

Ibique per annos propè quinquaginta
 Honestæ mentis otio egregius fruebatur exul,
 Bonorum omnium deliciæ vivus,
 Moriens commune desiderium.
 Obiit quintâ decimâ die *Octobris*
 Anno post natum Christum MDCCCLXXVI;
 Post se natum xcv.
 Huic tali tantoque Viro,
 Marmor hoc, amoris sui monumentum,
 Posuere Amici,
 Cui famam marmore perenniorem peperit,
 Defensa veritas, refutatus error (b).

To what has been already said respecting Dr. Courayer's Works, it may not be improper here to add, that he wrote *Traité de Poem Epique*; and that his French Translation of Father Paul's History of the Council of Trent was printed at London in 1736, in two volumes, folio; and at Amsterdam, the same year, in two volumes, quarto; and that his Translation of Sleidan's History of the Reformation, to which he added copious notes, was printed in three volumes, quarto, in 1767 (i).

From the fourth volume of Bishop Atterbury's Epistolary Correspondence, which has fallen into our hands since this article was printed, we learn that the Bishop was exposed to some trouble on account of Father Courayer's escape from France, which he was supposed to have facilitated. The French King and Cardinal Fleury sent him a message on the subject by the Lieutenant de Police. "I did not mince the matter to the Magistrate," says the Bishop, "nor am I at all ashamed of what has happened, or concerned for it. "I owned my friendship for Pere Courayer; told them frankly a great deal more than they knew of that matter, as far as I was concerned; and thought there was no reason to wonder at, or blame my conduct. I convinced them of that point, and I believe there is an end of it. I shewed the Lieutenant the picture of Pere Courayer hanging up in my room; told him I had visited him in his retreat at Hanment, while he was in disgrace there; and that he came to take his leave of me the night before he left Paris; and that in all this I thought I had done nothing that misbecame me." The Lieutenant, who behaved with great politeness, was perfectly satisfied with our Prelate's explanation; but this was not the case with the Cardinal, who was persuaded that Father Courayer's escape was entirely owing to Atterbury, and displayed much resentment on that account. The picture of Courayer, in the Bishop's possession, was left by him to the University of Oxford (k).] T.

* * [COURTEN, a name certainly used, with a variety of spelling, for more than two hundred years, to discriminate a family of English extraction [A], which after being settled, upwards of a century, in the Netherlands, returned into England, intermarried with its gentry and nobility, and gave birth to several men, well entitled to notice in the *Biographia Britannica*. The last of the name, having been an ornament, and a benefactor to this kingdom, in a way, and to an extent not commonly known, is a proper subject for a separate article. Others of his ancestors were likewise memorable, for contributing considerably to the increase and enlargement of our national wealth and dominion, by carrying, at a very early period, the trade, navigation, and colonies of this country, into parts of the East and West Indies then little known. It is fit, therefore, in the first place, that some account should be given of them, in a work appropriated to the celebration of our countrymen in whatever way meritorious, and intended to rescue from oblivion the memories of all such eminent persons as have at any time lived, or resided occasionally in Britain.

Every thing relative to the Courtens in their state of emigration, before their return to the land of their nativity, is in a great measure foreign from the plan and purpose of this work. The only memoirs of the family which can be recorded here with propriety, lie within a narrow compass, clear of the suspicions adherent to late researches into remote antiquity. They go no farther back than to the great-grandfather, who, by persecution,

[A] *English extraction.*] The pedigree of this family, the name of which is most commonly spelt *Courten*, though sometimes *Courtin*, and *Courteene*, &c. is preserved in the British Museum (1). It begins on the paternal line from a Roger *de Curtis*, said there to have been a native of Devonshire. He passed, it seems, from the service of a Duchess of Gloster, into that of an Earl of Brabant, married at Hainault, and fixed at Menin, where he died in 1423. But as this paper is not easily legible, and is moreover in the Dutch or Flemish language, with which the present writer is totally unacquainted, the curious are referred for more particular and more certain information to the original, which contains a circumstantial account of the genealogy of the family, and

gives its coat of arms as follows. A Talbot passant, quartered with a chevron between three (b); no colours depicted; crest, on a wreath, a demy Talbot issuant.

There is, in the same repository, a Talbot passant, on the silver-top of a walking-stick, made of a curious piece of vine, the arms most probably of William Courten, Esq; the subject of the subsequent article, whose property it certainly was, and from whom it passed, with his rich museum, to Sir Hans Sloane in 1703.

"Courtin, London; Or, A Talbot passant &c.
 "Courten, Aldington, or Aunton &c. &c. W.
 "Celler, the same crest, a demy Talbot &c. &c."

(1) MSS. Sloane.
 1515.

was repelled from Flanders into the kingdom from which he sprang, where he and his immediate descendants, by their indefatigable industry, and great skill in mercantile business, suddenly rose to an unusual height of opulence and splendour. After flourishing here for almost a century, this family, by means of a viper of its own generation, by a variety of accidents unforeseen or unforeseeable, but chiefly by the depredations and villainy of a jealous nation of mere merchants, experienced a sad reverse of fortune, and being blasted to the root, its male-line and discriminating surname became extinct in 1702. The rise and downfall of this house being equally remarkable, the following account of its complicated story, given here with all the conciseness consistent with perspicuity, was studiously collected from scattered papers and broken memorials in the British Museum, where curiosity may satisfy itself, and probably discover collateral evidence, and additional information, omitted or unobserved by the present writer.

Olivares Duke of Alva, being appointed by Philip II. Governor of the Seventeen Provinces, endeavoured, with execrable policy, to establish over all the Netherlands, an irreligious and horrible Court of Judicature, on the model of the Spanish Inquisition. By consequence, in 1567, great numbers of industrious, thriving and worthy people, were imprisoned by the rigorous orders of this petty tyrant, and treated with great injustice and cruelty. WILLIAM COURTEN, son of a Taylor at Menin, was one of many who experienced this oppression; but had the good fortune to effectuate his escape from prison. In the year following, 1568, he arrived safe at London, with his wife Margaret Casiere, a daughter named Margaret, her husband, son of a *macklaer* (*) at Antwerp of the name of Boudean, and as much property as they could hastily collect under such disadvantages.

(*) The Flemish name for brick-layer, or potter.

Soon after their arrival, they took a house in Ab-Church-Lane, where they lived all together, following for some time the business of making what were commonly called *French Hoods*, much used in those days and long after, which they vended in wholesale, to the shop-keepers who sold them by retail. Encouraged by great success in this employment, they soon removed to a larger house in Pudding-Lane, or Love-Lane, in the parish of St. Mary Hill, where they entered on a partnership trade, in silks, fine linen, and such articles as they had dealt in before, when in Flanders.

Michael Boudean, the daughter Margaret's husband, died first, leaving behind him, unfortunately for the family, a son, and only child, named Peter, after an uncle certainly not much older than himself. The widow married John Money a Merchant in London, who instantly became an inmate with the family, which was moreover increased by the parents themselves, with two sons, William, born in 1572, and Peter, born in 1581. The young men, being instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic, were early initiated in business, and soon after sent abroad as factors for the family; William to Haerlem, Peter to Cologne, and Peter Boudean the grand-child, to Middleburgh. The writer of this article is not at present sufficiently instructed, to date with precision the times at which William Courten and Margaret Casiere died. Most probably their deaths happened about the end of Queen Elizabeth's, or in the beginning of King James's reign; but it is said expressly, and it seems undeniable, that they left their descendants not only in ease, but even in affluent circumstances.

At the following æra of this little history, it does not appear with certainty, whether the old people were actually dead, or had only declined all farther active, responsible concern in business: but most certainly in 1606 William and Peter Courten entered into partnership with John Money, their sister Margaret's second husband, to trade in silks and fine linen. Two parts, or the moiety of the joint-stock, belonged to William Courten; and to each of the others, Peter Courten and John Money, a fourth share. As for Peter Boudean, the son of Margaret Courten by her first husband, he seems to have been employed to negotiate for the partnership at Middleburgh, on some stipulated or discretionary salary; for it does not appear that he had any certain or determinate share in the trade, which was carried on prosperously till 1631, with a return, it is said, *communibus annis*, of 150,000*l.* During the course of this co-partnership, there is nothing upon record unfavourable to the character of John Money. The characters too of William and Peter Courtens appear unexceptionable, fair, and illustrious. They prospered, it seems, remarkably in all their undertakings, for twenty years and more, in the course of which time they were both dignified with the honours of knighthood [B].

