

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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he the petitioner, and his only sister, had been left for *many years*, destitute of a *livelihood*. It Lady Katharine had been then living, as she had most probably a jointure competent to her birth and rank, which her husband's creditors could not affect, her children could hardly have been "destitute of a livelihood for many years." The paper mentioned below [Q], though not a proof, favours the presumption, that Lady Katharine was dead at the time of its date.

Attempts have been made in vain, to investigate his education, and discover the instructors of his early age in literature, and morals. No name of any of them has been found; but the after-character of their pupil, both as a scholar, and as a gentleman, which prompted the curiosity about them, is a creditable testimony to their abilities and integrity. We are told in a paper, written by Sir Hans Sloane, that William Courten, *junior*, from his earliest years, "did not regard the pomp or vanities of the world, but gave himself up to the contemplation of the works of God, whose infinite power, wisdom, and providence, he saw and admired, in the creation and preservation of all things." Revolted it seems, from his childhood, at the complicated misfortunes of his immediate ancestors, this last male of the family, contracted probably an irreconcilable dislike to mercantile business, in which they had embarked so extensively, and by which his grandfather certainly had, at one time in his life, amassed and realized an immense fortune, as evidently appears from what has been related in the foregoing article.

It is said on the same respectable testimony, and in the same paper above-mentioned, that "William Courten was well-educated in this kingdom, *before* he travelled." The word in Italics used by Sir H. Sloane, justifies the supposition, that William Courten had little knowledge or remembrance of his father, who sold outright before he left this kingdom, "the great bulk of Sir William Courten's lands, those in Worcester and Gloucestershires excepted [R], to William Purpoint, Esq; Daniel Harvey, the Earl of Kent, and others (m)."

It is not said at what time this Gentleman's father sold *the great bulk of Sir William Courten's lands*. If he sold them before his retirement from England, he doubtless, made some provision, for the support of his wife, Lady Katharine, and their children, whom he left behind him. G. Carew, though "one of the assignees of Mr. Courten's lordships, &c." could not have sold outright the estates of the Courten family in Worcester and Gloucestershires, till after he became administrator in 1660, when this last male-heir was about eighteen years of age. It is therefore credible, that till that age at least, there were abundant means for his most liberal education, in the jointure of his mother, in what was entailed on himself, and the still unsequestered estates of the family.

Even the wrecks of a fortune once so ample, must have been very considerable, and more than sufficient for the properest education, and decent maintenance of William Courten and his sister. She it seems could very well live in those days, on no more income as appears, than 30*l. per annum*. That this moderate annual sum was her principal support, we are led to believe from a slight attention to two papers which we have seen. If he and his sister had even been more reduced in point of income, than we can well suppose, they still had infallible resources in the number, rank, and riches of their relations. Their grandfather, the Earl of Bridgewater, two uncles, with eleven aunts on the side of their mother, and three aunts on their father's side, were people of fortune and distinction; many of them married into honourable and wealthy families, and all of them apparently in affluent or

[Q] *The paper mentioned below.* A formal agreement of Lady Dame Knightly, daughter of Sir W. Courten, so far as it concerns her, to the suit of William Courten her nephew, to get Carew's Letters of Administration canceled, consenting that her nephew prosecute the suit to get the said Letters repealed. Dated June 25, 1663, and signed,

ANN KNIGHTLY (19).

[R] *Worcester and Gloucestershires excepted.* It is not said that the Courten-estates in these two counties, came into the hands of "Assignees of Mr. Courten's lordships and lands," but when, or by whom these assignees were appointed does not appear. T. Brown says, that G. Carew was one of the assignees of Mr. Courten's lordships, &c. in Worcester and Gloucestershires, and he gives the following, it may be supposed, account of them. "Pyton, Aunton, Evelham, Severnstoak, Upperswell and Lowerwell, formerly granted for counter-security to Sir Edward Littleton, against debts for which that Knight stood obliged; but pre-engaged for great sums of money to Gyles Carter, Esq; Mr. Daniel Harvey, Mr. John Ruthout, Merchants, and others." G. Carew sold the reversions and

equities of redemption of Pyton and Severnstoak, to Thomas, Lord Coventry, for 8700*l.* of Evelham, to Mr. William Rudge, Merchant, for 7500*l.* of Aunton, to Thomas Foley, Esq; for 3800*l.* He sold Upperswell and other lands in the mortgage, to Sir James Ruthout for 300*l.* He sold Lowerwell to Sir Robert Atkinson, for 1600*l.* "The monies were disposed of according to several Deeds of Trust. William Courten, the grand-child and heir, joined in the fines and conveyances to Lord Coventry, Mr. Rudge, and Mr. Foley; but Sir Robert Atkyns, and Sir James Ruthout, refusing to comply with the said heir, hold their estates under the first assignees (20)."

