

rectories of Dunyon and Drommelde, in the Fews, the impropriate rectory of ——— and Foisroilick, in the Reuts; the tythes of Templemtraghe, near Glenarm, and Kilkran, in Island Magee. This Priory, with its appurtenances, was granted by James I. to Sir Arthur Chichester. At present its site can scarcely be traced.

Continuing our journey, we entered Conuor, alias, Coinoire; a mean

village, but formerly a place of considerable importance. On our left we observed the ruins of its ancient cathedral, which appeared to be in the last stage of decay, as but a few fragments were standing; which, with some old trees adjoining, presented a picture really worthy of the pencil. Near it is the modern Cathedral, so very mean, that it might be mistaken for a barn.

(*To be continued.*)

---

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

---

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF THE LATE JOHN HORNE TOOKE, ESQ. M.A. &c. &c. &c.

*From the London Monthly Magazine.*

“Ultimus Romanorum.”

AFTER the period of the Emperors, when tyranny had checked and obstructed the progress of the human mind, it was customary to term every great man, who had been born during the time, and witnessed the splendour of the commonwealth, THE LAST OF THE ROMANS. This appellation, perhaps, is not strictly applicable, in this point of view, to the subject of the present memoir, because it is to be hoped that the love of liberty is not yet wholly extinguished among us: but surely he is entitled to be termed *the last of the old English school*; of that sturdy and intelligent race of men, whose fathers had beheld the accession of the House of Brunswick, and whose more remote progenitors had contemplated with delight, and perhaps taken an active part in, the revolution.

John Horne, of late years better

known by the *addendum* of Tooke,\* and born in 1736, was the youngest son of a respectable tradesman in Westminster. While yet a boy, he exhibited many proofs of that intellectual sagacity, for which he became so eminently distinguished in future life. It was the earnest wish of his parents to make a scholar of their darling child, and for this purpose he was sent both to Eton and Westminster. After obtaining the elements of a classical education at these celebrated seminaries, he repaired to Cambridge about the 18th year of his age, and was entered of St. John's College. A profession being of course necessary, he was destined for the church. His studies were accordingly directed to divinity, and he applied himself to this pursuit bare-

---

\* The late Mr. Tooke, of Purley, in Surrey, whose name was assumed, at his own reiterated request, by Mr. Horne, promised that he should be his sole heir. Only a small portion of his fortune, however, accrued to the subject of this memoir, who was teased and tormented during the latter part of his life by a law-suit with one of his nephews, against whom, however, a final decree in Chancery was at length obtained, but a few months before his demise.

ly with that degree of application which is necessary to escape censure: for it never appears to have been a favourite one. His first appearance in public was when he presented himself before the university as a candidate for the degree of Master of Arts; and it is not a little memorable, that, on this as on all future occasions, he was opposed, and had both to struggle and to contend for the object of his wishes.

Mr. Horne's only preferment was the chapelry of New Brentford. He resided there for some years in quality of vicar, and it was then that he laid the foundation of his future fame, by severe application and intense study. It was about this period too that he first enjoyed the opportunity of seeing foreign countries, and beholding the manners, customs, and pursuits, of the various nations on the continent.

On his return he was taught to expect preferment, in consequence of the interposition of some persons at court; but he had now become a politician, in consequence of the long and interesting struggle which took place relative to certain political topics; and from that moment not only were all the avenues of public favour shut to him, but he himself seems to have had but little inclination to retain the gown which he then wore. He had seen and become acquainted with Mr. Wilkes while at Paris, and, on their return to England, an intimacy, which had commenced on public principles, was renewed, and for a while increased, to the pleasure of both, and the decided advantage at least of *one* of the parties.

Mr. Wilkes was at this period the object of ministerial persecution; for a most unjust attempt had been made and persevered in to ruin this celebrated individual, although this could not be effected without a fatal

wound to the laws and constitution of the land which had given him birth. This gave rise to the question of General Warrants, by a decision on which Chief Justice Pratt, afterwards Earl Camden, acquired great renown, and laid the foundation of the honours and fortunes of his family. The gentleman,\* to whom an allusion was so recently made, had been member for Aylesbury, in Buckinghamshire; and, rising in his pretensions in the exact ratio of his falling fortunes, he now offered himself a candidate for the first city in the empire. Foiled there, in 1768 he determined, with persevering audacity, to represent that county which contained the seat of the government and the laws, and actually succeeded! For this success he was chiefly indebted to Mr. Horne. The vicar of New Brentford was the first respectable person who advocated his interests; he was known throughout the county, and resided in the most populous portion of it. With great talents he united uncommon zeal and activity, he was accordingly indefatigable in his canvass and solicitations, and actually rode about, during many days and nights, for the express purpose of obtaining the suffrages of the freeholders. The success of his endeavours proved equally conspicuous and complete; and, to the surprise of all men, and the astonishment of the ministry, a person, bankrupt alike in fortune and character, was returned one of the Knights of the Shire for the county of Middlesex.

