The Congress pledge them in a cup of tea,
Toast peace and plenty to their mother nation,
Give three huzzas to George and to taxation,
And beg, to make their loyal hearts the lighter,
He'd send them o'er Dean T..k.r, with a mitre. 85
In Fancy's eye, I ken them from afar
Circled with feather wreaths, unstain'd by tar :
In place of laurels, these shall bind their brow,
Fame, honour, virtue, all are feathers now.
Ev'n beauty's self, unfeather'd, if we spy, 90
Is hideous to our Macaroni eye.
Foolish the bard, who, in such flimsy times,
Would load with satire or with sense his rhymes :

No, let my numbers flutter light in air,
 As carelefs as the filken Goffimer. 95
 Or fhould I, playful, lift the mufe's fcourge,
 Thy cocks fhould lend their tails, my * cocking G----,
 To make the rod. So fear not thou the fong ;
 To whip a poft, I ne'er will wafte a thong.
 Were I inclin'd to punifh courtly tools, 100
 I'd lafh the knaves before I flap the fools.
 Gigantic vice fhould on my ordeal burn,
 Long ere it came to thy poor pigmy turn.
 But fure 'tis beft, whate'er rash Whigs may fay,
 To fleep within a whole fkin, while one may ; 105
 For Whigs are mighty prone to run ftark mad,
 If credence in A—hb—ps may be had.
 Therefore I'll keep within difcretion's rule,
 And turn true Tory of the M.....d School.
 So fhall I 'fcape that creature's tyger paw, 110
 Which fome call Liberty, and fome call Law :
 Whofe whale-like mouth is of that favage fhape,
 Whene'er his long-rob'd fhewman bids him gape,
 With tusks fo ftong, with grinders fo tremendous,
 And fuch a length of gullet, Heaven defend us ! 115
 That you fhould peep into the red-raw track,
 'Twould make your cold flefh creep upon your back.

A maw

* A great cock-fighter, and little fenator, who, in the laft Parliament, called the Heroic Poftfcript a libel. M.

EPISTLE TO DR. SHEBBEARE 109

A maw like that, what mortal may withstand ?

'Twould swallow all the poets in the land.

Come, then, Shebbeare ! and hear thy bard deliver 120
Unpaid-for praises to thy pension-giver.

Hear me, like T . . k . r, swear, * 'so help me, muse !

I write not for preferment's golden views.'

But hold—'tis on thy province to intrude :

I would be loyal, but would not be rude. 125

To thee, my veteran, I his fame consign ;

Take thou St. James's, be St. Stephen's mine.

Hail, genial hot-bed ! whose prolific foil

So well repays all North's perennial toil,

Whence he can raise, if want or whim inclines, 130

A crop of votes, as plentiful as pines,

Wet-nurse of tavern-waiters and Nabobs,

That empties first, and after fills their fobs :

(As Pringle, to procure a fane secretion,

Purges the *primæ viæ* of repletion.) 135

What scale of metaphor shall Fancy raise,

To climb the heights of thy stupendous praise ?

Thrice has the sun commenc'd his annual ride

Since, full of years and praise, thy mother died.

'Twas then I saw thee with exulting eyes, 140

A second phœnix, from her ashes rise :

Mark'd

* The reverend Dean took a solemn oath in one of his late pamphlets, that he would not be a Bishop. M.

110 MASON'S SATIRICAL POEMS

Mark'd all the graces of thy loyal crest
 Sweet with the perfume of its parent nest.
 Rare chick ! How worthy of all court careffes,
 How soft, how echo-like, it chirped addreffes. 145
 Proceed, I cry'd, thy full-fledg'd plumes unfold,
 Each true-blue feather shall be tipt with gold ;
 Ordain'd thy race of future fame to run,
 To do, whate'er thy mother left undone.
 In all her smooth, obsequious paths proceed, 150
 For know, poor Opposition wants a head.
 With horn and hound her truant schoolboys roam,
 And for a fox-chace quit St. Stephen's dome,
 Forgetful of their grandfire Nimrod's plan,
 * 'A mighty hunter, but his prey was man.' 155
 The rest, at crowd'd Almack's nightly bett,
 To stretch their own beyond the nation's debt.
 Vote then secure ; the needful millions raise,
 That fill the privy-purse with means and ways.
 And do it quickly too, to show your heeding, 160
 The weazel Scots are hungry, and want feeding.
 Nor need ye wait for that more plenteous season,
 When mad America is brought to reason,
 Obsequious Ireland, at her sifter's claim,
 (Sifter or step-dame, call her either name) 165
 Shall

* From Pope's *Windfor Forest*: 'A mighty hunter, and his prey was man' (v. 62).

EPISTLE TO DR. SHEBBEARE 111

Shall pour profusely her Pactolian tide,
Nor leave her native patriots unsupply'd.
Earl N t fung, while yet but simple Clare,
That wretched Ireland had no gold to spare.
How couldst thou, simple Clare ! that isle abuse, 170
Which prompts and pays thy linsfy-woolfey muse ?
Mistaken peer ! Her treasures ne'er can cease,
Did she not long pay Viry for our peace ?
Say, did she not, till rang the royal knell,
Irradiate vestal Majesty at Zell ? 175
Sure then she might afford, to my poor thinking,
One golden tumbler for Queen Charlotte's drinking.
I care not, if her hinds, on fens and rocks,
Ne'er roast one shoulder of their fatted flocks,
Shall Irish hinds to mutton make pretensions ? 180
Be theirs potatoes, and be ours their pensions.
If they refuse, great North, by me advis'd,
Enact that each potatoe be excis'd.
Ah ! hadst thou, North, adopted this sage plan,
And scorn'd to tax each British serving-man, 185
Thy friend Macgreggor, when he came to town,
(As poets should do) in his chaife and one,
Had seen his foot-boy Sawney, once his pride,
On stunt Scotch poney trotting by his side,
With frock of fustian, and with cape of red, 190
Nor grudg'd the guinea tax'd upon his head.

