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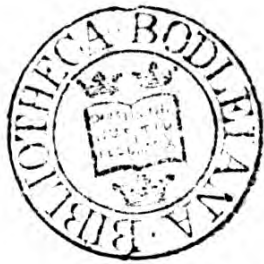
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A
T O U R
F R O M
O X F O R D
T O
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE,
I N T H E
Long Vacation of the Year 1791.

By JOHN BRIGGS, Porter of UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

I N A L E T T E R

To the Rev. Mr. H A L E, of KERBY RAVENSWORTH,
near RICHMOND in the County of YORK.



T O T H E

Rev. Mr. HALE, at Kerby Ravensworth,

N E A R

Richmond in the County of York.

S I R,

I beg leave to address you with the particulars of my journey into the North, and at the same time to acknowledge the many favours conferred upon me in the journey, and the presents made me previous thereto, amounting to more than twelve guineas.

On the 19th day of July, 1791, I set off from University College in Oxford, for the Reverend Mr. Walker's at Whichford, in the County of Warwick, twenty-two miles, where I slept that night. The next day I went to Stratford, eighteen miles, and called upon Dr. Bree, who was gone to a wedding dinner. Next morning I waited on him, and stayed with him

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about

about an hour; he made very great enquiry about the College, and who was last year's Bursar.

After the Doctor had satisfied himself with every enquiry he had to make, I left him, and set out for Midford Grange, to the Reverend Mr. Hollioake's, who was not at home. I stayed the greatest part of the day there; it is a very pleasant place, a fine Fishery, and every thing very neat. I returned to Stratford, to and fro, fourteen miles. Next morning I set forward for Warwick, eight miles, to Wroxton, six miles, where Mr. Wren's father formerly dwelt. Mr. Wren, jun. being removed to Tamworth, near Henley in Arden, ten miles across the country, there I set out with pleasure; arrived safe, slept there that night, and dined with Mr. Wren the next day; it is a very pleasant place; he behaved extremely civil, and desired me to come that way back. In the afternoon I set off for Coventry, near twenty miles, where I saw Peeping Tom; I stayed there the next day, Sunday the
24th,

24th, and dined with Mr. Barnard; we had a fillet of veal, a gammon of bacon, a currant pye, potatoes, colliflower, &c.

The next morning I set out for Leicester Grange, thirteen miles, and called at Mr. Forster's to see Mr. Forster junior, who was not in the country. Mr. Forster senior, who is about sixty years of age, was lately married to a young lady of the age of twenty-two years, the third wife; I made a short stay there. I then went to Colcutt, six miles, and called at Mr. Fisher's, where I slept that night, and continued part of the next morning, during which time Mr. Fisher shewed me all his rich pasture and meadow grounds, and cattle of various kinds, and every thing else in abundance. It is a noble mansion and gardens, with a fine Fishery and every thing pleasant and agreeable.

Then I set off for Leicester, nineteen miles; supped at Dr. Bree's, slept at the White Bear Inn, and breakfasted with the Doctor next morning. It rained very hard,

and the Doctor said I should not go till it was over; I should stop and have some roast beef, and Leicestershire ale before I set out. The weather cleared up about twelve at noon, then I set off for Loughborough, eleven miles; where I stopt a proper time; then went forward to Derby, 17 miles, and slept at the Angel Inn.

Next morning I had my horse shod and set forward for Chesterfield, twenty-three miles; that was the second night of the riot at Sheffield, therefore I thought it prudent to stop there.

The next morning I went for Sheffield, and found the riot abated; stopt at the Angel for refreshment, and then set off peaceably to a village six miles short of Pontefract, and two miles from Ferry Bridge, where I breakfasted; then went to York, twenty-two miles, and from thence to Heslington, two miles further, to Mr. Yarburgh's, where I stopt two days and nights; he treated me with every respect I could wish for or desire. On Monday the first of August I went to Mr.
Allen's

Allen's senior at Overton, about six miles, where I also stayed two days and nights, and was most agreeably entertained. Mr. Allen then went with me to his son's at Newton, four miles, who is a Fellow of the College; he was very glad to see me. I stayed there that night, and was entertained extremely well. Mr. Allen said, he should be very happy to see any of the Fellows, if they came that way. The house is extremely well furnished, very neat and clean.