Unhappily, however, a rupture soon after took place between these two friends—*unhappily* I say—for it was assuredly disadvantageous to the common cause, and soon became a subject of triumph and congratulation to their common enemies! Con-

---

\* Mr. Wilkes.

sidered personally, in respect to Mr. Tooke, the contest was honourable; for he maintained, that the numerous subscriptions set on foot, should not be lavished on Mr. Wilkes alone, but applied to the support of all who had suffered in the contest. This gave birth to a correspondence, bitter, intemperate, and sarcastic, in no common degree; and the following passage, extracted from a letter penned by Mr. Horne, three years after the general election, and never since disproved, as to a single tittle of the facts, will convey some idea of the *merits* of one party, and the gratitude of the other:

“I found you (Mr. Wilkes) in the most hopeless state: an outlaw, plunged in the deepest distress, and shunned by every thing that called itself a gentleman, at a time when every honest man who could distinguish between you and your cause, and feared no danger, yet feared the ridicule attending a propable defeat.

“Happily we succeeded, and I leave you, by repeated elections, the legal representative of Middlesex, an alderman of London, and about thirty thousand pounds richer than when I first knew you; myself by many degrees poorer than I was before; and I pretend to have been a little instrumental in all these changes in your situation. I am your friend only,” adds he, in another place, “only for the sake of the public cause: that reason does in certain matters remain; so far as it remains so far am I still your friend; and therefore I said, in my first letter, the public should know how far they *ought* and how far they *ought not* to support you!

“To bring to punishment the great delinquents who have corrupted the parliaments and the seats of justice, who have encouraged, pardoned, and rewarded murder: to heal the breach-

es made in the constitution, and by salutary provisions to prevent them for the future: to replace once more, not the administration and execution, for which they are very unfit, but the checks of government really in the hands of the governed.

“For these causes, if it were possible to suppose that the great enemy of mankind could be rendered instrumental to their happiness, so far the devil himself should be supported by the people. For a human instrument they should go further; he should not only be supported, but thanked and rewarded, for the good which perhaps he did not intend, as an encouragement for others to follow his example. But, if the foul fiend, having gained their support, should endeavour to delude the weaker part, and entice them to an idolatrous worship of himself, by persuading them that what he suggested was *their voice—and their voice the voice of God.*

“If he should attempt to obstruct every thing that leads to their security and happiness, and promote every wickedness that tends only to his own emolument.

“If, when the cause—the cause—reverberates on their ears, he should divert them from their original sound, and direct them towards the opposite unfaithful echo—

“If confusion should be all his aim, and mischief his sole enjoyment, would not he act the part of a faithful monitor to the people, who should save them from their snares, by reminding them of their constitutional worship, expressed in these words of holy writ (for to me it is so), *Rex, lex loquens, Lex, rex nitus.* This is—the cause—the cause—To make this union indissoluble is the only cause I acknowledge. As far as the support of Mr. Wilkes tends to this point, I am as warm as the warmest: but all the lines of your pro-

jects are drawn towards a different centre—yourself; and if, with a good intention, I have been diligent to gain you powers which may be perverted to mischief, I am bound to be doubly diligent to prevent their being so employed.”

Soon after this, a phenomenon, both literary and political, appeared above the horizon, and attracted the curiosity, the remarks, and the animadversions, of all men. This was Junius, who commenced his career with a letter to the printer of the *Public Advertiser*, in which he attacked every member of the administration by name, and painted all the acts of the executive government in the most dismal colouring. He then specified the valor, pretended malversations, of the commander-in-chief; after which he commenced a series of *Phillipics* against the late Duke of Grafton, which for a long while exposed that nobleman, not only to the derision, but also to the hatred of the public. It was in the beginning of July, 1771, that, towards the conclusion of a letter to that nobleman, he first mentioned the name of Mr. Horne; and while he described him as a man of considerable influence in the city, he at the same time assailed him with such virulence, as to render a reply absolutely necessary. This gave birth to a very memorable correspondence, which called forth all the powers of Mr. Horne's mind, and exhibited him in a new point of view to the public. A contest between two great masters of the literary art fixed for a while the attention of all; each had his respective partizans; but it was generally allowed that the “*Brentford Parson*,” as he was then denominated, appeared to be the only adversary worthy to contend with this celebrated writer, and the only one in fact who had ever been able for a moment to enter the lists with him without sustaining

a signal defeat. There were some indeed who asserted, that in the subject of this memoir, he had found not a common rival, but a superior genius, who, after chastizing, had for a while reduced him to silence.\*