But

But tush, I heed not—for my country's good
 I'll pay it—it will purchase Yankee blood—
 And well I ween, for this heroic lay,
 Almon will give me wherewithal to pay. 195
 Tax then, ye greedy ministers, your fill :
 No matter, if with ignorance or skill.
 Be ours to pay, and that's an easy task,
 In these blest times to have is but to ask.
 Ye know, whate'er is from the public prest, 200
 Will sevenfold sink into your private chest.
 For he, the nursing father, that receives,
 Full freely tho' he takes, as freely gives.
 So when great Cox, at his mechanic call,
 Bids orient pearls from golden dragons fall, 205
 Each little dragonet, with brazen grin,
 Gapes for the precious prize, and gulps it in.
 Yet when we peep behind the magic scene,
 One master-wheel directs the whole machine :
 The self-same pearls, in nice gradation, all 210
 Around one common centre, rise and fall :
 Thus may our state-museum long surprize ;
 And what is sunk by votes in bribes arise ;
 Till mock'd and jaded with the puppet-play,
 Old England's genius turns with scorn away, 215
 Ascends his sacred bark, the sails unfurl'd,
 And steers his state to the wide western world :

High

EPISTLE TO DR. SHEBBEARE 113

High on the helm majestic Freedom stands,
In act of cold contempt she waves her hands.
Take, slaves, she cries, the realms that I disown, 220
Renounce your birth-right, and destroy my throne.

FINIS.

[NOTES BY WALPOLE TO
EPISTLE TO DR. SHEBBEARE]

tongue like Johnson's, arm'd with words of six feet long] ¹ The five first lines of this most beautifull & juft Satire are in ridicule of Dr Johnson's turgid & pedantic Style, tho they give but an inadequate idea of it, for it is of the nature of Absurdity to remain more ridiculous than any thing that is intended to expose it.

Whose Liberty] ² Dr Johnson by Command of the Administration published a pamphlet in defence of their meafures, called, Taxation no Tyranny, ³ in which one of this moral Philofopher's pofitions was, that if the Boftonians fhoud, as they threatened, on being taxed againft their Consent, leave their houfes—why, then Such Houfes woud be occupied by honefter men. Let us take no notice of the force that drives men to leave their Houfes—but by what rule of Morality do Others become poffeffed of fuch Houfes? & whence do Men who intrude themfelves into the rights of others, become Honeft Men? Providentially the Sword that was to give effect to fuch a Code & to make a difpenfation of property, loft its edge, & the Perfons who built or purchafed their own Houfes, ftill remain in poffeffion of their property, in fpite of the honeft legislators & their honeft Commentator.

black Dalrymple's Gall] ⁴ Sr John Dalrymple ⁵ was firft known to
the

¹ vv. 1-2.

² vv. 4-5.

³ Ifsued in 1775, in anfwer to the Addrefs from the American Congress.

⁴ v. 15.

⁵ Sir John Dalrymple (1726-1810), 4th Bart. (1771).

the indignation of mankind by being suspected of a plot to get his own Father hanged. He next incurred the displeasure of the Marquis of Rockingham, then first Lord of the Treasury, by Corruption.¹ With such pretensions to fame, & basking in the Sunshine of a reign that ranomed all kinds of Culprits, & frowned only on the virtuous, Sr John commenced Historian;² but principally with design to degrade & blacken the brightest names in English Story, & more particularly the Protomartyrs of the Revolution, Lord Ruffel & Algernon Sydney;³ the King himself paying for real or pretended transcripts of Papers in the French Archives at Versailles. Nor was This a random bolt shot by malignity. All the Heroes to whom We owe our Liberties & the King his Crown, were to be traduced. Shebbeare⁴ was employed to asperse King William; & Macpherfon⁵ the Duke of Marlborough⁶ & Lord Godolphin.⁷ But tho to the disgrace of the Nation such base Affaffinations were tolerated with impunity, it was some Consolation that even Royal Favour & royal rewards could

¹ He was Solicitor to the Board of Excise during Rockingham's administration (1765-66), and according to Walpole was dismissed for taking bribes from brewers (see letters to Mason, March 2 and July 5, 1773.)

² Dalrymple published in 1771 *Memoirs of Great Britain and Ireland from the Dissolution of the last Parliament of Charles II until the Sea Battle of La Hogue* (1681-1692), illustrated by collections of state papers from Versailles and London.

³ William Ruffell (1639-1683), afterwards (1678) Lord Ruffell, second surviving son of 5th Earl of Bedford, and Algernon Sidney (1622-1683), son of 2nd Earl of Leicester, executed, the one in June, the other in December, 1683, for complicity in the Rye House Plot to murder Charles II and his brother the Duke of York.

⁴ See above, Walpole's note on v. 19 of *Heroic Epistle*, p. 55.

⁵ See above, Walpole's note on v. 29 of *Heroic Epistle*, p. 56.

⁶ John Churchill (1650-1722), 1st Duke of Marlborough (1702).

⁷ Sidney Godolphin (1645-1712), Baron Godolphin (1684), Earl (1706), Lord High Treasurer, 1702-10.

could hire no more creditable Assaffins—Such was the nature of Dalrymple's gall! but however black, it had not the other quality that commonly handles a Stiletto, boldness. The Wretch, who had traduced the intrepid Sydney, was a rank Coward. Having in 1778 published a gross libel against Ld Barrington,¹ the latter challenged him. Dalrymple pleaded being a Judge—for, *him* had his royal Patron placed on the bench to distribute justice!² The Lord threatened to treat him like a Scoundrel for declining the Challenge—the brave Magistrate declared in print that he would take care to keep out of his Lordship's way.

[Another of his Majesty's Judges, or Justices of Police, was Cosmo Gordon, a young Officer, who being detected of writing Scandalous libels on several Women of the first quality in the morning post, that vehicle of abuse written by a Clergyman³ in the pay of our pious monarch, & being obliged to leave England, *was taken care of* in his native country.]⁴ This was a mistake: It was another Cosmo Gordon that was made a Judge:⁵ the libeller Cosmo went to America, where he was tried for cowardice, and was acquitted, by the death of the Witnesses who saw him hidden in a ditch.

*Ansty*⁶ Author of the Bath Guide, & of many other pieces that were as devoid of wit, humour, sense, common sense & poetry, as the Bath Guide was replete with all, and one of the most original pieces that ever appeared.

Pownall's

¹ See above, note on v. 95 of *Heroic Epistle*, p. 64, n. 4. Dalrymple in 1778 published *Three Letters to the Rt. Hon. Visct. Barrington*.

² He was appointed a Baron of the Exchequer of Scotland in 1776.

³ Rev. Henry Bate (1745–1824); afterwards (1813) Sir Henry Bate Dudley, Bt.

⁴ The passage in square brackets has been scored through in the original, and the correction inserted by Walpole in a later hand.