The elder brother, Sir William Courten, besides his capital concern in the original partnership above-mentioned, traded very extensively on his own bottom, to Guinea, Portugal, Spain, and the West Indies. He married first a Dutch-woman of the name of Cromling, the daughter of Mr. Peter Cromling, an opulent Merchant in Haerlem, who was, though both deaf and dumb, book-keeper to her father. By this marriage he got, it is said, 60,000*l.* of which he was enjoined to lay out 50,000*l.* in the purchase of lands in England, to be settled upon his son by this Lady, of whom she was delivered in

[B] Dignified with the honours of knighthood.] Sir 31, 1622; and Sir Peter was knighted at Whitehall, William Courten was knighted at Greenwich, May Feb. 22, 1623 (3).

(3) Claudius, c. iii.

London, and whose name was Peter. This son, who was all the offspring from this marriage, King James I. made one of the first rank of his Baronets [C]. "He was afterwards married to Lord Stanhope's daughter, but died without issue, leaving the estate in lands to his father Sir William, who settled that estate, and 3000*l.* more, *per annum*, upon his only son and heir, by a second wife, the daughter of Mr. Moses Tryon (*)." *Tryon* (*).

(*) *Veritas* 115, &c. p. 50.

Sir Peter, the uncle to Peter just mentioned, and brother to Sir William Courten, kept the books of the family partnership, and died unmarried in 1630, at Middleburgh. It is affirmed, that he was worth at his death 100,000*l.* and that he left his nephew Peter Boudean, the son of his sister by her first husband, his sole heir and executor, who seems at this time to have taken the name of Courten which he annexed to his own. This crafty man took immediate possession, not only of his uncle Sir Peter's property, which could not have been ascertained without balancing the accounts of the co-partnership, but seized likewise the shipping and goods that belonged unquestionably to his other uncle, Sir William, and Mr. Money, amounting, as it is stated, to 100,000*l.* more [D]; nor could he, to the very end of his life, which lasted above thirty years longer, be brought, by argument or law, to settle the accounts of the company.

Sir William Courten, after the death of his Dutch Lady, married a second wife, of the name of Tryon, by whom he had one son, named William, and three daughters, whose names and marriages are but just mentioned here, the curious being referred for farther information about them, to the memoirs of the family in the British Museum. Hester the eldest was married to Sir Edward Littleton; Mary the second was wedded to the Earl of Kent [E]; Anna the youngest to Essex Devereux, Esq; of Leight-Court, in the county of Worcester, and after his death, to Richard Knightly, Esq; of Fawseley, in Northamptonshire. She was born in 1614, as we learn from the certificate below [F], and lived to a great age, as appears from an official paper transcribed into the following article.

Sir William seems to have been possessed of a comprehensive mind, an enterprising spirit, abundance of wealth, and credit sufficient to enable him to launch out into any promising branch of trade and merchandize whatsoever. It is stated, with apparent fairness, that he actually lent to King James I. and his son, Charles I. at different times, of his own money, or from the company-trade, 20,000*l.* and in another partnership, wherein he was likewise concerned with Sir Paul Pyndar [G], their joint claims on the Crown amounted,

[C] *One of the first rank of his Baronets.*] The following entry in SALMON, most probably refers to Peter Courten, *jun.* for the description does not seem to point to the uncle, who generally lived, and died in Holland, where he was naturalized. If May was mentioned by mistake for February, the date of the year would then correspond to that of the uncle's knighthood, by writing it thus, Feb. — 1622-3; but still there would be an error in the day of the month. "May 18, 1622, Peter Courtene of Aldington, alias Aunton, Esq; was [by James I.] created a Bart. Wigorn, extinct."

[D] *£.100,000 more.*] Sir Peter Courten, *sen.* at the time of his death, stood indebted to the company, by the balance of the books kept in London, for money due to the general stock 129,426*l.* or 10*d.* which remained in the hands of his nephew Peter Boudean.

[E] *Earl of Kent.*] Henry Grey, the eleventh Earl of Kent of that family, and eldest son to Anthony Grey the famous Rector of Burbach in Leicestershire (4). He was born Nov. 24, 1643; and by his first wife, the daughter of Sir William Courten, had issue Henry, Lord Grey, who was buried in Westminster Abbey, June 29, 1644, near his mother, who was buried there March 20, 1643. This Earl's second Lady was Amabella, daughter of Sir Anthony Ben, Recorder of London. He died in 1651; and his Countess survived till 1698.

[F] *Certificate below.*] "Baptized in the Dutch Church, London, Anna Filia Guiliame Courten, anno 1614, the 17 of January. Testes Moses Tryon and Margaretha de Money, which stood in the place of Lucretia Pelicorne the widow of Mr. Gualterus del Prato." [Signed] Philipp. op de Beech. "Minister of the Dutch Church in London (5)." The original certificate passed on a blank leaf.

[G] *Sir Paul Pyndar.*] "He was born at Wellingborough in the county of Northampton, where he was at school till sixteen. He was then put apprentice to Mr. Parvish an Italian Merchant, who sent him, at eighteen, as his Factor to Venice, where,

"and in parts adjacent, he resided for fifteen years, or thereabouts, trading upon his own account, and on commissions both from his old master, and divers others of the most trading kingdoms, by which he got a very plentiful estate. At his return to England, where he traded five years longer, the Turkey Company, knowing him well skilled in the Italian and Turkish languages, and having received many kind offices from him in his transactions abroad, applied to King James I. in 1611, to send him as Ambassador to the Grand Signior at Constantinople, which employment, after much solicitation, he embraced to the great satisfaction of the King, and the Turkey Company, in whose service he continued nine years, during which time he much improved the Levant trade, and manufactures of England, which had been greatly injured by the arts of the French and Dutch. Three years after his return in 1623, King James having knighted him, offered as a reward of his services, to make him his Lieutenant of the Tower; but this honour Sir Paul humbly refused, and the rather, in regard his Majesty desired to purchase Sir Paul's Diamond-Jewel of 30,000*l.* value, upon credit. Sir Paul brought home this Diamond-Jewel from Turkey, and lent it to King James to wear at divers times on days of great solemnity, on opening parliaments, and when audiences were given to foreign Ambassadors. It was afterwards sold to King Charles I (6)."

There is most probably a particular account of this *Diamond Jewel*, in the MS. which the Honourable H. Walpole purchased at the sale of Thoresby's Museum, promised to the public with some other curious papers. This MS. it is said, contained among other things, an account of the monies received upon the paroning of the King's, and his Grace the Duke of Buckingham's Jewels, &c. Thirty-one pages being wanting at the beginning relating to the plate and jewels, in the "Catalogue of King Charles the first's goods, &c. with the several prices at which they were valued and sold," discovered lately in Moorfields, &c. it is not likely that there will be any mention of this *Diamond-Jewel* there. It is said on the autho-

(4) History of Burbach, by Nichols, p. 278. Collins's Peerage, vol. i. p. 514.

(5) MSS. Sloan, 9961, fol.

(6) *Ind. MSS. &c.*

amounted, it seems, to 200,000*l.* for no objection appears to have been made to this statement. We are told that one way or other Sir William employed, and with a constancy

authority of the *Catalogue*, that the total of the contracts amounted to 118,080*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* (7).

(*) Anecdotes of
Planting in Eng-
land, &c. vol. ii.
p. 112, and 114;
2nd ed. 1782.

This *Diamond-Jewel* of Sir Paul Pyndar seems, by the general account of it given above, to have surpassed in value the celebrated diamond brought afterwards into this country by Governor Thomas Pitt, of which the curious reader may see a circumstantial account in the late edition of the *TARLER* with notes, Vol. V. Additional notes, p. 385, & *seqq.*

“ On Sir Paul’s refusal of the Lieutenancy of the Tower, by the over persuasion of Sir William Cockayne and Sir Arthur Ingram, this Knight was brought to accept of being one of the Farmers of the Customs; to advance monies for supply of the late King’s necessary occasions, and to furnish the Crown with Jewels, to his infinite loss and prejudice. Nevertheless, he manifested his loyalty to that degree, towards the preservation of the Royal Family, that he sent several considerable sums of money, in gold, to the late King Charles at Oxford, by Madam Jane Whorewood, in the years 1643 and 1644, for transportation of the Queen and her children.