I travelled through the Linton Estate to York Gate, an Inn upon the road, about eighteen miles from Overton; thence to Caterick, through Leeming Lane, fifteen miles, where my horse tumbled down neck and heels, and broke one knee. There I slept that night. The next morning I went to Richmond, five miles; then to Dolton, seven miles, where I arrived on Friday the fifth of August; that was the end of my journey, and I turned my horse to graze for thirteen days in Mr. Heslop's pasture ground gratis,

and received many other favours from that family.

The next day after my arrival I walked to Ravensworth, to and fro, three miles.

On Sunday the 7th I walked to Melsonby, about seven miles, to the Reverend Mr. Swire's, where I stayed two days and a night. Mr. Swire shewed me his house, gardens, and buildings of all kinds; the house is altered very much; stables and out-houses convenient; he is esteemed and well respected by all his neighbours. Then I walked to Richmond, to and fro, fourteen miles; the remainder of that week I spent with my friends.

On Sunday the 14th I went to Kirby Church; Mr. Scott, late of Queen's College, has the living; the Bishop of Chester gave it him: he is respected by his parishioners. On Tuesday the 16th, I walked to Barnard Castle, and returned on Wednesday, to and fro sixteen miles.

On Thursday the 18th, I set out for Newcastle, twelve miles, to Mr. Wiseman's, and nineteen miles from thence to Durham,

ham, where I staid all night; the next morning I laid before him two small bills for debts which his son contracted in Oxford, and they were very readily paid: he behaved vastly well.

I set forward for Mr. Reay's at Burn Hall, near Durham; that afternoon the family went to Newcastle, it being the affize week. I stopt at an Inn upon the road, about a mile short of Durham, where I slept that night. The next morning, Saturday the 20th, I set forward through Durham to Newcastle, fifteen miles, where I arrived at Mr. Ward's. I spent a week there, and my horse was taken proper care of; during which time I went to Mr. Surtee's, at Benwell, a very pleasant place, to and from, six miles, where more respect was shewn me than I can exprefs.

On my return to Newcastle, I had the pleasure to see Mr. Burden. I dined at the Bank, and was agreeably entertained.

On the Friday I went to the Reverend Mr. Ridley's at Wall's End, a very pleasant

fant house, gardens, and fishpond; to and from six miles. I saw a coal pit there one hundred fathom deep; the corf went down and up in two minutes, by a steam engine, and brought up twenty-four pecks of coal. Mr. Ridley behaved extremely well, and whose feat is the pleafantest in all my journey. I returned from hence to Newcastle on Friday the 26th. This place abounds with every thing in abundance, and here I met with the most kind behaviour, agreeable company, and generous entertainment that could be conferred upon any person.

After spending a week there, on the Saturday I went to Chester, nine miles; next morning I went to Sunderland, ten miles, to Mr. Beckworth's at Hendon Lodge, where I dined; then I called on Mr. Abbs and drank tea. Mr. Abbs, senior and junior, took a walk and shewed me the sea and shipping, and every thing that was to be seen.

I returned that night to Hendon Lodge, and the next morning I set forward to
Hawton

Hawton le Spring, to Mr. Griffith, who was gone to Harrogate. I stopt about half an hour with Mrs. Griffith, who behaved very civil. Then I set forward to Durham, thirteen miles; dined there, then went to Bishops Auckland, ten miles, and slept at the Dolphin Inn there that night.

The next morning I went to West Auckland, three miles, to call upon Mr. Reay's Butler, where I stopt about two hours. Then I set out for Barnard Castle, twelve miles, where I saw Cuddy Hilton's Chapel, upon the bridge across the river Tees, where he married many couples; and the last two couple were married for three shillings, which was all the money they had. I stayed there two nights, and then returned to Dolton, eight miles.

On Wednesday I went to Richmond Races, seven miles. Thursday a little further, three miles, and that evening returned to Dolton.

On Saturday I went to Richmond, and called upon the Reverend Mr. Temple,
 who

who said he should send a gentleman to College soon; where I met Mr. Ellerton, senior, and went with him to Downham, four miles; stopt all night, and was treated with the greatest respect.