The various purchases made by Sir William Courten in Worcestershire, may be seen in Dr. Nash's History of that county (21); who mistakes in supposing the Courtens to be strangers to this kingdom, though they were so in that county. Of Sir William in particular, Dr. Nash observes, from Habington's MSS. "Our Knight was so famed for his modesty, bounty, and charity, to his tenants and neighbours, as is scarce to be met with in those new men who purchase Gentlemen out of their ancient habitations and manors."

(20) *Vox Veritas* iii, &c. *Ibid.*

(21) Vol. i. p. 411, 452. vol. ii. p. 26, 257, 386.

easy circumstances. It might therefore have been reasonably concluded, that William Courten was well educated, even if it had not been ascertained on the foregoing testimony.

After a previous good education in this country, forwarded probably with peculiar care, and earlier certainly than is now usual, William Courten began his travels, or was sent, whilst yet a minor, to prosecute his studies abroad. The genius of a naturalist, which he discovered, it seems, from his infancy, led him to cultivate it at Montpellier, distinguished then, as Upsal since, for its Botanical Garden, its peculiar attention to Natural History, and the abilities and celebrity of masters in various branches of this science.

Here he met, as might probably be expected, with students of a congenial taste, and persons then and afterwards eminent in various walks of literature, with several of whom he appears to have lived in great familiarity, and to have cultivated long correspondence. *Joseph Pitton de TOURNEFORT*, the celebrated French Botanist, was of this number. William Courten, who was the senior by several years, had, no doubt, made a very considerable proficiency in Botany, before his acquaintance with this illustrious foreigner commenced; but it must have been much improved by the intimacy that appears to have subsisted between them.

It was at Montpellier probably, but many years after his primary settlement there, that William Courten contracted his first acquaintance with Sir Hans Sloane, a zealous naturalist, who spared no pains or expence in the acquisition and promotion of knowledge in Natural History, and who was yet more honourably distinguished, by his skill in his own profession, his general patronage of scholars, his public spirit, and extensive philanthropy. Sir Hans Sloane unquestionably spent a considerable time at Montpellier, it may be, both to improve his knowledge, and to establish his health; and here too it is said, he got his degree of M.D. But at what place, or at what time soever their acquaintance began, being forwarded by a similarity of studies, in which William Courten had unquestionably the preheminance, it ripened into a friendship, that, as will appear in the sequel, continued, without interruption, to the end of his life. He was at Montpellier, and still a minor, when the administration of the estates of his father and grandfather was legally vested in G. Carew, Esq; of whom so much has been said in the preceding article. Even at this period, in 1660, when the remaining mortgages and lands of the Courten-family were fore-closed, or sold outright, certainly William Courten and his sister were not stripped of every thing, so as to be left entirely dependent on the generosity of their many honourable and opulent relations, for the mere necessaries, or even the common comforts of life.

William Courten had a manor or manors entailed upon him, which it was thought most prudent to sell and convert into personal estate. His sister Katharine had, no doubt, some patrimony, of which the creditors, or their officious administrator, could not deprive her. The *deeds of trust* before mentioned, intimate some settlements on the heirs of the family; and, moreover, it is not very likely, that William Courten would have joined, as has been said, in the fines and conveyances to Lord Coventry, Mr. Rudge and Mr. Foley, idly, and for nothing.

Whatever, therefore, the forms of law, and the common phraseology in an application to the Throne might require to be said, yet what we read in a petition presented to the King, by William Courten in 1663, probably was not true, and certainly is not credible, *viz.* that he, the petitioner, and his sister, had actually been *for many years destitute of a livelihood*.