“ In 1639, his cashiers and accomptants, William Toomes and Richard Lane, by the orders of their master, cast up Sir Paul Pyndar’s estate, which consisted in ready money, allome, and good debts upon tallies, and obligations from Noblemen, and others at Court, amounting in all to the sum of 215,600*l.* sterling; a great part of which was employed in the sole manufacture of allome, for which allome-farm, Sir Paul Pyndar paid annually 12,000*l.* sterling to the crown, for twenty eight years successively.”—“ This farm was within the Manor of Mulgrave belonging to the Earl of that title; and it is said, that all the soil of the land, on which the allome works were erected, with all the mines and rocks employed, were not before worth 40*l.* *per annum* (*).”

(*) Brief narrative, &c. p. 11.

“ This branch of the public revenue has been lately extinguished under the notion of a monopoly; and thus, a staple commodity, of the growth and manufacture of England, has suffered great injury for want of a due regulation in trade. Sir P. Pyndar was obliged, by the grant from the King, to furnish London, and all parts of England, with allome at twenty pounds *per ton*, and to transport the overplus, which he did in great quantities, into Holland, France, Hamborgh, and other parts, to the advantage and benefit of the King, and his kingdom.

“ This manufacture of allome, was first brought out of Italy, in those parts, under the Pope’s temporal jurisdiction, and set on work by an Italian, a friend of Sir P. Pyndar’s in King James’s time; who much encouraged the making thereof, and set up the first pans, coppers, and materials in Yorkshire, at the charge of the crown. Before that time, all allome was imported into England, from the Pope’s territories, at the rate of sixty pounds sterling *per ton*, under the name of *reach allome*, which raised a very considerable yearly revenue to his holiness (†).”

(†) MSS. Sloane, 1035, p. 51, 52.

In a record in the British Museum, the estimate of Sir P. Pyndar’s estate, at the very time here specified, viz. in the year 1639, is not rated so high as it is stated above. Exclusively indeed of desperate and bad debts, it is only fixed at 236,000*l.* or to speak in the modern cant phrase, at two plums and 36,000*l.* more; and it is affirmed [*ibidem*] that two thirds of the sum total were embarked with the King.

There is in the same repository, and if the writer does not mis-remember, in the same volume, a printed abstract of the last will of Sir P. Pyndar, dated June 24, 1646, to which the curious are referred for farther information (‡).

(‡) MSS. Sloane, 1035, p. 51.

“ There remains nothing visible at this time, [viz. 1683] says Mr. Browne in the continuation of his account, to the family of Sir P. Pyndar, out of all his great acquisitions, but his memory en-
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“ graven in a modest stile, upon a stone of black marble, over his grave in S. Battolph’s church, without Bishop’s-gate, London, in those sorrowful days when he died. The epitaph is as follows:

“ Sir Paul Pyndar, Ambassador to the Turkish Emperour, *anno* 1611, and resident there nine years, faithful in negotiations, foreign and domestic, eminent for piety, charity, loyalty and prudence. An inhabitant twenty-six years in this parish. A bountiful benefactor, deceased the 22d of Aug. aged 84 years.

“ William Toomes, who was appointed executor, administered and made probat of Sir Paul Pyndar’s last Will and Testament, wherein, amongst other legacies, he bequeathed 7,000*l.* to the Hospitals in London and Southwark. The said Toomes exhibited an inventory, but could not get in the estate, most part thereof being upon tallies, and many of the Noblemen being insolvent, he discharged the workmen a remainder of 10,000*l.* expended by Sir P. Pyndar in his life time, upon the porch of St. Paul’s Church, on the south side. But Mr. Toomes finding such a vast estate so entangled, and his expectations so frustrated, had not a spirit to bear his afflictions, therefore laid violent hands on himself in the year 1655, and was found “ *a felo de se.*”

On the death of Toomes, it seems, “ Sir William Powell took out Letters of Administration, with the Will of Sir Paul Pyndar annexed; and during his time, it is said, he employed in Holland, the writer of the tract here quoted, a Mr. Browne, Gent. to look after the interest of Sir Paul Pyndar’s estate and his administrator, depending in the Netherlands, on suits in Courts there for the recovery of damages, by the destruction, seizure, and appropriation of the two ships, *Bona Esperanza*, and *Henry Bona Adventura*, the first taken in the freights of Malacca, the second near the island Mauritius by men of war belonging to the East-India Company of the Netherlands, under a pretence that they traded with the *Portugalls* their enemies.

“ This Browne was moreover employed by Sir William Powell to get in some debts due to the estate and heirs of Sir Paul Pyndar, upon the allome account, from Jonas Abel; but, he says, he returned into England *re infecta* in the year 1661. In the same year, or much about the same time, Mr. Browne says, he importuned Mr. Carew, who had Sir Edward Littleton’s interest in the two ships above-mentioned, and a very considerable debt of his own, incumbent on Sir P. Pyndar’s estate, to satisfy Sir William Powell, and so take upon himself the sole administration of Sir Paul Pyndar’s goods and testament.

“ By the advice of Mr. Browne, it is said, that after some enquiries, and encouragements at White Hall, from his friends that he had then there, on the conclusion of the Treaty between the King and the States-general, in the year 1662, Mr. Carew sold his land in Worcester to Mr. Thomas Foley for 3800*l.* whereby he satisfied and paid Sir William Powell and others, and so took upon himself the administration of Sir Paul Pyndar’s estate.”

It is added here, “ And this being the truth of the case see help me God (§).”

Sir Paul Pyndar, on his return from Turkey, expended 2000*l.* in repairing the entry, porches, and front of St. Paul’s Cathedral, enriching them with marble sculpture, and the figures of the Apostles. Afterwards being appointed by King James, for his skill in commerce, one of the firmers of the Custom-House, he laid out 17,000*l.* on the repairs of the side aisle of the said Church, and at different times supplied Charles I. with money to the amount of 12,000*l.*

(§) *Per Per-*
tation, &c. ut su-
per, p. 52, and
p. 53.

stancy for many years, between four and five thousand seamen; that he built above twenty ships of burthen; was a great insurer, and besides that, a very considerable goldsmith, or banker, for so a banker was then called. It appears likewise, that he was very deeply engaged in a Herring Fishery, which was carried on at one time, with great spirit, and at great expence; but soon after, much to his cost, it came to nothing, in consequence of the supervening dissensions, confusion, and misery that in a soon-succeeding period, extended over all the British dominions.

Before the time alluded to in the preceding paragraph, about the year 1624, two of Sir William Courten's ships, in their return from Fernambuc, happened to discover an uninhabited island, now of considerable importance to Great Britain, to which Sir William first gave the name of Barbadoes. The writer follows here the account given in a capital French work, entitled, *Hist. Gen. des Voyages*, tom. xv. p. 595. *A Paris*, 1759. 19 tom. 4to. The discovery of this island is represented by the French compiler, as merely accidental; but in several papers in the British Museum, and particularly in the MS. there, mentioned below [H], it is said expressly, that the discovery was the result of a deliberate well-laid scheme, formed on hints from Sir William's correspondents in Zealand, and concerted, no doubt, between him and his brother Sir Peter, probably the intelligencer, for he lived and died in Holland. But be this as it may, Sir William Courten was certainly the first who took possession of this island, the first who gave it the name of Barbadoes which it still retains, and the first who began to settle it, (according to the MS. mentioned above, and quoted below,) in 1625.

On the 25th of Feb. 1627, Sir William Courten obtained the King's Letters Patent, for the colonization of this island, sheltering himself, for whatever reasons, under the Earl of Pembroke: for the deed grants, "The Government of Barbadoes to the Earl of Pembroke, "in trust for Sir William Courten, with power to settle a Colony there, according to the "laws of England, &c." On the faith of this grant, afterwards superseded by the influence of James, then Earl of Carlisle, though its validity was acknowledged by the first, and generally indeed by all the Lawyers, Sir William sent two ships, with men, arms, ammunition, &c. which soon stored the island with inhabitants, English, Indians, &c. to the number of one thousand, eight hundred and fifty, when one Captain Powel received from Sir William, a commission to remain in the island as Governor, in behalf of Sir William, and the Earl of Pembroke (a). After Sir William had expended 40,000*l.* on this business (*), and been in peaceable possession of the island about three years, James, Earl of Carlisle, claiming on grants said to be prior, though dated July 2, 1627, and April 7, 1628; affirming too, that he was Lord of all the Caribbee islands, lying between 10 and 20 degrees of latitude, under the name of Carlola, gave his commission to Colonel Royden, Henry Hawley, and others, to act in his behalf. The Commissioners of Lord Carlisle arrived at Barbadoes with two ships, in 1629. and having invited the Governor Captain Powel on board, they kept him prisoner, and proceeded to invade and plunder the island. They carried off the factors and servants of Sir William Courten and the Earl of Pembroke, and established the Earl of Carlisle's authority in Barbadoes, which continued there under several Governours, till 1646, when the government of it was vested by lease and contract, in Lord Willoughby of Parham.