By this time, Mr. Horne had taken a decided resolution to engage in those studies, for which he was so eminently qualified, both by nature and education. For a considerable period his name had been entered on the register of the society of the Inner Temple, where he was regular in his attendance during term time. No man was ever better qualified for the profession, both in point of learning and research. He possessed that peculiar style which was fitted for a grave argument, and could, when he pleased, either exhibit a light pleasing raillery, or shewer down nosebiting and sarcastic replications, supposed to be so peculiarly advantageous in an address to a jury.

Meanwhile a great and portentous event threatened the whole empire with ruin and dismay. This was the contest with America, which, although some considered it as a light and trivial dispute, was already viewed by others with an eye of horror and suspicion. Of this number was Mr. Horne, who immediately entered the field of battle, both as a politician and a man of letters. He considered the measures that led to this unhappy war as unjust in themselves, at the same time they were impolitic in the extreme. On the other hand, he praised that daring spirit which began to display itself universally throughout the Trans-Atlantic continent, not in the light of rebellion, but as a constitutional and even a just and legal resistance to oppression.

---

\* Every intelligent reader remembers the attack made on Mr. Horne by Junius, and the able reply of the former.

Contemplating the contest in this point of view, it is but little wonder that the affair at Lexington, which proved to be the first spot where *kindred blood* was shed, should be execrated as exceedingly criminal on the part of the government of this country. Accordingly, he took a public and singular opportunity to exhibit his resentment and disapprobation, by opening a subscription, and advertising in the newspapers, that it was intended for the relief of our unfortunate brethren in America, "basely murdered by the king's troops." For this he was prosecuted by Mr. Thurlow, his Majesty's Attorney-General, and sentenced to imprisonment in the King's Bench. During his confinement in that jail, he began, for the first time, to feel the approaches of disease. It was there too, that he composed, and we believe published, his celebrated Letter to Mr. Dunning; which gave birth to the "Diversion of Parley," and thus laid the foundation of his extensive reputation as a philologist.

Although precluded from the church by his own voluntary resignation of the chapelry of New Brentford, and from the bar, in consequence of a vote of the Society of the Inner Temple, under the ridiculous and exploded pretext of his being a priest; yet it soon appeared that he still possessed considerable influence in his native country. This circumstance became conspicuously evident at the close of the American contest; for at that period his support was courted by Mr. Pitt, then bursting into notice; and it is an undoubted fact, that he served that gentleman most essentially, by rendering the coalition between Lord North and Mr. Fox, odious in the extreme. In 1790, he himself suddenly started as a candidate for a seat in parliament, and being by this time convinced that Mr. Pitt's professions were not sincere, and that Mr. Fox

BELFAST MAG. NO. XLVI.

had long since forfeited all claim to support, in his address to the electors, he loudly condemned "the junction of two contending parties, in order to seize with an irresistible hand, the representation of the city of Westminster.—" I do not solicit your favor," adds he, "but I invite you, and afford you an opportunity to do yourselves justice, and to give me an example (which was never more necessary) against the prevailing and obstructive spirit of personal party, which has nearly extinguished all national and public principle. The enormous sum expended, and the infamous practices at the two last elections for Westminster—open bribery, violence, murder, with the scandalous chicane of a tedious, unfinished, ineffectual, scrutiny, and a tedious, unfinished, and ineffectual, petition—are too flagrant and notorious to be denied or palliated by either party; and the only refuge of each has been, to shift the criminality upon the other. Upon whom and how will they shift off the criminality, equally heavy on them both, that neither of them has made even the smallest attempt, by an easy, parliamentary, and constitutional method, to prevent the repetition of such practices in future?"

"If the revenue is threatened to be defrauded in the smallest article, law upon law, and statute upon statute, are framed from session to session, without delay or intermission. No right of the subject, however sacred, but must give way to revenue. The country swarms with excisemen and informers to protect it. Conviction is sure, summary, speedy;—the punishment, outlawry and death. Where, amongst all their hideous volumes of taxes and penalties, can we find one solitary, single statute, to guard the rights of representation in the people, upon which all the right of taxation depends?"