⁵ A Cosmo Gordon was a Baron of the Exchequer of Scotland, 1777–1801.

⁶ v. 20. Christopher Anstey (1724–1805), published his *New Bath Guide* in 1766.

Pownall's praise] ¹ Thomas Pownall, formerly Governor of New England, He was a very weak Man, but pretended to learning & knowledge of various or of all forts; and was alternately & frequently a zealous Courtier or Opponent, till, or when, he could get nothing by the Former, & no credit with the Latter.

Sir Thomas] ² S^r Thomas Milles, a noisy Fellow, who lived at a vast expence without any visible means; but was supposed to be a natural Son of Lord Mansfield, & to be supported by him in that profusion.

Kenrick] ³ a Writer of plays & Magazines &c.

Priestly] D^r Priestly ⁴ & D^r Price ⁵ were two Dissenting Ministers, & Authors, attached to W. Petty Earl of Shelburne, ⁶ a well known Politician of this reign.

Enough of souls] The twenty lines in this page ⁷ are equal in strength & beauty to the most admired satirical passages in Dryden or Pope, & have the superior merit of being provoked by the infamy of the Subject, & not by any personal offence. The last line has the energy of a Proverb. ⁸

The

¹ v. 27. Thomas Pownall (1722-1805), Governor of Massachusetts, 1757-9; of South Carolina, 1759-60; M.P. for Tregony, 1767-74; for Minehead, 1774-80; published in 1764 his work on *The Administration of the Colonies*.

² v. 33. This identification is a mistake; see p. 105, n. *.

³ v. 43. William Kenrick (c. 1725-1779), a writer in the *Monthly Review*.

⁴ v. 51. Joseph Priestley (1733-1804), the well-known theologian and man of science; he was librarian to Lord Shelburne, 1772-80.

⁵ v. 63. Richard Price (1723-1791); he published in 1776 a pamphlet, *Observations on Civil Liberty and the Justice and Policy of the War with America*, in which he attacked Lord North's policy.

⁶ William Petty (1737-1805), 2nd Earl of Shelburne (1761); President of Board of Trade, 1762-3; Secretary of State for the South, 1766-8; Foreign Secretary, 1782; First Lord of the Treasury, 1782-83; created Marquis of Lansdowne, 1784.

⁷ vv. 52-71.

⁸ 'Courts prais'd by thee, are curs'd beyond her satire' (i.e. of Mason's muse).

The Brother Chiefs] ¹ Richard Viscount Howe ² & Sr William Howe ³ his Brother were the Commanding Admiral & General in America, & appointed Commissioners by Parliament for treating for Peace with the Congress—but returned without Success in either their civil or military Characters. It is well known that the War began about the Tax laid on Tea; & that the Americans began by tarring & feathering their Adversaries. It was about the same Æra that the English Ladies began to wear plumes of feathers.

Cocking George] ⁴ Colonel George Onslow, ⁵ nephew of the late Speaker of the House of Commons, ⁶ & nicknamed *Cocking George*. He had been a distinguished Whig, but became as notorious a Court-tool as his cousin George Lord Onslow, ⁷ the Speaker's Son. The Colonel declaimed in the House of Commons against the Heroic Epistle, & then earned this correction, & that proverbial line, 'To whip a post I ne'er will waste a thong'. ⁸

Archbishops] ⁹ Dr Markham ¹⁰ Archbishop of York printed a Sermon

¹ vv. 80-2, 86-91.

² Richard Howe (1726-1799), 4th Viscount Howe (1758), Admiral Commanding in Chief in America, and Joint Commissioner (with his brother) to the American Congress, 1776; created Earl Howe, 1782; famous later for his victory in command of the Channel Fleet over the French on 'the glorious first of June', 1794.

³ William Howe (1729-1814), 5th Viscount Howe (1799), in chief command of the forces in America, 1776-8. ⁴ v. 97. 'Cocking G-----' in text.

⁵ George Onslow (1731-1792), Lieut.-Colonel, 1759; M.P. for Guildford, 1760-84; at first a supporter of Rockingham, but afterwards of Grafton and North.

⁶ Arthur Onslow (1691-1768), Speaker, 1728-61.

⁷ George Onslow (1731-1814), M.P. for Rye, 1754-61; for Surrey, 1761-76; created Baron Cranley, and succeeded as 4th Baron Onslow, 1776; created Viscount Cranley, and Earl Onslow, 1801.

⁸ v. 99. It was the *Heroic Postscript*, not the *Heroic Epistle*, which Onslow attacked—see Macon's note on p. 108. ⁹ vv. 106-7.

¹⁰ William Markham (1719-1807), Dean of Rochester, 1765; Dean of Christ Church, 1767; Bishop of Chester, 1771; Archbishop of York, 1777.

mon against the Whigs full of such slavish principles that Lord Chatham censured it in the House of Lords; as did the Duke of Grafton, on which the Prelate, like Cardinals that headed armies, threw out a challenge.¹

genial hotbed]² the House of Commons.

Wet-nurse of tavern-waiters and Nabobs]³ Macreth⁴ a Waiter at the Club at Whites, Rumbold,⁵ another waiter at a Tavern, and enriched

¹ The sermon was preached in the parish Church of St. Mary-le-Bow, before the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, on Feb. 21, 1777. In reply to the attacks upon him in the House of Lords, by the Duke of Grafton and Lord Shelburne in the following May, Markham 'rose with most intemperate pride and fury, and said, that though as a Christian and bishop, he ought to bear wrongs, there were injuries that would provoke any patience, and that he, if insulted, *should know how to chastise any petulance*' (see Walpole's *Last Journals*, May 30, 1777; and letter to Macon, of June 10).

² v. 128.

³ v. 132.

⁴ Robert Mackreth (1726-1819), after serving as billiard-marker and waiter at White's, became proprietor of the Club on the death (1761) of Arthur, the original proprietor, whose daughter he married in the same year. Having amassed a fortune by speculating and money-lending, he was in October, 1774, nominated (with Wedderburn) by Walpole's nephew, Lord Orford (who was heavily in debt to him), for Castle Rising, for which he sat till 1784 (see Walpole to Mann, Oct. 22, and Nov. 24, 1774); from 1784 to 1802 he sat for Ashburton. He was knighted in 1795, and died in London in his 94th year. In his letter to Macon of Nov. 1, 1780, Walpole quotes the following epigram on Mackreth and another ex-waiter, Sir Thomas Rumbold, at that date Governor of Madras:

When Macreth serv'd in Arthur's crew,
He said to Rumbold, 'Black my Shoe',
To which he answer'd, 'Ay, Bob'.
But when return'd from India's land,
And grown too proud to brook command,
He sternly answer'd, 'Nay, Bob'.