Sir William Courten, it is said, had likewise sustained a considerable loss several years before this blow in the West Indies, by the seizure of his merchandize, after the cruel massacre of his factors at Amboyna, in the East Indies. But after all the losses above-mentioned, he was still possessed, in the year 1633, of lands in various parts of this kingdom, to the value, it is ascribed, of 6,500*l.* *per annum*, besides personal estate rated at 128,000*l.* and very extensive credit. Such were his circumstances, we are told, when he opened a trade to China, and as if he had grown young again, embarked still more deeply, in mercantile expeditions to the East Indies, where he established sundry new forts and factories. In the course of this new trade he lost unfortunately two of his ships richly laden, the Dragon and the Katharine, which were never heard of more; and he himself did not long survive

The Communion plate at Wellingborough, consisting of a pair of silver flaggons, a chalice and cover, gilt, weighing two hundred and fifty-seven ounces, was given 1634 by Sir Paul Pyndar, Knt. In the parish register is recorded a thankful acknowledgment of this benediction under the hands of the Vicar, Churchwardens, and principal inhabitants. On every piece of plate is this inscription, *The gift of Sir Paul Pyndar, Knt. to the Town Church of Wellingborough, 1674.* On the sides of the flaggons, and on the bottom and cover of the chalice, are engraved his arms. In 1640 he gave the first bell (8).

Thomas Pyndar, Esq; son to the famous Merchant Sir Paul, had for a short time possession of Nerquis-house in Flintshire, by marriage with Miss Wynne, heiress of the place. Their son Paul was created a Baronet about 1666, and dying single the estate devolved by maternal right to Paul Williams, Esq; of Pont y

Gwyddel. On the death of Edward Williams, Esq; 1737, it fell to his sister, now relict of Robert Hyde, Esq; who enjoys it in great hospitality (9).

[H] *The MS. mentioned below.* It (10) is a MS. history of Barbadoes, well written and not ill-penned, by some person who does not seem to have been connected, or acquainted with the Courten-family. The substance of what is mentioned in it relative to this article being given above, nothing more remains to be said of the MS. than that it contains a clear and circumstantial account of the condition, government, productions, and importance of the island at the time it was written, probably a century ago; and that it states Barbadoes, it may be not very exactly, as situated between 13 and 14 degrees of latitude, distant from England about 3130 miles, thirty miles in length, fourteen in breadth, and twenty-five leagues in circumference (11).

this

(a) MSS. Sloan. 2441.
(*) Sir W. expended 28,600*l.* on fortifications, &c. before he had a Patent under the Great Seal of England, in the 3d year of Cha. I. which subjected the Island to the Dominion of the King. *At Barbadoes.* p. 1.

8. B. 13.
Northampton.
Shir. H. 153.

9. P. 10.
W. 10.
10. M. 10.
2441.

11. S. 10.
P. 10.
of Barbadoes.

this loss, which involved him in great debt; for he died in the end of May, or beginning of June 1636, in the sixty-fourth year of his age, and was buried in the Church or Church-yard of St. Andrew Hubbard, the ground of both which was, after the fire in 1666, disposed of by the city for public uses, and partly laid into the street, the parish being annexed to St. Mary-Hill. There is an abstract of Sir William Courten's Will in the British Museum (*b*), dated May 22, 1636, from which some extracts are given in a note below [*I*].

He left all his manors, Wingham Barton in Kent excepted, to his son William and his heirs, and him he appointed his executor and residuary legatee. Among many other charitable legacies, some of which are mentioned below, he bequeathed sixty-four gowns, to sixty-four poor men, according to the number of the years of his life. A Latin paper in the British Museum (*c*) seems to have been intended for his Epitaph, though it censures as folly, the over-ardent spirit of mercantile adventure, for which both Sir William and his son were very remarkable. It is endorsed "May 1636" in the hand-writing of William Courten, Esq; the subject of the following article, and may contain perhaps the genuine opinion and sentiments of the endorser, expressed in his own words at some early period of his life. His care in preserving it, induces at least a suspicion, that it was not very different from his own way of thinking concerning the conduct both of his father and grandfather. This may be mere conjecture: the curious reader may see below a faithful transcript of the paper [*K*].

The accounts of the original partnership, in which a very considerable part of Sir William Courten's estate consisted, remained unsettled at his death; though on the decease of his brother, Sir Peter, their brother-in-law, John Moncy, repaired to Middleburgh, to settle with Peter Boudean-Courten. Before this settlement could be accomplished, Mr. Moncy died at Boudean's house, where he made his Will, as was pretended, leaving Sir William Courten and Peter Boudean-Courten his joint executors.

The validity of this Will was litigated for many years by an Esther White, *alias de Wyer*, who claimed as heiress at law to Mr. John Moncy, and obtained letters of administration to his estate. After a tedious legal process at Middleburgh, and the Hague, this gentlewoman obtained a sentence in 1657, to compel Peter Boudean to produce the books, papers, &c. but the validity of Moncy's will was still left in question, and it does not now appear, in what manner this law-suit terminated.

William Courten, Esq; the son of Sir William, was very early initiated, and very extensively concerned in commercial business. He married Lady Katharine Egerton, tenth

[*I*] *Extracts are given in a note below.*] It appears from the abstract above-mentioned, that Sir William Courten's manor of Wingham Barton in Kent, had been settled before the date of his will, on his daughter Mary and her heirs; and *for her better preferment*, [it seems she was not then married] he left her 2000*l.* To his daughter Anne Devereux, wife of Essex Devereux, Esq; 1000*l.* to his daughter Dame Hester Littleton, wife of Sir Edward Littleton 4000*l.* and to each of her children living at his decease 100*l.* To his sons-in-law Littleton and Devereux, each a diamond ring sealed up, and their names on the boxes. To his daughter-in-law Lady Katharine Courten, a jewel of diamonds sealed up with his seal at arms, and her name thereon. To his nephew Peter Boudean, and to his wife, a ring and a jewel. To Mr. James Pergens, a ring. To Mr. James Casiere, Merchant, and to his sister Mrs. Andrews, to each of them 50*l.* Ditto to Mr. Casseel, Merchant. Ditto *Flemish* to Mr. Joos. Ditto to John De Batts. To Mr. James Tryon, 100 merks. To Mary Casiere daughter to Mr. John Casiere, 20*l.* To his Book-keeper and Accomptant David Goubard, 100*l.* and 50*l.* *per annum* so long as he continued in the service of his son William Courten. To his servant Samuel Bonnel, on the same condition, 50*l.* *per ann.* To Mr. John Moone, 10*l.* To seventeen men-servants and five women-servants of himself, and to all his son's servants, different small sums. To the reparation of St. Paul's, over and above what he had given before for that use, 500 merks. To Christ's Church Hospital and St. Thomas's ditto, 100*l.* a-piece. To the Ministers of St. Gabriel Fan-Church, Mr. Palmer, and Mr. Saxby, 20*l.* each; and to the poor of the said parish, 30*l.* To the poor of the Dutch Congregations in London, 50*l.* and to the young Students maintained abroad, at Universities, by the said Congregations, 20*l.* To the poor of St. Mary-Hill, 15*l.* To the Minister of St. Andrew-Hubbard, 5*l.* and to the poor of the parish, 10*l.* To Monf. Marmot, preacher to the French Congregation

in London, 20*l.* and to the poor of that Congregation, 20*l.* To the poor of the Dutch and French Congregations in Norwich, Colchester, Sandwich, Canterbury, Maidstone, and Yarmouth, 10*l.* each. To the poor of the several parishes of Laxton, and Kneefal *in com.* Nottingham, of St. Nicholas at Wade in the isle of Thanet, and of Wellham in Essex, 10*l.* each. To John, Earl of Bridgewater, a ring, &c. &c. It is said in a note at the close of the abstract, that the rings and jewels, Sir William having the diamonds ready by him in his house [*inter alia*] at the time of his death, amounted in value to 7500*l.*

[*K*] *A faithful transcript of the paper.*

May, 1636.