"Your late representative, and your two present candidates, have  
b b b

between them given you a complete demonstration, that the rights of electors, (even in those few places where any election yet appears to remain) are left without protection, and their violation without redress. And, for a conduct like this, they who have never concurred in any measure for the public benefit, they who have never concurred in any means to secure to you a peaceable and fair representation; after all their hostilities, come forward hand in hand, with the same general and hacknied professions of devotion to your interest, unblushingly to demand your approbation and support! Gentlemen, throughout the history of the world, down to the present moment, all personal parties and factions have always been found dangerous to the liberties of every free people.

“Their coalitions, unless resisted and punished by the public, are certainly fatal. I may be mistaken, but I am firmly persuaded, that there still remains in this country, a public, both able and willing to teach its government, that it has other more important duties to perform, besides the levying of taxes, creation of peerages, compromising of counties, and arrangement of boroughs. With a perfect indifference for my own personal success, I give you this opportunity of commencing that lesson to those in administration, which it is high time they were taught. The fair and honourable expences of an election, (and of a petition too, if necessary,) I will bear with cheerfulness. And if, by your spirited exertions to do yourselves right, of which I entertain no doubt, I should be seated as your representative, whenever you shall think you have found some other person likely to perform the duties of that station more honestly and usefully to the country, it shall, without hesitation, be resigned by me, with much greater pleasure than it is now solicited.”

It is almost unnecessary to remark, that Mr. Tooke did not, on this occasion, prove the successful candidate. He however exerted himself with his usual energy, and polled a respectable number of votes. He also discharged all demands upon him, with the most scrupulous exactitude, and conducted himself, throughout the whole transaction, with such spirit, ability, and integrity, as to excite the applause, even of his enemies. After the contest was finished, he presented a petition to the House of Commons, which is undoubtedly, in every point of view, the most singular and interesting that has ever been inserted in the Votes of that assembly. In this very memorable and extraordinary memorial, the House, for the first time, is reminded, publicly and openly, of the corruption, then said to prevail within its bosom. The members are told, that seats have obtained an average price in the proceedings in chancery, and that representation had become a marketable commodity. Notwithstanding the contents of the petition, to the credit of the House, it was received, although not without animadversion; but Mr. Fox and Lord Hood were finally declared the sitting members.

Not at all daunted with the result, Mr. Tooke soon after declared himself once more a candidate, in opposition to Mr. Fox and Admiral Sir Alexander, afterwards Lord, Gardener. Although, by this time, the former had distinguished himself by a manly, but unsuccessful, opposition, to the measures of the then premier, Mr. Pitt, yet this only produced a few complimentary acknowledgments from the hustings: for Mr. Tooke was firm and resolved in his purpose. A new defeat was followed by a new petition, which, having been declared “frivolous and vexatious,” Mr. Fox brought an action for 198l. 2s. 2d. being the precise

amount of the damages accruing from the above appeal. After a long, able, and masterly, speech from Mr. Tooke, who on this occasion was his own counsellor, notwithstanding the charge from the bench was decisively against him, yet the jury chose to withdraw, and it was not until after an interval of more than four hours, that they agreed in a verdict for the plaintiff.

The French revolution formed a new era, not only in the history of Europe, but of England. Mr. Pitt, who was still minister, on this occasion displayed his usual *energy*; the Habeas Corpus Act was suspended; the Tower was fortified, and a convulsion immediately expected. To give a colouring to what was to follow the press was employed to denounce both crimes and criminals, while suspicion, terror, and distrust, became "the order of the day." The vengeance of the cabinet was, however, chiefly confined to the members of two distinguished institutions, the one denominated, "the London Corresponding Society," and the other "the Society for Constitutional Information." Many of these were suddenly arrested, and Mr. Tooke in particular was seized at his house at Wimbledon, his papers sealed up, and he himself committed a close prisoner.

On the 10th of September, 1794, a special commission was issued, and soon after opened at the Sessions'-house, Clerkenwell, by Sir James Eyre, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and Sir Archibald Macdonald, Chief Baron of the Exchequer. The former of these judges addressed the grand jury, in a long and able speech, and it was generally supposed, from the tenor of it, that some horrid plot, some secret treason, that involved the safety of the sovereign as well as the peace and tranquillity of the whole king-

dom, would be speedily developed. This, was in some measure, confirmed by the verdict of the grand jury, who found a "true bill," two days after, against all the parties accused, with an exception of one only, Mr. Thomas Lovett.