⁵ Thomas Rumbold (1736-1791), whose alleged early employment as a waiter (see note 4) Walpole repeats in his letters to Mann and Macon of March 30, 1781, was son of an officer in the East India Company's service. He went to India as a writer

enriched in India, Sykes¹ who had been a Footman to Lord Vere,² & was returned thence still richer, were all members of Parliament.

Pringle]³ Sir John Pringle, M.D., President of the Royal Society.

true-blue]⁴ *True blue* was the colour affected by the Jacobites of the late reign, now the staunchest courtiers of the present.

poor Opposition wants a head]⁵ Very true—for it had only the Marquis of Rockingham's.⁶

Earl Nugent]⁷ Robert Nugent,⁸ an Irish Roman Catholic gentleman,

in the Company's service in 1752, but joined the army and served under Clive, whose A.D.C. he was at Plaffy, where he was severely wounded. He subsequently was member of the Bengal Council from 1766 to 1769, in which year, having made a large fortune, he returned to England. He was M.P. for New Shoreham, 1770-4, and in 1777 was appointed Governor of Madras, which post he resigned in 1780, having been made a Baronet in 1779. He was in Parliament again as M.P. for Yarmouth (I. of W.), 1781-4; and for Weymouth, 1784-90.

¹ Francis Sykes (1732-1804), went to India in 1749 and made a fortune in the East India Company's service. On his return to England he was M.P. for Shaftesbury, 1771-4, and 1780-4; and for Wallingford, 1784-1804. He was created a Baronet in 1781 (see Walpole's letters to Mann and Mason, of March 30, 1781).

² Lord Vere Beauclerk (1699-1781), third son of 1st Duke of St. Albans; created Baron Vere of Hanworth, 1750.

³ v. 134. See above, note on v. 84 of *Heroic Postscript*, p. 82, n. 9.

⁴ v. 147.

⁵ v. 151.

⁶ Charles Watson-Wentworth (1730-1782), 2nd Marquis of Rockingham (1750); he had been Prime Minister from July, 1765, to July, 1766; he was leader of the Opposition in the House of Lords, 1768-81, and was Prime Minister a second time from March, 1782, till his death in July of that year. On his conduct of the Opposition, see Walpole's letters to Mason of Feb. 17 and Oct. 5, 1777, in the latter of which he describes Rockingham and his party as 'the most timid set of time-serving triflers that ever existed'.

⁷ v. 168.

⁸ Robert Nugent (1702-1788); M.P. for St. Mawes, 1741-54; for Bristol, 1754-74; for St. Mawes again, 1774-84; Comptroller to Prince of Wales, 1747;

man, on marrying a rich English Widow turned Protestant, and wrote an Ode on his own conversion, so fine, & so far superior to everything he wrote ever after, that he was supposed to be assisted by Pope, Lord Chesterfield and Lord Bath. He came into Parliament & joined the Opposition against Sr R. Walpole: he then flattered Mr Pelham, but again turned to Opposition on being made Comptroller to the late Prince of Wales. In the present reign he became a zealous courtier & was created Viscount Clare & Earl Nugent. He was in general a noisy, vociferous & ridiculous Orator, but made a distinguished figure in the late reign on the bill for naturalization of foreign Protestants. He was at this time one of the Vice-Treasurers of Ireland.

pay Virry]¹ Count Virri,² Minister from Sardinia, negotiated the peace of Paris for Lord Bute with the Bailli de Solar,³ the Sardinian Minister at Paris—& for that shameful pacification, which we might have dictated, but chose to purchase of a little foreign Envoy, Count Virri received a pension on Ireland of 1000£ a year for one & thirty years!⁴

Vestal

Lord of Treasury, 1754-9; a Vice-Treasurer of Ireland, 1759-65, 1770-82; President of Board of Trade, 1766-8; created Baron Nugent, 1767; Viscount Clare, 1769; Earl Nugent, 1776 (all in the Peerage of Ireland). After his marriage with a wealthy widow (*née* Craggs) he assumed the name of Craggs; his marriage with a second wealthy widow (Dowager Countess of Berkeley) led Walpole to invent the term 'to Nugentize' for to marry a fortune-hunter (see letter to Mann of July 22, 1744).

¹ v. 173.

² Comte de Viri (formerly Baron de la Perrière) is said to have been originally a monk. He married in 1760 Henrietta Jane Speed, one of the heroines of Gray's *Long Story*, whom Gray was supposed to have been going to marry (see Walpole's letters to her, of 1776; and to Mann, of Sept. 18-19, 1777; and Walpole's notes).

³ He had previously been Sardinian Minister at Rome at the same time as the Duc de Choiseul was French Ambassador there, with whom he contracted a close friendship.

⁴ See Walpole's *Memoirs of George III*, ed. 1894, vol. i, p. 211.

Vestal Majesty] ¹ Caroline Queen of Denmark, ² the King's youngest Sister, on being convicted of Adultery & sent out of Denmark, resided at Zell, & had a pension of 5000£ on Ireland till She died.

Yankee] ³ nickname of the Royalists for the Americans.

Tax then] ⁴ 'Tax it, ye greedy Ministers, I cry.'—Cambridge's ⁵ *Soliloquy in an empty Assembly room.*

So when great Cox] ⁶ This is a literal description of part of the splendid Mechanism of Cox's Museum, which was a magnificent bauble that filled a very large Chamber, & was designed for the East Indies. It was a fortunate Toy as it gave birth to these charming lines, which are a far more brilliant piece of poetic Machinery than what it describes; nor perhaps was so difficult an enterprize ever atchieved in verse as this clear, concise, harmonious & humorous Description. When the justness of the Simile is added, it may be pronounced a Chef d'œuvre of Poetry; & it will be as difficult to match it, as it was to compose it.

¹ vv. 174-5.

² Caroline Matilda (1751-1775), posthumous daughter of Frederick, Prince of Wales; married (1766) Christian VII, King of Denmark; suspected of being the paramour of the King's German physician, Struensee, she was divorced (1772), and retired to Celle in Hanover, where she died, while Struensee, who had been arrested, was executed.