GULIELMUS COURTEN, *verè liberali mercatura deditus, et in contrahendis avari periculi affidus; post summè amplificatam diuturno fortune afflatu, rem familiarem; post opes insignitas equestri ordinis honore; post liberos utriusque sexus illustrissimis comitum familiis per conjugia iunxos; in præcipiti horum omnium perdendi ac contaminandi discrimine, excessit vitâ 27 Maij, 1636. Filio non multo post cedente foro; distractis tot villis, agrisque paternis ære alieno absumptis in classem Indicam privatam; immergis opibus, depressâ et abjectâ oceano classe, non sine errore patris, hujusque. Illius, quod ipse longas inchoare non dubitasset, moriendi præ ætate jam firmè certus; quodque annis gravis levem illum lubricamque Deam tentare denuò voluisset; quasi illum silicerniorum, bustorum, cinerumque curam gereret, quam tot procantur venusti juvenes, et quibus auscultare, solennius multo est æquisque. Nec filius, ephorivæ, juâ vacabant culpâ; quod fugientem illam persequi studuerint, et in ordinem cogere. Fortunam fortune copijs aggressi sunt, non immerito offensam horum omnium temeritati, qui totius ex alto in partum, ex partu in agros et possessiones opimas deducti, salum rursus solo retrogradi protulerint; quasi priora beneficia repudiarent, nisi plura suggerentur; vel nulla satis magna esset pecunia, qua impotentis senis, juvenivæ vota, non adimplerentur.*

daughter

daughter of John, first Earl of Bridgewater, by whom he had issue, one son, named William, and one daughter, called Katharine, and afterwards by her marriage Mrs. Yongs. With the assistance, it seems, and additional credit of his father-in-law the Earl of Bridgewater, William Courten, in 1641, equipped two ships, at great expence, the *Bona Esperanza*, and the *Henry Bonadventure*, which he sent to the East Indies, to prosecute the trade, and support the establishment for trade, which his father, Sir William, had settled there. This was his decisive effort, and circumstanced as he then was, a very hazardous and desperate adventure, in which he was unfortunate; for his ships, on their voyage, were way-laid, seized, and plundered by the Dutch, who in this iniquitous way ruined the son, after having attempted, in like manner, to ruin his father about twenty years before, by the butchery of his agents, and the seizure of his property at Amboyna.

That crafty people saw and seized the instant of a storm bursting just then on Britain, to accomplish a darling point of their mercenary policy, and succeeded but too well in stopping for a time the trade of this nation to China, Persia, and the East Indies. Moreover, to fill up the measure of their iniquity and of their infamy, when, nearly thirty years after, the un-recompenced sufferers of, and by this much-injured family, protested their wrongs, and in a legal manner reclaimed the property of which they had been robbed and pilfered, soliciting the support of their magistrates in the course of law; the States permitted their thieves and robbers to plead openly in arrest of Judgment, a general article in the Treaty of Breda, that consigns to oblivion, all national offences, injuries, losses and damages, &c. antecedent to its ratification in 1667, as a happy release from all obligations on Dutchmen to act honestly with Englishmen. The States went farther, adopted this strange construction of the article, in contradiction to the common sense of words, and positively interdicted all their Courts of Judicature from doing justice to the English plaintiffs, or giving verdicts contrary to this scandalous interpretation of an article in a Treaty, where the subjects of complaint were never considered, or even mentioned (*d*). On this shallow pretext, did the High and Mighty States of Holland, regardless of the general faith of nations, screen and justify their subjects in flagrant crimes, and prohibit their restitution of private property invaded by fraud and violence, on a principle subversive of the commerce by which they subsist, and utterly destructive of all civil society.

Here ended the grandeur and opulence of a family of intelligent, enterprising, and wealthy Merchants, who rose and stood unrivalled by individuals, but were, with all their means and skill, unable to withstand the persistent opposition of a whole mercantile nation, accustomed to determine its right by its power, to whose ignoble jealousy and sinister arts, they fell at last a shameful sacrifice. The *Dragon* and the *Katharine* of Sir William Courten were most probably intercepted, and privately destroyed by the same left-handed wisdom which audaciously seized the *Bona Speranza* and *Henry Bonadventure* of his son, and thereby gave the finishing blow to the trade of the Courten family; for by this last disaster, their forts and factories in the East Indies were totally ruined, and the damage they immediately sustained, exclusive of consequential losses, is estimated in several memorials at more than 200,000*l*. the *Bona Speranza* being rated at 75,000*l*. the *Henry Bonadventure* at 150,000*l*. and the insurance upon them at 7,000*l*. more.

The Earl of Bridgewater, who had been the principal collateral security for his son-in-law, when called upon, absolutely refused to fulfil the obligations he had come under on this occasion. His Lordship said and swore, "that he would not fry in hell for his own debts, for the discharge of which he had set apart some lands; but that he would pay none of William Courten's debts, in whose estate he said he had been deceived." Nevertheless both this Earl, and his son after him, if the writer does not mis-remember, were put to great trouble and expence on this account.

That part of the estate of the Courten-family which now probably was his all, William Courten could neither realize, nor ascertain. Overpowered, therefore, with his father Sir William's debts, and his own, and burthened with large sums at interest, he became insolvent in 1643, when he absented himself from the administration of his paternal estate, and withdrew into Italy, leaving the many and great claims upon him unsatisfied, and the accounts of the original family-partnership still unsettled. He lived abroad entirely, for the last twelve years of his life, and died at Florence in 1655 intestate, or at least, it was afterwards thought prudent to say so.

It seems there was no statute of bankruptcy taken out against him on his retirement from England, and the estates of the family continued, for years at least, unsequestered. His wife, Lady Katharine, who remained here with her children three full years after her husband went abroad, appears to have been entrusted with the sole management of his affairs, and in the administration of the estates of the family.

In 1646, this Lady employed John Moone, and David Gubard, both remembered in Sir William Courten's Will, as her Agents or Attornies, to settle every thing with Peter Boudcan, who persisted dishonestly in evading the settlement, and having, by whatever means, got possession of some of Sir William Courten's books and papers, absolutely refused to re-deliver them, availing himself of the disorder and iniquity of the times.

It may be, that in some instances Lady Katharine's interest was neglected, perhaps betrayed, by the people she employed; but with all the integrity and activity in her service imaginable, it is not likely that her agents could have succeeded effectually, in bringing one so watchful and so artful as Boudean was, to settle, and close the accounts of the partnership. Nevertheless, it is not improbable that Boudean, to protract time and shuffle off the final settlement, might send Lady Katharine occasional remittances, for the support of her husband abroad, and the supply of her own and her children's necessities. If this was not done, at any rate she might, with whatever disadvantage, take up monies on exchange, and give obligations for the repayment of them on the co-partnership. It is certainly said, that Sir William Courten did this, the accounts not having been liquidated for fourteen years before his death. It is said, that "the great bulk of Sir William Courten's lordships and lands, excepting those in the counties of Worcester and Gloucester, were sold outright by William Courten his son and heir, to William Purpoint, Esq; Mr. Daniel Harvey, the Earl of Kent, and others(e)." (e) See Verisimilitude, p. 412. By Tho. Browne, Gent. p. 39.

It does not appear, from any thing this writer has seen, in what year Lady Katharine died; nor is he authorized to say, that she continued till her death in the sole management of her husband's affairs, and the administration of the remaining estates of his family. Certainly, in 1660, King Charles II. granted Letters-Patent of Administration to all the estates of Sir William Courten and his son, in favour of one George Carew, Esq; whilst William, the son of William Courten, Esq; was still a minor, wanting then three years of being of age, and residing at that time beyond sea.

It may be proper to close here this article with some account of Carew, who, in a way apparently not very reputable, probably enriched himself from the wrecks of a very opulent family. A certificate signed Arlington, if printed from a genuine original, proves that Geo. Carew was one of the Gentlemen of his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy-Chamber. He was likewise a Member of the Society of Gray's-Inn, as appears from a printed copy of a certificate of the reader and benchers, dated 1674-5, in the 27th of Charles II. and signed Thomas Holt Lector, Robert Raworth, John Otway, and Francis Luttrell. Thomas Browne, who says he was concerned for Mr. George Carew twenty years and upwards in the affairs between him, as an Assignee of Sir William Courten's estates, and afterwards Administrator of his goods, says, that Carew "was in his juvenile years bred some-
"time in the city of London; that in 1652, he was admitted of Gray's-Inn where he was a
"great Student in the common law of England for seven years together after his admittance."

(f) Another certificate likewise printed, and ascribed to somebody whose name is forgotten, but who is styled Steward to Mr. Carew, attests, that George Carew's estates in Suffolk, Essex, London, Dorsetshire and Surrey, amounted to 530*l. per annum*. In the papers relative to the Courten-family in the British Museum, this person is commonly called George Carew of Gray's-Inn, and sometimes George Carew of Richmond, Esq. (f) See Verisimilitude, p. 412. By Tho. Browne, Gent. p. 39.