On the 25th of October, 1794, they were arraigned in the usual form, before Lord Chief Justice Eyre, and severally pleaded "not guilty" to the indictment, in which they were respectively charged with withdrawing their allegiance from our sovereign lord the King, with an endeavour to excite war and rebellion, alter the constitution, and depose the legitimate sovereign; with preparing and composing certain books, resolutions, &c. and causing the same to be published; and, lastly, with maliciously and traiterously procuring and providing arms, and offensive weapons, to wit, guns, muskets, pikes, axes, &c. to levy and wage rebellion and insurrection against our said lord the King, &c. &c. &c. Mr. Hardy was tried first and acquitted, after a long, tedious, and minute, investigation; but Mr. Hardy might not have been in *the secret*, and public expectation was now on the tiptoe, to learn the evidence, hear the crimes, and become acquainted with the defence of the only person comprehended in the indictment, who was supposed to have possessed influence enough to procure adherents to a plot, and art sufficient to form all the trammels of a conspiracy, calculated to endanger the state.

Mr. Tooke, on this as on all other occasions, distinguished himself by the superiority of his conduct, intrepidity, and understanding. He began first by claiming the right of sitting near his counsel, and he next interposed in behalf of the claims of such infirm gentlemen, as were incapable of undergoing the fatigues "of a long and tedious trial." Nor

was he mistaken, for the speech of the solicitor-general, descriptive of the plots and treasons in question, occupied several hours in the delivery. The books that were produced, the multitude of witnesses who were examined, the papers that were read, all tended greatly to procrastination, and produced a most painful suspense, harrassing to every person present, and of course doubly so to the prisoner.

Mr. Erskine (now Lord E.) defended the prisoner, in a most able and eloquent speech. He deprecated constructive and a similitive treasons, and maintained that the crime now charged, was matter of fact, and not matter of law. To this the attorney-general replied, in a speech of unusual length, in which he reiterated all the charges with his usual ability, but without effect; for, after retiring a few minutes, the foreman of the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty."

The ability and innocence of the prisoner being now equally conspicuous, he returned to Wimbledon in triumph. From that day his house was filled, and himself surrounded by a multitude of friends, many of whom made an offer, not only of their services, but also of their fortunes. As his mind and person had been harrassed by prosecutions and imprisonment, and his fortune nearly ruined by the expenses necessarily arising out of his frequent trials and confinements, it is not at all to be wondered that he should stand in need of support. Accordingly, a subscription was made by a few rich and respectable friends, which not only served to exhibit an honourable mark of their attachment, but also to render the latter part of Mr. Tooke's life comfortable and independent.

We are now to consider the subject of this memoir in a new point of view. In consequence of a singular

occurrence, Mr. Tooke was destined, about this period, to become a legislator; and after being so long, and so often, a petitioner at the bar of the House of Commons, was, at length, entitled to a seat there. The election for Old Sarum occurred in the year 1801, in consequence of an acquaintance with the late Lord Camelford, a nobleman who was supposed to have possessed some little influence in that most chaste, populous, and immaculate, borough.

But, from the first moment that he took the oaths, here, as heretofore, symptoms of hostility were instantly displayed, and Mr. Tooke's parliamentary, like his private life, became one entire scene and series of prosecution. Lord Temple, after observing him to have passed through the usual ceremonies, immediately rose, and said, that "in consequence of having seen a gentleman sworn in, whom he considered as not legally qualified to sit in that house, if no petition were presented against his election, he conceived it to be his duty to move the house to take the return into consideration." Meanwhile, the new member engaged in the debates, and when Mr. Sturt made his motion relative to the failure of the Ferrol expedition, the representative of Old Sarum urged an inquiry with great temper and ability, which, however, was not acceded to. He also displayed his talents in a still more forcible manner, on the second reading of the "New Poor Relief Bill;" on which occasion, instead of being eager for novelty, as had been conjectured, he "declared himself an enemy to every departure from established and approved principles: this measure," he added, "was calculated to create two different sorts and classes of poor; to wit, paupers receiving, and paupers released from the obligation of paying, alms." He then



insisted that the only proper and judicious mode of proceeding would be, "to increase the price of labour in a due proportion to the necessaries of life, and thus enable the poor to receive the full price of their earnings, not in the shape of alms, but of hire." When the house soon after formed a committee on the high price of provisions, Mr. Tooke termed the "Brown Bread Bill," the "Poisoning Bill." He deprecated the awkward and idle attempt of keeping down the price of provisions, by means of an Act of Parliament, and asserted, that, without the removal of the national debt, and the repeal of the annual taxes, the necessaries of life could never attain what was termed a moderate price. "I cannot consent," said he, "to see the system of agriculture changed; I cannot consent to see a man pay a premium against himself; it makes but little difference, whether the people pay more for the potatoes, or pay an additional tax for the country to produce them; but it is idle thus to think of lowering the price; if you wish to promote the comfort of the poor, raise as speedily as possible the price of labour—it is far too low, and must soon rise in spite of you." He concluded by forboding, that the storm must and would fall somewhere—that the mischief will only fall on the holders of stock, and as they were not a very numerous class, it would not be difficult to relieve them."