³ v. 193.

⁴ v. 196.

⁵ Richard Owen Cambridge (1717-1802), a contemporary of Walpole's at Eton, and subsequently his neighbour at Twickenham; he was author of the *Scribleriad*, a mock heroic poem in six books (1751), and other pieces, among them *An Elegy written in an empty Bath Assembly Room* (1756).

⁶ vv. 204-11.





Published June 1782 by C. Baskin

Sir Fletcher Norton
from caricature by James Sayer

O D E

TO SIR FLETCHER NORTON

IN IMITATION

O F

H O R A C E,

ODE VIII. BOOK IV.

O D E
 T O S I R F L E T C H E R N O R T O N
 I N I M I T A T I O N
 O F
 H O R A C E,
 O D E V I I I . B O O K I V .

MUSE! were we rich in land, or stocks
 We'd fend Sir Fletcher a gold box ;
 Who lately, to the world's surprize,
 Advif'd his Sovereign to be wife.
 The zeal of cits shou'd ne'er surpass us, 5
 We'd make him speaker of Parnassus.
 Or could I boast the mimic eye
 Of Townshend, or of Bunbury,
 Whose art can catch, in comic guise,
 * 'The manners living as they rise,' 10
 And find it the same easy thing
 To hit a † Jollux or a King ;
 I'd hangings weave, in fancy's loom,
 For Lady Norton's dressing room.

But

* From Pope's *Essay on Man*: 'And catch the manners living as they rise' (i. 14).

† A phrase used by the bon ton for a fat parson. See a set of excellent caricatures published by Bretherton, in New Bond-Street. M.

ODE TO SIR FLETCHER NORTON 125

But arts like these I don't pursue, 15
Nor does Sir Fletcher heed virtù.
Enough for me in these hard times,
When ev'ry thing is tax'd but rhymes,
To tag a few of these together ;
Tho' I am quite uncertain, whether 20
My verse will much rejoice the knight,
As great a store as I set by 't.
For verse, (I'd have Sir Fletcher know it)
When written by a genuine poet,
Has more of meaning and intent 25
Than modern acts of Parliament.
'Tis fit and right, when heroes die,
The nation should a tomb supply ;
Yet, not the votes of both the houses,
Without th' assistance of the muses, 30
Can give that permanence of fame
That heroes from their country claim.
And tell me pray, to our good King,
What fame our present broils can bring,
Ev'n should the Howes (which some folks doubt) 35
Put Washington to total rout,
Unless his * treasurer, in an ode,
Exalt the victor to a God.

A man,

* It is assured, that a reverfionary grant of the office of Laureat has in this instance been superadded to the treasurerfhip, yet with the defalcation

A man, I know, may get a pension,
 Without the muses intervention ; 40
 Yet what are pensions to the praise
 Wrapt up in Caledonian lays ?
 Say, Johnson ! where had been Fingal,
 But for Macpherfon's great assistance ?
 The chieftain had been nought at all, 45
 A non-existing non-existence.
 Mac, like a poet stout and good,
 First plung'd, then pluck'd him from oblivion's flood,
 And bad him bluster at his ease
 Among the fruitful Hebrides. 50
 A common poet can revive
 The man who once has been alive :
 But Mac revives, by magic power,
 The man who never lived before.
 Such *hocus-pocus* tricks, I own, 55
 Belong to Gallic bards alone.
 My muse would think her power enough,

Could

of the annual butt of sack, which the Lord Steward * calculates will be a considerable saving to the nation. M.

* *Lord Steward*] Earl Talbot, who suppressed many tables and perquisites of the royal household. *Walpole*.—On Talbot see above, Walpole's notes on vv. 88, 115 of *Heroic Epistle*, pp. 60, 66. In his letter to Montagu of May 25, 1762, Walpole relates the following *bon mot*, ascribed to Lord Chesterfield, relating to Lord Talbot's economies as Lord Steward : "The new peerages being mentioned, somebody said, "I suppose there will be no Duke made."—"Oh yes, there is to be one."—"Is? who?"—"Lord Talbot—he is to be created Duke Humphrey, and there is to be no table kept at court but his" (in allusion to the saying : 'to dine with Duke Humphrey', meaning to go without dinner).

ODE TO SIR FLETCHER NORTON 127

Could he make some folks fever-proof;
Dub them immortal from their birth
And give them all their Heaven on Earth, 60
Then Doctor K——, that broad divine,
With lords and dukes should ever dine;
Post, prate, and preach, for years on years,
And puff himself in Gazetteers.
Sandwich for aye, should shine the star, 65
Propitious to our naval war;
Caulk all our vessels' leaky sides,
And in the docks work double ti[d]es.
While Stormont, grac'd with ribband green,
Keeps France from mixing in the riot, 70
Till Britain's lion vents his spleen,
And tears his rebel whelps in quiet.

THE END.

[NOTES

[NOTES BY WALPOLE TO
ODE TO SIR FLETCHER NORTON¹]

To the World's surprize]² S^r Fletcher Norton³ was a Lawyer of great eminence but of a very bad Character,⁴ & for a long time employed by the Court in all its blackest manœuvres. Being disappointed of a peerage during the American War he made a bold remonstrance as Speaker of the House of Commons to the King on the throne in the House of Lords at the close of one Session.

Townshend and Bunbury]⁵ George Viscount Townshend⁶ was famous in the late reign for his caricatures, particularly of William Duke of Cumberland, Henry Fox Lord Holland, & his own Uncle Thomas Duke of Newcastle. Henry,⁷ brother of S^r Charles Bunbury,

¹ For date and full title of this piece, see above, p. 101.

² v. 2. ³ See above, Walpole's note on v. 122 of *Heroic Epistle*, p. 67.

⁴ In his *Memoirs of George III* (ed. 1894, vol. i, p. 189), Walpole says of him: 'It was known that in private causes he took money from both parties, and availed himself against one or other of them of the lights they had communicated to him.' Junius, in Letter 39, accuses him, in the words of Ben Jonson in *Volpone*, of 'giving forked counsel', and of 'taking gold on either hand'.

⁵ v. 8.

⁶ George Townshend (1724-1807), eldest son of 3rd Viscount Townshend; fought at Culloden, and as second in command to Wolfe at Quebec; succeeded as 4th Viscount, 1764; Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, 1767-72; created Marquis Townshend, 1786; Field-Marshal, 1796.