"In 1659, George Carew bought nine cottages at Richmond, *alias* West-Sheene, in Surrey, which he demolished as being receptacles for poor inhabitants burthenfome to the parish; and in the room of them built three fair brick-houses, with coach houses, barns, stables and out-buildings, whereby, it is said, he increased the King's revenue in hearth-money, and the rents and profits of James, Duke of York, at an expence to himself of 80*0* *l.* sterling and upwards." This estate fell, it is said, to Sir James Butler in 1652 (g). Carew had likewise eight houses in the parish of St. Andrew in Holbourn, of about the value of 140*0* *l.* which he mortgaged, with his Richmond estate, and another he had in Worcesterhire, to take in several assignments on the ships destroyed by the Dutch, from Sir William Powell and Sir Peter Vanlore, to unite all interests, as it is said, but in fact, it seems, to accomplish the scheme in which he succeeded, viz. to get Letters of Administration, to the estates and goods, both of Sir William Courten, and of Sir Paul Pendar, whose administrator Sir William Powell then was; though it is said in the Dedication of the Tract here referred to, "that Providence had cast this administration on Carew, in right of his wife, and other his relations." This was done in, or soon after the year 1665, for in the month of May, in that year, he obtained *Letters of Reprieve* on the East India Company of the Netherlands, for the sum of 151,612*l.* with costs and charges, to continue effectual in law, till full satisfaction was made for all losses, &c. or a composition took place between the Grantees and the Company above-mentioned. (g) See p. 12, 13, 20, 34, and Dedication.

From two papers transcribed into the article immediately following this, it is evident, that there was a Mr. Carew, who was a very considerable debtor to William Courten the last man of that name and family, and at one time his Agent and Solicitor. It is not clear to the compiler of this article, that this George Carew, Esq; was either a real creditor, or a rightful agent for the creditors of this family; but it appears, that he bought up debts and claims on the estates, and that, under a pretext of having an interest himself in right of his wife, and a zealous concern for the interests of other creditors, he actually worked himself into their business, and obtained at last, as has been said, Letters of Administration to the estates of the Courtens in the year 1660, and likewise in 1665 or 1666, to the estates, &c. of Sir Paul Pendar.

In 1661, George Carew, Esq; went to work on the strength of his Letters of Administration to the goods of Sir William Courten, and commenced a legal process in Holland, against Peter Boudean-Courten, who died, it seems, rich, as may be seen below [L], in or about the year 1662, leaving his sons and daughters responsible for the still undecided claims on the partnership of the Courtens and Moncy, from their joint stock of which their father had so unjustly kept possession, and from the real and personal estates which he had left to a great amount among his children. The legal processes were now renewed, and claims of justice re-instituted in sundry Courts of Holland, in the name of George Carew, Esq; administrator to the estates of Sir William Courten, &c. against John and Peter Boudeans and the other sons and daughters of Peter Boudean deceased. They seem to have inherited the disposition and craft with the wealth of their father; for one James Bovey, who had been servant and book-keeper to Mr. Moncy, being on the death of his master employed by William Courten, Esq; and afterwards vested with letters of procuration from George Carew, Esq; was arrested on a great feigned action, and confined in prison for several years, to prevent his prosecution of the suit, and to retard the course of justice. Its decisions in that country, to judge of them by this suit against the Boudeans, seem to have been sufficiently deliberate; for whether it was owing to the *law's delay*, or to the influence and ingenuity of the defendants, it certainly was still in litigation in the year 1674, and this writer is yet to learn in what way, or at what time it terminated. Since this was written, and after part of the article was printed, much new information has been obtained from a curious and scarce Tract, obligingly communicated by Isaac Reed, Esq. It is entitled "Vox Veritatis, or a brief abstract of the case between George Carew, Esq; Administrator of the goods and chattels of Sir William Courten, and Sir P. Pyndar, Knts. deceased, &c. and the East India Company of the Netherlands, with other inhabitants of Amsterdam and Middleburgh, &c. by Thomas Browne, Gent. dedicated to his much honoured friends, the creditors and legatees of Sir William Courten, Sir P. Pyndar, and William Courten, Esq; deceased." 60 pages, &c. 4to. 1683.

(a) Vox Veritatis, &c.

In this pamphlet, it is said (b), that George Carew, in or about the year 1672, with a letter in his custody from King Charles II. to his Ambassadors and Plenipotentiaries in Holland, the Duke of Buckingham and Lord Arlington, with a Passport likewise from the States Commissioners at Hampton Court, was actually apprehended with his two servants, as spies and enemies to Holland, and committed close prisoners to the Geuangen Port, without access, where they continued for the space of two and twenty months. It is added,

(i) Ibid. as before.

(i) that G. Carew "was condemned to die, by way of retortion for Advocate Saffie, prisoner then in the Tower of London, but the executions of both were suspended until farther order, soe that at the end of the war, they were released upon equal terms."

It appears from this new source of information, that the litigation was not yet terminated at the date of its publication in 1683; and that in the preceding year, 1682, G. Carew, being determined not to surrender the Letters of Reprisals which he had obtained in 1665, had, in contempt of the High Court of Chancery, which had declared them null and void, and issued its orders to apprehend him, fled into France, and taken up his residence at Paris, where, says the writer, "he now resolves to eat his bread, until the people of England are come to their right wits and fences again(k)." A paragraph of a French letter, from a French Lawyer, *François Perenott*, written at this period, and dated *A Paris ce 16 Dec. 1682*, being very curious, is given for the reader's amusement, in a note below [M].

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[L] *Who died, it seems, rich, as may be seen below.* Peter Boudean-Courten left, among his daughters at his death, according to the phraseology of the Netherlands, "nine ton of gold," that is, as explained in the paper that contains the information, 90,000l. sterling.

[M] *Given for the reader's amusement in a note below.*

"MONSIEUR,

"J'ay reçu la votre avec copie du proces de *Sire Jacques*, au nom du Roy, & la reponse à icelle tous deux en Latin, & l'ordre de la Chancellerie en suite datte le 26 de May, 1682, & aye auprès de moy la copie des Lettres Patentes pour Reprises faillies contre les Hollandois, pour 151,612 livres sterlins, traduité en François. J'ay consulté cette affaire avec les premiers Conseillers du Parlement de Paris, lesquels sont d'avis qu'il est contre la justice naturelle & la constitution du Gouvernement d'Angleterre, que la même Cour de Judicature d'où les Lettres Patentes sont issies, les pourroit abroger & annuler, sous prétexte de faire satisfaction aux personnes injuriées ou endommagées, & ils tiennent pour

"*fort deshonorable à aucun Prince, ou sujets, de chercher relief contre leur propres actes, lesquels sont en leur propre pouvoir d'accomplir; LE ROY de FRANCE, vendrait son lit de deffous foy, plutôt que de courir le deshonneur & raproche d'une telle action, si respectant contre tous Princes Soverains, &c (12).*"

(12) *Perenott, 1682, p. 10.*

The King's Attorney, Solicitor, and Counsel pleaded in the Court of Chancery, that the Letters of Reprisals granted to Sir Edmund Turner, G. Carew, &c. in May 1665, were disannulled by an express article in the Treaty of Breda in 1667. The Chancellors, Hyde and Finch, afterwards Earl of Nottingham, acquiesced in this opinion; and it was accordingly decreed in the Court of Chancery that the Letters were void, that they ought to be resigned, and the record of them erased. This order of the Court was made absolute Feb. 27, 1682, when six slaves and messengers being sent from day to day to apprehend Carew, as it is said, dead or alive, his personal liberty became insecure, and he fled the kingdom.