Immediately on the expiration of his minority, William Courten, it seems, left Montpellier for some time, being obliged to repair to London, by the exigency of his own and his sister's affairs, in order to push their final settlement, and to secure to himself and her, the best provisions for the future, that could be collected from the wide-spread ruins of their family.

With a turn of mind that biassed him strongly to a contemplative life, unexperienced in the ways of the world, torn from darling studies, and under the influence of the indolent habits of a mere scholar, this youth was ill qualified to be a principal agent for himself and his sister in a business so perplexed, so laborious and so unpromising. There is little room for wonder, or for censure, if in such a labyrinth William Courten did not always see clearly, or keep constantly the right way.

We have, however, an honourable testimony for his integrity and Christian character, in the hand-writing of Sir Hans Sloane, unquestionably a competent and a creditable witness. But, possibly, with the best dispositions and principles imaginable, circumstanced as he was, this young Gentleman might be led to concur in measures, of which, from our ignorance of particulars, or an inattention to them, we may now doubt about the rectitude, or the propriety.

It is indeed evident, that he acted but a subordinate part, for which only he was qualified, and that he relied entirely on the guidance of his counsellors and relations, who seem to have exerted themselves in his service throughout, with zeal, friendship, and ability; and to have effectually protected him and his sister, from being essentially injured by G. Carew, Esq.

Soon after his arrival in England, in concert with his friends, William Courten, Esq; began his litigations in behalf of himself and his sister. The first object he aimed at, was

to set aside the letters that, in his absence and minority, Carew had *surreptitiously* obtained; and to get himself legally invested with the administration of the estates and effects of his ancestors. He contended that G. Carew was an officious intruder, under false pretences of being a sufferer; and an agent for other sufferers by the losses of his father and grandfather; and urged that this man's intermeddling with the wrecks of their fortunes had been equally to the prejudice of the rightful heirs, and to the detriment of the legal creditors of the family. He claimed therefore for himself, as his natural right, the administration of the Courten-estates; and his aunt Lady Knightly, who seems to have been then the only surviving child of Sir William, from whom the estates descended, concurred with her nephew, as has been said, in this claim.

G. Carew, who was both a courtier and a lawyer, seems to have exerted his utmost address and professional skill to stop, or frustrate these proceedings. He expressly owns, in one of his papers, that he had indeed paid *indefinite* sums of money to William Courten Esq; *after he came of age*, though he says, at the same time, that he did not pay the monies because William Courten had a right to them, but solely to prevent and terminate debates. The causes here assigned for the payments to William Courten, Esq; *after he came of age*, are very questionable; for Carew does not appear a man likely to have parted with money on such principles, merely *to prevent or terminate debates*. Whatever sums he paid with the views he pretends, were all totally lost to him; for they did not then answer the purposes which they were the most promising means to have accomplished.

Mr. Courten still persisted in his favourite study of Natural History [S]; but he persevered notwithstanding, in the various processes instituted in behalf of himself and his sister. He preferred and prosecuted his application and petitions for redress of their grievances, probably to the Court of Chancery, certainly to the Prerogative Court, to the Committee of Parliament, and to the Throne itself.

In the British Museum, there is the rough draught of an undated petition of William Courten to the honourable Committee of Parliament, for redress of grievances in foreign trade. In this unfinished instrument, the injuries done to his ancestors are stated in strong terms, at 200,000*l.* with an account of particulars proved, it is said, upon oath, in the Court of Admiralty. These injuries, and the consequential claims they gave rise to, have been treated of *satis superque*, in the preceding article. It is therefore sufficient here, to mention only one circumstance relative to the affair of Barbadoes, omitted in the foregoing account. It is this, that from the time this violent injury was done to Sir W. Courten by the Earl of Carlisle, for thirteen successive years, there was no Parliament to apply to for redress: during the Protectorate, the feeble remonstrances of the Courten-family, so obnoxious to the powers then in being, were disregarded; and when its solicitors had good ground for better hopes, their solicitations were still rejected by the superior influence of those who were in possession of the lawless plunder they reclaimed.

Along with the instrument above-mentioned, there is in the same place, the petition of W. Courten, Esq; to the King, dated in 1663; in which the petitioner complains, as has been said, of G. Carew; claims the administration of the Courten-estates for himself; states the debts due to him for money lent to his Majesty's father, and the reparations and claims due to his family in every way, *ut supra*. W. Courten concludes with an earnest request, that the consideration of his petition, *in toto*, might be referred to his Majesty's Attorney-General.