But, from the stock of abuses of all kinds, Mr. Tooke was now suddenly called to defend his own seat; for Lord Temple, on the 10th of March, 1801, returned to the charge, and concluded by moving, "that a new writ be issued for the borough of Old Sarum, in the room of the Rev. John Horne Tooke, who was ineligible, being in holy orders." After a long animated, and able defence, Mr. Addington, the Chancellor of

the Exchequer, very unexpectedly arose, and moved the previous question, which was carried by a considerable majority. That minister himself soon after brought in a bill "to remove all doubts relative to the eligibility of persons in holy orders, to sit in the Commons House of Parliament;" and at the end of that Parliament, the subject of this memoir was expressly prohibited by statute from sitting there.

This having occurred soon after, in consequence of a *dissolution*, Mr. Tooke once more became a private gentleman; and, at his house at Wimbledon, passed the remainder of his life in privacy and retirement. By this time, his reputation had become so extensive, and his fame so conspicuous, that no small degree of curiosity was excited, to see and to converse with a man whose whole life had been one continued scene of bustle, tumult, and celebrity. Every Sunday was dedicated to the reception of his friends; and at his hospitable and plenteous board, members of parliament, men of letters, men of the gown, and of the sword, all who had distinguished themselves in the arts and sciences, such as wished for or wanted counsel,—and, above all, every one who had suffered like himself in a contest with the constituted authorities, was sure to find a hearty welcome.

Of his philological works, his Letter to Mr. Dunning, afterwards Lord Ashburton, concerning the "English Particle," made a great impression on the public mind; in 1786, appeared, "The Diversions of Parley;" in 1787, "A Letter to a Friend on the Reported Marriage of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales;" in 1778, "Two Pair of Portraits, (Mr. Pitt and Mr. Fox);" in 1798, appeared, a second edition of his *EIIEA IITEPOENTA*: since which period he has only published

a few pamphlets, concerning Mr. Paul, Sir Francis Burdett, &c. &c. With the latter gentleman, who was his neighbour at Wimbledon, he had formed a sincere and lasting friendship, which remained unshaken, uninterrupted, and increasing, for fifteen or sixteen years. During a considerable portion of this long period, a daily intercourse took place between them, and they are known to have read over several of the classics together.

The space of three years has now nearly elapsed, since Mr. Tooke was seized with a disease, which at length proved fatal. This first appeared in the shape of a dropsy, but the water was fortunately discharged, and it was by some supposed that he would soon recover his wonted health and strength; but a relapse ensued, and his life became endangered. He lived, or rather lingered, however, a considerable time longer; and about twelve months since, seeing his end was approaching, he ordered a brick vault to be erected in his garden; and, having destined this as a place of sepulture, he caused a fine piece of black marble to be placed over his grave, with an inscription, which, from the change of circumstances, will no longer be either suitable or appropriate. Nearly at the same time, his picture was painted by the late Mr. Smith, in a manner that served to convey a true and correct idea of the original. His bust was also modelled by Mr. Cantry, of Pimlico, with equal talent and fidelity; and towards this gentleman, who has distinguished himself greatly as an artist, he always professed the warmest regard.

At length, on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 18, 1812, the subject of this memoir was seized with symptoms that announced a speedy dissolution, and he expired in the presence of a few friends, of

whom Sir Francis Burdett fortunately happened to be one, in the course of the same evening. Dr. Pearson, and Mr. Cline, gentlemen in whose professional skill he reposed an entire confidence, were also at Wimbledon on this melancholy occasion.

In consequence of circumstances of a peculiar and private nature, the injunctions concerning his burial could not, with any degree of propriety, be literally complied with in all points; the corpse was therefore conveyed to Faling, and entombed in the family vault, on the 30th of March, in the presence of a respectable body\* of his friends. The Rev. — Carr read the funeral service, and Sir Francis Burdett, Bart., together with Mr. Wildman, of Chelsea, a very respectable gentleman, who is the nephew of the deceased, acted as chief mourners.

The memory of Mr. Horne Tooke will long remain dear to his friends. His name is intimately connected with the history of the last half century, his exertions in behalf of public liberty can never be forgotten while we possess even the shadow of a constitution; and his works are likely to endure as long as the language which the chief of them is intended to elucidate, shall flourish. He has left behind him two daughters, both of whom are reported to be in independent circumstances; and to the elder he has bequeathed his freehold at Wimbledon, so long the scene of his wit, his learning, and his hospitality.