The next day, Sunday the 27th, I went to Church with Mr. Ellerton, and stayed to dinner. We had great variety, and famous puddings, a good tap, and after dinner a bottle of good old Port. Mr. Ellerton, junior, was so obliging as to set me more than three miles from Downham, where there are fine valleys and the river Swale. I past by Mask-Hall, where there is a curious conveyance of water by a wheel. Then I made for Dolton, six miles, where I had many friends waiting to bid me farewell.

On the twelfth of September I set forward for Oxford; the first stage to Cate-
rick, twelve miles; to York Gate fifteen
miles, where I slept that night. The next
morning to Ripley, twelve miles; break-
fasted at the Star Inn. Then to Harro-
gate, four miles; called on Mr. Griffith,
dined

dined at the Queen's Head there. Mr. Griffith behaved with his usual good nature. I travelled on to Kettlefing's Head, five miles, where I slept.

The next morning I went to Bolton Abbey, twelve miles, the seat of the Duke of Devonshire, and called on the Reverend Mr. William Carr, who has the living. Four ladies in one week died, and were buried at this place, whose ages together made four hundred and three years. I dined there; he shewed me the house and gardens, and the old Abbey, a fine ruin; the house very clean and neat, the neighbourhood beautiful, and abounds with woods and fine prospects; he behaved with the greatest civility, and desired his best respects to all the Members of the College. From thence I went to Skipton, six miles, to see Mr. Richard Carr, where I stayed all night, and was treated with the greatest respect: he has a very pleasant house, the pleasure ground almost equal to Mr. Ridley's; he was so very obliging as to take a ride with me the next morning to Sutton, five miles,

to

to call on Mr. Marsden, who was remarkably civil. From thence we went to Keighley, five miles further, then parted.

I proceeded to Hallifax, 11 miles; from thence to Ripplingdon, seven miles, where I slept that night. The next morning to Rochdale, 11 miles, where I spent two days and nights at Mr. Holland's, by whom I was treated with the greatest respect, and was agreeably surprized to see Mr. and Mrs. Parker; they were at Mr. Amer's.—I rode to Bury to see a College Servant, to and fro fourteen miles.

Sunday morning the 18th, it was rainy; but after it ceased raining, I took Bury in my way, seven miles. About a mile from thence I called upon Mr. Starkey, who treated me with a bottle of good old Port, and a tankard of October divine. I then proceeded to Manchester, nine miles, and slept at the Spread Eagle.

On Monday I went to Winflow, twelve miles, breakfasted there; then to Congleton, 12 miles, dined there; then to Talk on the Hill, seven miles, and slept there. Tuesday morning to Newcastle under Lyne,
five

five miles; then to Eccleshall, 12 miles, dined there; to Newport, nine miles, and slept at the Bell. Next morning to the Reverend Mr. Heath's, near Sheffnall, eight miles, where I spent the day and night, and was well entertained; and here I saw Mr. Carless, who behaved vastly well. The next morning I set forward to the Reverend Mr. Tindall's, at Wolverhampton, 13 miles, dined and slept there, and was treated with the greatest civility.

The next morning, Friday, I set forward to Stourbridge, 10 miles, breakfasted there; then to Worcester, 23 miles; slept there at the Crown. Saturday the 24th, I breakfasted at the Reverend Mr. Davis's, who received me very kindly. In the afternoon I travelled to Evesham, 16 miles; slept there. Next morning I went to Mrs. Horne's, at Broadwell, near Stowe, 13 miles, where I met with a very kind reception. Monday morning the 26th of September, I set forward from Broadwell for Woodstock, upwards of 20 miles, to meet the College Servants at the Star Inn at that place; but before I reached Woodstock

16 A TOUR FROM OXFORD, &c.

stock I was very agreeably surprized by meeting Mrs. Briggs and my daughter in a chaise. At the Star Inn I found the College Servants, which was about ten minutes before one o'clock, and which appointment to meet them I made at Barnard Castle, 240 miles distant from Oxford. In the evening I rode my horse from Woodstock, and arrived at Univerfity College on Monday the 26th of September, which gave me an enlivening glympfe of fatisfaction.

And am, Reverend Sir,

Your much obliged,

And devoted humble fervant,

JOHN BRIGGS.

Number of miles in the whole journey 783.