⁷ Henry William Bunbury (1750-1811); Walpole had a collection of his prints (see letter to Lady Ossory of July 13, 1776), and the original drawing of his

Bunbury,¹ is well known for his prints of humour and caricature ; but they are not political, but characteristic, & in the manner of & equal to Hogarth.

virtù]² the word is equivocal in this place.

that permanence of fame That heroes from their country claim]³ Walpole has erased this passage, and substituted : ‘ that permanence of glory That gilds the Heroes’ patriot story’. In a note he adds : Here were omitted by Almon the Printer the six following lines

What tho Earl Temple got a name
For making John the Painter peach
Himself ; for Bristol’s impious flame
Will future Jackalls of Jack Ketch
Be proud to call the Earl their Brother,
If fame that fair transaction smother ?⁴

Earl Temple⁵ after having had the honour of sharing the glory of Lord Chatham’s friendship & Administration, & after long ambitioning the post of first Lord of the Treasury, worn out with years

‘ Richmond Hill’, the gift of the artist. Bunbury’s wife was Catherine Horneck, Goldsmith’s ‘ Little Comedy’.

¹ Thomas Charles Bunbury (1740–1821), succeeded as 6th Baronet, 1764 ; married in 1762 Lady Sarah Lennox, whom he divorced in 1776. He was well known on the turf, and was owner of the first Derby winner.

² v. 16.

³ vv. 31–2.

⁴ These lines were inserted in the version of the *Ode* printed in *The New Foundling Hospital for Wit* (ed. 1786, vol. ii, p. 49) with the substitution of ‘ Peer’ for ‘ Earl’, and ‘ bright’ for ‘ fair’, in the last two.

⁵ Richard Grenville, afterwards Grenville-Temple (1711–1779), styled Viscount Cobham, 1749–52 ; succeeded his mother as 2nd Earl Temple, 1752 ; First Lord of the Admiralty, 1756–7 ; Lord Privy Seal, 1757–61 ; notorious for his political intrigue, and patronage of Wilkes which caused his dismissal from the Lord-Lieutenancy of Buckinghamshire in 1763.

years & debility, sunk in character and credit, yet ever restless, stooped to turn Informer to an Administration that he affected to treat with contempt, & to pay his court, employed a Tool to draw in and betray John the Painter,¹ the Incendiary of Bristol. Almon² had been a Tool of Lord Temple.

his Treasurer]³ Frederic Howard Earl of Carlisle,⁴ Treasurer of the Household, and Commissioner to America, published two or three little poems.

Say,

¹ James Aitken (1752-1777), house-painter of Edinburgh; he set fire to the rope-house in Portsmouth Dockyard in December, 1776, and in the next month succeeded in burning some warehouses in Bristol in an attempt to destroy the city and shipping; he was tried and hanged at Portsmouth in the following March. The part played by Temple is thus described by Walpole in his *Last Journals*, under March, 1777: 'The conviction of John the Painter was effected by a very unexpected actor, who, descending from a greater height than Lord Sandwich had done in the treachery to Wilkes, stooped to become the spy of a Ministry [Lord North's] whom he had long affected to treat with the utmost contempt. This was the old, decrepid Lord Temple, . . . who, exploded by all parties and factions, chose to purchase contemptuous smiles from the Court, and to indulge his late brother George's rancour to America, by turning informer and prompter to a treacherous spy. In short, he had sent down a dependent of his, a painter, to Winchester jail, to insinuate himself into the prisoner's confidence; and they succeeded, as far as hanging the man'—but failed to implicate Silas Deane, the agent in France for the revolted Colonies. (See also letter to Macon of Feb. 27, 1777.)

² John Almon (1737-1805), bookseller and printer in Piccadilly, friend of Wilkes.

³ v. 37.

⁴ Frederick Howard (1748-1825), 5th Earl of Carlisle (1758); Treasurer of the Household, 1777-9; Chief of the Commission to treat with the Americans, 1778-9, a mission which failed, as Walpole had predicted (see his letter to Macon of March 4, 1778); President of Board of Trade, 1779-80; Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, 1780-2; Lord Steward of the Household, 1782-3; Lord Privy Seal, 1783. He had printed privately in 1772 a slim 4to volume containing an *Ode on the Death of Gray*, a *Translation from Dante, Canto XXXIII* (the Ugolino episode), and two other pieces, which were afterwards published; and he subsequently published a tragedy and other poems.

Say, Johnson]¹ Dr Johnson in his journey to Scotland contests the authenticity of Ossian's poems.

Dr Kaye]² a Court-chaplain.

Stormont]³ David Murray, Viscount Stormont, nephew of the Earl of Mansfield, and Ambassador at Paris.

¹ v. 43. See above, Walpole's note on v. 29 of *Heroic Epistle*, p. 54.

² v. 61. 'K——' in text. Perhaps Dr. Richard Kaye, Prebendary of Southwell, 1774; of Durham, 1777.

³ v. 69. David Murray (1727-1796), 7th Viscount Stormont (1748); Envoy to Warsaw, 1756-61; Ambassador to Vienna, 1763-72; to Paris, 1772-8; K.T., 1768; Secretary of State for the Southern Province, 1779-82; Lord President of the Council, 1783, 1794-6. He succeeded his uncle as 2nd Earl of Mansfield in 1793.

' Beneath this date Walpole has added 'March 31st'. Such notes of Mason's own as have been retained are marked M. Unfigned notes are by the present Editor.

O D E
T O T H E
N A V A L O F F I C E R S
O F
G R E A T B R I T A I N.

WRITTEN, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIAL OF ADMIRAL
KEPPEL, FEBRUARY THE ELEVENTH, 1779.

BY W. MASON, M.A.

L O N D O N :

MDCCLXXIX.¹

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

THIS Ode was written at the time of its date, and a few manuscript copies of it then given to the Author's friends, with permission to circulate them among their acquaintance. A mode of publication which he adopted for the present, till an opportunity might offer itself of printing it in some future collection of his Poems ; in which he hoped (more out of respect to the subject than to himself) that it might be preserved, as long as anything he has written should merit preservation. But, since an inaccurate copy has lately stolen into a public newspaper ; he has thought proper to print a more correct edition of it, in this separate form. For, while the enemys of M^r Keppel seem to attack his cause with increasing virulence, it is surely right to continue the application of every honest antidote.

ODE

O D E
TO THE
NAVAL OFFICERS
OF
GREAT BRITAIN.