The following account is by an

---

\* Sir F. Burdett, Sir Wm. Rush, Mr. Wildman, Mr. Bosville, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Sanford, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Adams, Mr. Peirson, Mr. T. Brown, Mr. Knight, M.P., Mr. Cutlibert, M.P., and Mr. Stephens. Three mourning coaches, and five or six private carriages, attended.

other hand, and is taken from the *Morning Chronicle*. It probably is from the pen of the Editor of that very respectable print.

"This extraordinary man has flourished so long, and acted a part in the world so remarkable and diversified, that it is not within our limits to attempt any outline of his life. Neither indeed is it necessary, to those who are at all acquainted with literature, or our domestic history for the last forty years, to delineate a man who has been so conspicuous in both.

"We consider his literary character to be already immovably fixed, and that there is no man of ingenuity who does not lament to see the close of his philological labours. As a man of wit and general talents, he will be likewise allowed on all hands to stand in the highest rank; as a companion, well bred, affable, cheerful, entertaining, instructive, and in raillery to have been perhaps without an equal.

"But when we proceed to his politics, we find ourselves on contentious ground, and feel the embers hot under our feet. Gay and lively in his general habits, here only he was inflexible and severe. Whether it was the love of mankind, or impatience of power, let men dispute according to their fancies. It is a sufficient motive for our praise, that he was constantly on the side of freedom.

"We, ourselves, who have always preferred, from love as well as principle, to tread in the footsteps of another leader, may have thought Mr. Tooke culpably fastidious and intractable. But, to say nothing of his just confidence in himself, he must be allowed to have had some ground for caution and distrust in forming connexions with public men: for he had supported Wilkes, and was betrayed; and had

united with Pitt, and was persecuted.

"By those who are ready to approve every encroachment of power, his writings may still be termed libels, and his conduct turbulence. Yet the nation has long since come to agree with him respecting the American war, and the "*murders of Lexington*;" and if the judgment of a jury shall be confirmed by posterity, the infamy that was prepared for Tooke may fall on his prosecutors. At any rate, the supporters of future administrations will probably be satisfied with classing him among the Hampdens, the Miltons, and similar disturbers of quiet government and order.

"In his public character, he may fairly be allowed the praise of being disinterested, for he exposed himself to sufferings and loss when he failed, without personal advantage from success. Nor let it be thought, that his exertions in the cause of liberty were vain, because they were so generally repelled. The abuse of power has no greater restraint, than the dread of some stubborn mind, which fines and prisons cannot subdue; and we are persuaded, that ministers, and even judges, have sometimes been awed into moderation by a man, who not only sacrificed to liberty, but was willing to yield himself up as the offering.

"The marked and inveterate hostility which he so long indulged against the purest and most disinterested patriot of our times, took its rise in the memorable period of 1782, when, on the demise of the Marquis of Rockingham, Mr. Fox felt himself compelled to resign, in consequence of the appointment of the Earl of Shelburne to be First Lord of the Treasury. Mr. Tooke closely allied himself with, and became the active partizan of that ministry; and though, in the end, he

detected the inordinate lust of power, at the shrine of which Mr. Pitt sacrificed every principle of his youth, Mr. Tooke never seemed to forgive the keener penetration of Mr. Fox, in discovering at once the real character and views of that youthful statesman. Added to which, Mr. Tooke had in his nature a jealous and unrelenting enmity to all intellectual endowments superior to his own. He would be the master of his circle. He did not envy Mr. Fox his political superiority more than he did Mr. Porson his literary attainments—and this humour was not of a character to be corrected by age. We fear it went with him to his death-bed.

“Mr. Tooke was in the 77th year of his age. He had been for several weeks in a declining state, and had lost the use of his lower extremities. A few days ago mortification appeared, and rapidly advanced. Dr. Pearson, Mr. Cline, Mr. Tooke’s two daughters, and Sir Francis Burdett, attended on him, and he was informed that his dissolution was approaching. He signified, with a placid look, that he was fully prepared, and had reason to be grateful for having passed so long and so happy a life, which he would willingly have had extended, if it had been possible. He expressed much satisfaction that he should be surrounded in his last moments by those who were most dear to him. He professed his perfect confidence in the existence of a Supreme Being, whose final purpose was the happiness of his creatures. The eccentric facetiousness for which he was so remarkable did not forsake him till he became speechless, and even then his looks wore an aspect of cheerful resignation. A short time before his death, when he was supposed to be in a state of entire insensibility, Sir Francis Burdett mixed up a cordial