Carew's pleas against the disannulment or surrender of the Letters of Reprisals granted to him and others in 1665 were specious and strong. He pleaded, that his name was only used in trust; that he never

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The legal demands of the Courten-family on Holland and Zealand were very serious things, and seem to have required, and indeed to have justified, mature consideration. Its

personally acted in execution of the powers given by the letters, &c. and that neither the letters themselves, nor any of the *exemplifications*, or *duplicates*, [for commissions had been frequently given to Captains of ships, upon them] were actually in his custody, although he mentioned the names of the persons in whose possession they were. He refused however to sign an instrument of surrender drawn up by the King's Attorney, which Turner, another grantee, readily signed, and by signing released himself from all farther trouble and prosecution. He pleaded, that he had sold or mortgaged all his estates to purchase assignments on the two East India ships, the seizure of which was to have been indemnified by these Letters of Reprisals; that the letters had not by any means indemnified him and other sufferers, for whom he likewise acted in trust; that therefore he could not without ruining himself, and being moreover guilty of great injustice to other claimants, his constituents, as administrator of the goods of Sir W. Courten, and Sir P. Pyndar, acquiesce in the order of the Court, or relinquish or surrender, by signing the instrument of the King's Attorney, the Letters of Reprisals, the sole security then left for him, and other sufferers for whom he acted, without some adequate satisfaction. He pleaded an express clause in the Letters of Reprisals, which says, that they were to remain in full force, "Notwithstanding it may so happen, the present differences between us and the States-General, depending upon General Reprisals, may be agreed and composed, and that in the *interim*, a peace and good correspondence may be renewed between us and the said States-General (13)." Sovereign Princes, said Carew or his Counsel, make their stipulations as they please concerning their own interests, relating to dominion or royalty, either at sea or land; but as to matters of property, and in cases of *meum & tuum*, wherein their subjects were concerned, and them only, they were, as the King was, in the article of the Treaty of Breda pleaded by his Attorney, &c. circumscribed within the limits of the laws of God and man: but the King having granted his *fiat*, and the Chancellor his *recepti* to the grant of 1665, for reparation and satisfaction according to law, the King had put it beyond his power to avoid it without payment in the way agreed on, or in some other effectual way; and that the King's Ministers and the Dutch laboured equally in vain to gain a point which could not possibly be gained, without restitution, or adequate satisfaction.

Carew added other reasons against the decree of the Court, some of which are curious and memorable. He urged, that the certificates, depositions, and authentic acts of public notaries, obtained at great expence from the East-Indies, &c. on which Dr. Eton grounded his report of damages at 151,612*l.* had all been consumed by the fire of London in 1666; consequently if he signed the instrument of reparation and surrender proposed by the King's Attorney, &c. there would remain nothing on record in behalf of the creditors of Sir W. Courten, &c. there would be even a record against them. He contended that the spoils and depredations for which satisfaction was claimed, were upon record under the broad seal of England; that the debt and damages of the creditors of Sir W. Courten and Sir P. Pyndar were all liquidated and ascertained under the Broad Seal of England annexed to the Letters of Reprisals. The names too of the officers and seamen in the ship *Bona Esperanza* killed and destroyed in their own defence, in the time of alliance between England and Holland; the wages also of the officers and seamen in both the ships *Bona Esperanza* and *Henry Bona Adventura*, were in like manner upon record under the Broad Seal of England. Finally, Carew insisted that this sole remedy for all their relief, in lieu of which nothing was offered, was, so long as the Letters of Reprisals were not abrogated, or surrendered, valid on record, in several duplicates and exemplifications, besides the original Patent itself upon record under

the Great Seal of England, the greatest security in the kingdom, against which there was no averment. It followed, that he considered his Letters of Reprisals as his all, and that in spite of the Court he proposed to keep them, and to act upon them as he found occasion in justice to himself, and, as was added for the grace of the matter, in justice to the numberless and much aggrieved creditors of Sir W. Courten and Sir P. Pyndar.

It is easy to see, that Carew's obstinacy militated against himself, that all his pleadings were overborne, and all his arts vain, opposed to the Court of Chancery, in a suit prompted and supported by the crown, though it was actually in proof before that Court upon the deposition of Sir George Downing, his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary to the States, whom his Majesty had enjoined to get satisfaction for the injuries done to the Courten-family by the seizure of their ships, that John de Witt, in Oct. 1664, had actually offered 200,000 guilders, and whatever more could be got, on the caution of Pergens and P. Boudeau, but that the offer had been rejected by Carew, for himself and the creditors, &c. as an inadequate satisfaction. New differences arising just at that time, between the King of England and the States, this affair was dropped; and probably in the hurry of the treaty at Breda, concluded just after the plague, the fire, and the exploit of the Dutch at Chatham, where they burnt several of the King's ships, and whence they carried off the Royal Charles, of which they made a Coffee-house at Helver-Slucce; this private interest was either totally over-looked, or politically abandoned. However this was, the crown, it seems, acceded to the Dutch interpretation of that Treaty, and having generally released, and re-delivered the prizes taken by commissioners acting on the Letters of Reprisals to Hamburgers, Lubeckers, Danzieckers, Swedes, and various very questionable claimants, even before the ratification of this treaty; after it was ratified, the captains of ships, and seamen, who accepted of commissions from Carew and other grantees, nominated in the Letters of Reprisals, for proceeding on the powers with which they were undoubtedly vested, were several times apprehended, and once tried as felons and pyrates, but acquitted. In short, the Letters, &c. meant for their relief, instead of being a benefit to the grantees and creditors of Sir William Courten and Sir P. Pyndar, who had, it seems, an assignation of the two ships, for divers sums of money lent to Sir W. C. and his son, on yielding the surplus to Sir Edward Lyttleton, proved eventually an aggravation of their loss, and an additional injury (14).

The author of the publication, from which the substance of this note is extracted, a solicitor for Carew, and, at the date of its printing, employed more than twenty years in the affair of which he relates the case, states a fact relative to the Letters of Reprisals granted to Carew, &c. *anno* 1665, in the following words (15): "Complaints being made to the Councell-Table, that ships of the King's allies were brought in by force of the Letters Patent, for reprisals, upon suspicion as enemies, and that it was prejudicial to the Lord High Admiral's interest, and the King's fleet for want of seamen; proclamation issued forth *de bene esse*, to suspend the execution of the said Letters, &c. until further orders, and Mr. Carew was committed by the Councell-Table to the prison of the Fleet, Aug. 20, 1666, old stile, for the seamen pretended misdemeanours. Afterwards, on the same day of the month, and hour of the day, *anno* 1672, John de Witt, [to whom Browne imputes Carew's imprisonment, &c.] and Cornelis his brother were murdered at the Hague by the rabble, as a judgment upon them for treachery and ingratitude."

The present writer enters not into the *treachery*, *ingratitude*, or consequential judgment roundly asserted

(13) *Vox Veritatis*, &c. p. 58.

(14) *Ibid.* p. 42.

(15) *Ibid.* p. 6.

for they are stated below with accuracy and fidelity [O], from the statement of a paper which the curious reader may see in the British Museum (1).

(1) MSS. St. Jan.
3515.

Having

When Mr. Browne expressed himself in the words above-quoted, surely he *believed against hope*, and would soon find, that he had erred in disregarding the admonition which says, "Put not your trust in Princes." This Prince unquestionably knew, full well, that if he had granted the request of their creditors in favour of two such signal benefactors to his family, it would then have become notorious, that he ought to have done a great deal more; but by absolutely doing nothing, and appearing rather inimical than friendly to their descendants, he foresaw, that it might be imagined, he either did not know, or was not sensible, of his having inherited any obligations from their fore-fathers.

Mr. Browne's argument for the erection of marble statues to Sir William Courten and Sir Paul Pyndar, was certainly the worst that he could have made use of in that reign; namely, to furnish Merchants in future times, with extraordinary examples of loyalty, and extraordinary incitements to practise it; meaning by *loyalty*, not a religious reverence for our laws, but a blind devotion to our King.

Now, certainly the examples of Sir W. Courten and Sir Paul Pyndar, properly considered, and to the full extent of their histories, operate very differently, and hold forth very poor encouragement for the sort of loyalty, which Mr. B. perhaps, only in the course of his pleading, recommends. Nevertheless, it seems that the language of Englishmen, has in process of time, become entirely conformable to Browne's unconstitutional idea of loyalty: for, whatever it may have been owing to, there is no unequivocal example to be found of the word *loyalty*, in its primitive and most obvious sense, in the grand Dictionary, that professes to give the true meanings of all our words, and to fix, at least up to its date, the standard of our vernacular language (17).

[O] *They are stated below with accuracy, &c.*

Debts incumbent on the Crown	- -	148,216
Claims for damages at Barbadoes	- -	65,000
Ditto on the East-India Company of the Netherlands	- -	151,612
Debts outstanding on civil actions in Holland and Zealand	- -	134,000

£. 498,828

Observations.