I. I.

HENCE to thy Hell! thou fiend accurst,
Of Sin's incestuous brood, the worst
Whom to pale Death the spectre bore :*
DETRACTION hence! 'tis Truth's command ;
She launches, from her seraph hand, 5
The shaft that strikes thee to th' infernal shore.
Old ENGLAND's Genius leads her on,
To vindicate his darling Son,
Whose

* Alluding to the well known allegory of Sin and Death in the second Book of Paradise Lost. M.

Whose fair, and veteran fame
 Thy venom'd tongue had dar'd defile : 10
 The Goddess comes, and all the isle
 Feels the warm influence of her heav'nly flame.

I. 2.

But chief in those, their country's pride,
 Ordain'd, with steady helm, to guide
 The floating bulwarks of her reign,
 It glows with unremitting ray,
 Bright as the orb that gives the day ; 5
 Corruption spreads her murky mist in vain ;
 To Virtue, Valour, Glory true,
 They keep their radiant prize in view
 Ambition's sterling aim ;
 They know that titles, stars, and strings, 10
 Bestow'd by Kings on slaves of Kings,
 Are light as air when weigh'd with honest fame.

I. 3.

Hireling courtiers, venal peers
 View them with fastidious frown,
 Yet the Muse's smile is theirs,
 Theirs the amaranthine crown.

Yes,

ODE TO NAVAL OFFICERS 137

Yes, gallant Train, on your unfullied brows, 5
She sees the genuine English spirit shine,
Warm from a heart where ancient Honour glows,
That scorns to bend the knee at Interest's shrine.
Lo ! at your Poet's call,
To give prophetic fervour to his strain, 10
Forth from the mighty bosom of the main
A Giant Deity ascends :
Down his broad breast his hoary honours fall ;
He wields the trident of th' Atlantic vast ;
An awful calm around his Pomp is cast, 15
O'er many a league the glassy sleep extends.
He speaks ; and distant Thunder, murmuring round,
In long-drawn volly rolls a symphony profound.

II. 1.

Ye Thunders cease ! the voice of Heav'n
Enough proclaims the Terrors given
To Me, the Spirit of the deep ;
Tempests are mine ; from shore to shore
I bid my billows when to roar, 5
Mine the wild whirlwind's desolating sweep.
But meek and placable I come
To deprecate Britannia's doom,

And snatch her from her fate ;
 Ev'n from herself I mean to save 10
 My sister sov'reign of the wave ;
 A voice immortal never warns too late.

II. 2.

Queen of the isles ! with empire crown'd,
 Only to spread fair Freedom round,
 Wide as my waves could waft thy name ;
 Why did thy cold reluctant heart
 Refuse that blessing to impart 5
 Deaf to great Nature's universal claim ?
 Why rush, through my indignant tide,
 To stain thy hands with parricide ?
 —Ah, answer not the strain !
 Thy wasted wealth, thy widows sighs, 10
 Thy half-repentant embassys,
 Bespeak thy cause unblest, thy councils vain.

II. 3.

Sister sov'reign of the wave !
 Turn from this ill-omen'd war :
 Turn to where the truly brave
 Will not blush thy wrath to bear ;

Swift

ODE TO NAVAL OFFICERS 139

Swift on th' insulting Gaul, thy native foe, 5
For he is Freedom's, let that wrath be hurl'd ;
To his perfidious ports direct thy prow,
Arm every bark, be every sail unfurl'd ;
Seize this triumphant hour,
When, bright as gold from the refining flame, 10
Flows the clear current of thy KEPPEL's fame.
Give to thy Hero's full command
Th' imperial Ensigns of thy naval power ;
So shall his own bold auspices prevail,
Nor Fraud's insidious wiles, nor Envy pale 15
Arrest the force of his victorious band.
The Gaul subdued, fraternal strife shall cease,
And firm, on Freedom's base, be fixt an Empire's Peace.

FINIS.

[NOTES BY WALPOLE TO
ODE TO NAVAL OFFICERS]

This noble Ode was occasioned by that most infamous Transaction the prosecution of Admiral Augustus Keppel¹ by his Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Palliser²—a transaction, in which the Earl of Sandwich³ was

¹ Hon. Augustus Keppel (1725-1786), second son of 2nd Earl of Albemarle; accompanied Anson on his voyage round the world, 1740-4; in command on North American Station, 1754-5; Rear-Admiral, 1762; Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty, 1765-6; Vice-Admiral, 1770; Admiral, Jan. 29, 1778; appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Fleet, March 22, 1778. The indecisive action with the French took place in July, the escape of the French fleet being due to Palliser's disobedience of Keppel's orders to join the line of battle. Keppel passed the matter over, but reflections on Palliser's conduct having appeared in the newspapers, he applied for a court-martial on Keppel on a charge of misconduct and neglect of duty. The trial, which took place at Portsmouth in Jan.—Feb. 1779, resulted in the triumphant acquittal of Keppel on Feb. 11 (see Walpole to Mann, Feb. 11 and 18, 1779). Keppel, who was First Lord of the Admiralty in 1782 and 1783, was created Viscount Keppel in 1782.

² Hugh Palliser (1723-1796), Governor and Commander-in-Chief at Newfoundland, 1764-6; Comptroller of the Navy, 1770-5; created a Baronet, 1773; Rear-Admiral, 1775; a Lord of the Admiralty, 1775-9; Vice-Admiral, 1778; Governor of Greenwich Hospital, 1780-96; Admiral, 1787. He was in command of the rear in the action of July.

³ Sandwich (see above, note on v. 125 of *Heroic Epistle*, p. 68), who was First Lord of the Admiralty from 1771 to 1782, when he was replaced by Keppel, had boasted in the House of Lords on Nov. 18, 1777, that 'there were thirty-five ships of the line completely manned and fit for sea at a moment's warning'; whereas Keppel declared that there were not more than six 'fit to meet a feaman's eye'.

was supposed to be deeply concerned—not without suspicions, that, to ruin Keppel, he had suggested the disobedience of Palliser; which prevented the Admiral from pursuing & destroying the French fleet. Admiral Keppel was in Opposition to the Court, & upon finding the bad condition of the Fleet, of which Lord Sandwich the preceding winter had given so notoriously false and exaggerated, nay, rhodomontade account in the House of Lords, had made a faithful representation of it, & remonstrance to the King against Lord Sandwich, first Lord & sole Director of the Admiralty. The Trial ended with the most complete glory to the Admiral that ever happened to any Seaman from the universal testimony of his whole Profession.