for him, which his medical friends told the Baronet it would be to no purpose to administer, but Sir Francis Burdett persevered in offering it, and raised Mr. Tooke with that view. The latter opened his eyes, and seeing who offered the draught, took the glass, and drank the contents with eagerness. He had previously observed, that he should not be like the man at Strasburgh, who, when doomed to death, requested time to pray, till the patience of the magistrates was exhausted, and then, as a last expedient, begged to be permitted to close his life with his favourite amusement of *nine pins*, but who kept bowling on, with an evident determination never to finish the game! He desired that no funeral ceremony should be said over his remains, and that six of the poorest men in the parish should have a guinea each for bearing him to the vault which had been prepared in his garden”

March 21st, 1812.

#### EPITAPH,

THROWN OVER MR. HORNE TOOKE’S GATE,  
THE DAY AFTER HIS DEATH, AT WIMBLEDON.

THE Man who extends the kingdom of science is more noble than the man whose sole praise consists in enlarging a political division of the earth.

*This Nobility is thine, O Tooke!*

The Man whose indignant and sarcastic spirit even for a moment stems the downward and overwhelming torrent of corruption in his native land, is more truly great than the man who, adding to its impetus, basks in the sunshine of Royal Favour.

*Such Greatness is thine, O Tooke!*

The Man who, unawed by the frowns of statesmen, and the calumnies of their panders, with intrepid zeal supports a nation’s rights, will more dignify the future page of its history than those whose scarfs and garters, whose wealth and titles, have been the vile fruits of a nation’s poverty and a nation’s tears.

*Such a splendid Lot will be thine, O Tooke!*

The Man who, with moderate means, opens a generous heart and a generous hand to the distressed poor of his neighbourhood, ranks higher in the estimation of the discerning than the sordid possessor of millions.

*Such a Rank has been held by thee, O Tooke !*

The Man who, with cheerful serenity, can resign his being, "contented and grateful," into the hand which gave it, does more honour to religion than the man

whose wealth, in the repentant close of life, is devoted to the structure of its public fanes, and for which its functionaries sing a delusive requiem to his soul.

*Peace then to thy perishable Relics, O Tooke !  
wherever destined to moulder !*

*May thy Faults rest in like Tranquillity !*

But may thy deep researches in science, and thy indignant patriotism, be engraved on the ever-during tablet of fame to the end of time !!

IGNOTUS.

March 20, 1812.

\* A line in the epitaph engraven on the tablet over the vault in the garden, intended by Mr. Tooke for a burial

place, prepared 18 months before his death.

### DETACHED ANECDOTES.

#### THE INEFFECTUACITY OF OATHS.

"When I heard, for the first time, of an oath, I considered it as necessary only among rude nations, to whom falsehood might appear less criminal than perjury. Yet have I seen the Athenians exact it from magistrates, senators, judges, orators, witnesses; from the accuser who has so evident an interest to violate it, and from the accused who is driven to the dilemma of offending against his religion, or fixing guilt on himself. But I have observed, likewise, that this awful ceremony was now no more than a form which is an insult on the Gods, useless to society, and offensive to those who are under the necessity of submitting to it. The philosopher Xenocrates, being called upon one day to give his testimony, made his deposition, and advanced towards the altar to confirm it. The judges blushed, and unanimously opposing the administration of the oath, rendered the highest honour to the integrity of so respectable a witness. What idea then must they have entertained of the others ?

[*Abbé Barthelemi, in his Travels of Anacharsis.*]

BELFAST MAG. NO. XLVI.

#### CÆSAR'S SOLILOQUY.

"Be it so then. If I am to die tomorrow, that is what I am to do tomorrow. It will not be then, because I am unwilling it should be then; nor shall I escape it, because I am unwilling. It is in the Gods when, in myself how I shall die. If Calphurnia's dreams be fumes of indigestion, how shall I behold the day after tomorrow; if they are from the Gods, they admonish me not to prepare to escape the decree, but to meet it. I have lived to a fullness of days and glory. What has Cæsar not done with as much honour as ancient heroes? He hath not died. *Cæsar is prepared to die.*"

#### TREASONABLE PUNNING.

We beg leave to suggest, at this critical time, when new laws against treason and sedition are, it is likely, in agitation, that Jacobinical principles may be conveyed even in the shape of a pun, or a quibble. And I had a remarkable proof of it the other day, when a gentleman, in a bookseller's shop, took up a volume on agriculture, and read the following from the *Index*.

c c c