The date of the paper from which this list of the principal claims of the Courten-family is transcribed, cannot at present be fixed, some pages being wanting at the beginning, and a leaf or leaves at the end; but it is evident from other papers apparently antecedent, that some of the loans to King James I. and his son, King Charles I. were liquidated; for it is mentioned, more than once, that the debts, said here to be *incumbent on the Crown*, amounted at one time to 200,000 *l.* &c. The following entries are taken from the same paper here referred to, and may be, as the transcriber conjectures, particulars of the last gross article in the preceding account, viz. "Debts outstanding on civil actions in Holland and Zealand." But as he does not know what might be the precise value of a guilder at that time, and as the claims on the actions for legacies by Sir Peter Courten and Mr. Money are not distinctly specified, he does not pretend to determine, whether the aggregate of the entries given below, do, or do not, correspond with the amount of the gross article, of which they are supposed to be the particulars. The decision of this point is left to people better skilled in this kind of lore, and is of very little consequence in a work of this nature.

Action against the Boudean-family	-	122,000
For monies received in trust for William Courten, Esq; by Jacob Pergens	-	5,500
For money lent by Sir William Courten to Jacob Pergens	- -	3,000
On an attachment in the Bank for 12,000 guilders of D. Goubard	- -	

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Actions for legacies by Sir Peter Courten and Mr. Money, to Sir William Courten, &c. prosecuted by G. Carew, James Bovey, and William Courten, Esq; - - - - -
probably the son of William Courten, Esq; and the subject of the subsequent article.

N. B. The claim of damages on the East-India Company of the Netherlands, was ascertained upon oath in our High Court of Admiralty, and was fixed at the sum of 151,612 *l.* by the express decree of Dr. Exton, then Judge of that Court.

May 19, 1665, the King granted Letters of *Marque* or Reprisals to Sir Edmund Turnor and G. Carew, for the forcible recovery of these damages with costs, to continue effectual in law, until the sum of 151,612 *l.* with all charges, was received, or a composition between the parties took place. But according to Browne's account, entitled, perhaps not with unexceptionable propriety, *Vox Veritatis*, these Letters, &c. originally intended for the benefit of the sufferers, had not, in 1683, been productive of any reparation, but proved indeed a stone, instead of bread, and for fish, a serpent. It does not appear at what time Carew [who seems to have got into the agency for the aggrieved creditors of Sir W. Courten and Sir P. Pyndar, rather to serve his own ends, than to have been their chosen and faithful constituent] relinquished these worse than useless Letters, &c. or whether he ever surrendered them. The latter end of this intermeddling man is at present involved in obscurity. Indeed, but that some account of him seemed necessary to explain the intricate history of this article, he might as well have passed unheeded into utter oblivion.

The claims of damages at Barbadoes, in consequence of the forcible entries of the Earl of Carlisle's agents, stated here at 65,000 *l.* were not, it seems, prosecuted by any legal contention with that Lord, or his heirs, but only by importunate applications to the Crown, grounded on Sir William's having incurred the loss above-mentioned, in discovering, planting, and fortifying Barbadoes, on the faith of the King's Letters Patents under the Broad Seal of the kingdom. It was proposed that, on an exact survey, a quit rent, at so much an acre, should be granted in compensation for Sir W. Courten's right of prior occupancy, and his expenditures in 1626, 1627, and 1628; or that in lieu of such a quit-rent, four and an half *per cent.* on the growth of the island, should be appropriated, one moiety for the benefit of the Knight's grand-child, and heirs, for ever; the other moiety to belong to his creditors, apparently too, for ever, no mention being made of the expiration of their title, on the liquidation of their claims. Whether the overture was fair, or insidious, it seems to have been unsuccessful: at least, in 1683, it does not appear that any thing was granted from the crown, on the idea of indemnification upon this score, either to the grand-child, or creditors of Sir William Courten, or to George Carew, who on no very promising speculation, by his own confession, seems to have stripped himself of decent raiment to get arrayed in wealth, by the shameful purchase of cheap claims, amplified, with interest, on a reduced family, and an impoverished estate (18).

As to the out-standing claims on civil actions, in the Netherlands, stated in this account at 134,000 *l.* it seems, that even in 1683, justice was still positively denied to Englishmen, who had suits for recovery of debts depending at law, in any of the Courts of Holland and Zealand. The Dutch pretended, in spite of sense and reason, that they were universally discharged from all claims whatsoever of Englishmen, by an express article in the Treaty of Breda. For any thing that appears at present to the contrary, their Magistrates persevered to the last

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(18) *Vox Veritatis*, &c. p. 51.
p. 17, *et passim*.

Having now paid that tribute which seemed to be deservedly due in a work of this nature, to several of our countrymen, who, in the age in which they lived, were conspicuously eminent and very meritorious in the mercantile line; it still remains to give some account of the last of their name, a man of a contemplative cast, much esteemed and beloved in private life, in habits of intimacy and friendship with scholars in the first ranks of literature in his time, who was himself well versed in fundry branches of science, particularly in Natural History, and who appears to have been the principal collector of the coins and natural curiosities now in the British Museum, as the reader will find from the perusal of the following article.] C. N.

[* * COURTEN (WILLIAM), was the last in the male line of the family, to whose merits it was meant to do justice in the preceding article; the writer of which, wished to have given here a better account of this Gentleman, than he now finds it possible to give.

The following well-authenticated memorials, however imperfect, may still be better than a chasm in this alphabetical place for his name, in the Biographia Britannica. They are given, however, with diffidence *pro re nata*, and not under the notion of any thing entitled, to be considered as a regular life of William Courten, Esq. Many papers written by him, or relative to him, in the British Museum, have been consulted and considered; but after the pains that have been taken, after all that may be found in that rich repository, probably, there may still be a want of sufficient materials for a chronological and satisfactory narrative of this Gentleman's life.

It was but lately, that the present writer became certain of what he had long suspected, though it was not known or attended to before, that the subject of this article soon after he became of age, dropt his family name, and assumed another, which he afterwards retained, as is now well known, to the end of his life.

The certainty of this discovery, which this writer had hinted before, in another work, led him to new sources of information in abundance; from which much was expected, and but little procured. Every book, letter, or scrap of paper, that could be found in the Museum, under this new name, or in the same, or any very similar hand-writing, on the strictest search of the obliging officers in that establishment, has been carefully examined, and entries were made of every thing thought worthy of notice in them, in provision for something of this kind.

If new information can fill up the outlines here given, or supply deficiencies, or correct any mistake, the subsequent life of Sir Hans Sloane will furnish an occasion, which may be taken, to make this account less imperfect: for almost every thing relative to the person spoken of here, may be introduced there, with equal pertinence and propriety.

WILLIAM COURTEN, the fourth and last of his family who had both these names, was born in the parish of Fan-Church, in London, March 28, 1642, and baptized on the 31st of the same month, as appears by an extract from the register of christenings in that parish given below [P].

He had probably no knowledge, or remembrance of his father, who, as has been said, the next year after his son was born, in 1643, became insolvent, and quitted this kingdom, to which, it does not appear that he ever returned. When he died at Florence, in 1655, the subject of this article was about thirteen years of age, and it is most likely, that his mother did not survive her husband above four or five years; for as no mention is made of Lady Katharine in 1660, when Mr. Carew obtained Letters of Administration to the estates of the Courten family, it is probable she was then dead. In a petition to Parliament, a rough draught of which is in the British Museum, undated indeed, but certainly presented by William Courten very soon after he came of age, there is a like ground for the same supposition, no mention being made of his mother; for it is only said there, that

in this curious and commodious explication of the article, and boldly avowed an evil principle, in justification of an immoral practice. Charles II. unquestionably acquiesced in this Dutch interpretation of the Treaty, and with memorable forgetfulness of the superabundant obligations of his family to Sir William Courten and Sir Paul Pyndar, urged his Lawyers, &c. to counter-act and disannul the Letters of Reprials, which shame and justice had wrested from him, in behalf of the heirs of two *signal* LOYALISTS, whose subsequent fate and family-history deserve to be thus minutely recorded, for the instruction of their rich successors in future times.

[P] *An extract from the register of christenings in that parish given below.*] What follows, is a faithful transcript of a paper in the hand-writing of William Courten, Esq; Junior, the subject of this article, excepting only the certificate signed, THO. WEBSTER.

Memorandum concerning my age, and when Carew took Letters of Administration to Sir William Courten.

The 28th of March was my birth-day, and I was baptized March 31, 1642.

1642	1694	1642	1668	31 March
1694	1642	20	1642	31 March.
8	52		20	

" I read, on the 17th of Jan. 1662, in the Register-book of christenings and burials of the parish of Fan church, London, now in the custody of Richard Powell, Clerk of the said parish, among others William Courteen, the son of Mr. William Courteen, was baptized March 31, 1642.

" [Signed] THO. WEBSTER."

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