Detraction hence !] ¹ This is addressed to Sr Hugh Palliser, the Friend,² & Accuser of Admiral Keppel, who had suppressed and concealed his disobedience of orders in the fight off Ushant.

Corruption] ³ The Admirals & Officers of the fleet were the only men of any Profession at this time who preserved their Virtue immaculate, & braved all the arts and temptations of the Court.

Hireling Courtiers] ⁴ Jenkinson,⁵ the King's favourite Agent, openly at the Archbishop of York's⁶ public Dinner, made an Invective against Admiral Keppel for his conduct in the fight off Ushant.

A Giant Deity] ⁷ This sublime Image resembles the celebrated Apparition of the Promontory of the Cape in the *Lusiad* of Camoens,

¹ St. I. i. 4.

² See Walpole's *Last Journals*, Dec. 11, 1778.

³ St. I. ii. 6.

⁴ St. I. iii. 1.

⁵ See above, Walpole's note on v. 66 of *Heroic Postscript*, p. 81.

⁶ William Markham, translated from Chester in Jan. 1777 (see above, note on v. 107 of *Epistle to Shebbeare*, p. 118); on this incident, see *Last Journals*, Dec. 7, 1778. For Walpole's opinion of 'Archbishop Turpin', see letter to Mason of Jan. 10, 1777.

⁷ St. I. iii. 12.

Camoens,¹ but is divested of the bombast that accompanies the Spectre in the Portuguese Poet.

Thy half-repentant embassies]² alludes to the offers by the Commissioners to the Congress, & to Lord George Germaine's³ subsequent declaration that the Administration thought itself absolved from adhering to those terms by the refusal of the Americans to accept them.

¹ The passage in question occurs in the fifth Book (ll. 326 ff. in Mickle's translation):

Rising through the darken'd air,
Appall'd we saw a hideous phantom glare:
High and enormous o'er the flood he tower'd
And thwart our way with fullen aspect lowr'd.

* * * * *

In me behold, he cried,
While dark-red sparkles from his eyeballs roll'd,
In me the spirit of the Cape behold,
That rock by you the Cape of Tempests named,
By Neptune's rage in horrid earthquakes framed,
When Jove's red bolts o'er Titan's offspring flamed.'

² St. II. ii. 12.

³ Secretary of State for the Colonies, 1775-82 (see above, Walpole's note on v. 61 of *Ode to Pinchbeck*, p. 98).

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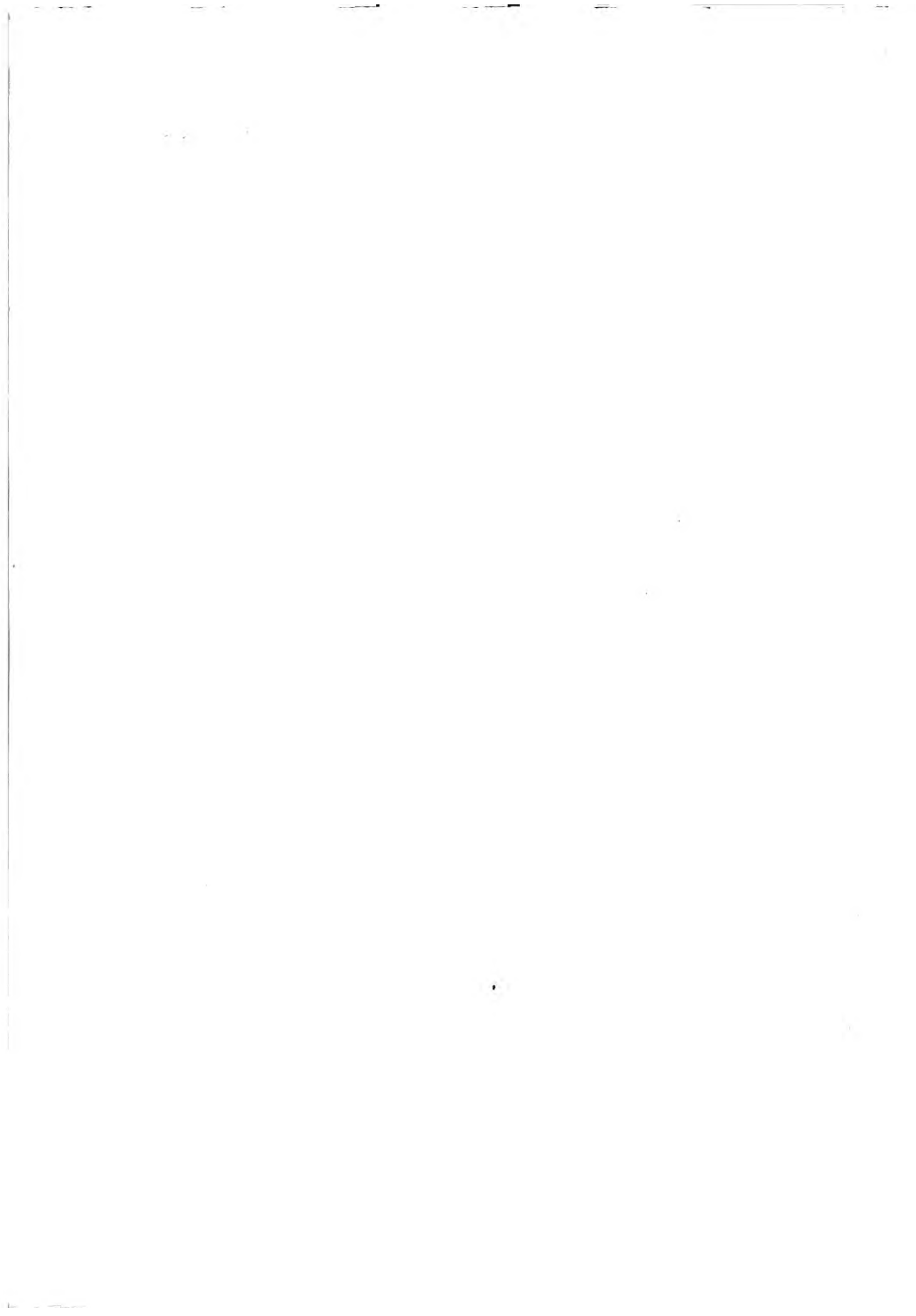
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