It appears from other papers in the same repository, that his Majesty did actually deign to refer this petition to his Attorney-General, then Sir Jeffery Palmer, who, after consulting with Sir William Mericke, at that time Judge of the Prerogative-Court, and answering two questions stated by Sir William Mericke in writing, gave in his report, warranting the revocation of the Letters granted to G. Carew, and the grant of the administration to W. Courten, Esq. The curious may see the questions and answers alluded to in the British Museum, and the report itself, which is an original paper, and has the autograph signature of J. PALMER.

There is, *ibidem*, a letter signed Richard Dowdewell, dated Sept. 11, 1663, and directed "To his honourable friend William Courten, Esq; at Fawley Lodge, to be left at the Post-House in Daintrye, to be conveyed." This letter mentions some proposals of Mr. Carew, from the consideration of which, [says the letter-writer, R. D.] "I infer that the Squire has lost his wits, and as for his honesty, if ever he had any, it has quitted him long ago."

Sir Jeffery Palmer's Reports seems to have restored the Squire to his wits, and to have produced more reasonable proposals, which, for want of better, were probably accepted;

[S] *Study of Natural History.* There are many MSS. of William Courten, Esq; preserved in the British Museum, apparently written about this time. One or two of his common place-books have the name of William Courten upon them, written by himself, and with the date 1663; they contain, as most of his papers do, evidences of his having been an inquisitive, able Naturalist, and well-skilled in coins and antiquities.

They abound with observations on animals, vegetables and minerals, and with hints and directions for the preservation of natural productions, generally very curious, frequently, as this writer believes, original, but sometimes, and not seldom noted from his reading, and it may be from oral information, for his own particular use.

for it does not appear, either that W. Courten, Esq; took out Letters of Administration, as he now might have done; or that the Letters of Administration, which had been granted to Mr. Carew, were ever actually revoked.

It seems, indeed, that about this time, or not very long after, some compromise took place between William Courten, Esq; and G. Carew; but it is evident from a letter in the British Museum, that all matters were not entirely adjusted between them, or even likely to be finally settled in August 1684. The terms and stipulations of their partial and temporary agreement, this writer has not been able to collect with circumstantial certainty, from any thing he has yet seen; he suspects the conditions were industriously kept as private as possible, and supposes there were prudential and valid reasons for this concealment. The circumstances that incline him to think so, will presently disclose themselves; nor is there any thing in them, or indeed in any thing clearly visible, in the conduct or conclusion of his negotiations with Carew, so far as we know of them at present, to warrant our thinking unfavourably of Mr. Courten's character.

A rough draught of an undated bond is preserved in the British Museum, from which it appears, that Mr. Courten gave up all claim to the administration of the estates of his father and grandfather, in favour of G. Carew of Gray's-Inn, for valuable considerations not specified. If Carew moreover indemnified Mr. Courten against all molestation and lawsuits from the creditors of his ancestors, on the score of his descent, it was manifestly prudent in both parties to conceal as much as they could, their agreement, and all its conditions. Nevertheless it is said expressly, that Mr. Courten was sued, summoned into Chancery, and even arrested, by some or other of the creditors of his father and grandfather. We are likewise told that in all these cases, he pleaded that he was not the executor of his father or grandfather, nor the administrator of their estates and effects, from which he said he now claimed nothing. He added, moreover, that whatever he had received from the wrecks of their fortunes, was *ex dono et gratia*, and not *ex jure*; and declared openly, that he did not demand any thing *ex additione hereditatis*, as heir to his father or grandfather. He even relinquished his family name of COURTEN, assumed that of WILLIAM CHARLETON [T], and publicly announced his intention of quitting England, and living in a strange land.

There being no dates to direct the regular entry of the last-mentioned circumstances, it may be, they are not introduced here in the order they happened. It is a matter of little consequence, as the irregularity, if there be any, can only relate to the later part of a period of about seven years, from 1663 to 1670, which seems to include the whole duration of William Courten's residence in England, after his first return from Montpellier. It appears, from a preceding note, that he lived with his aunt, Lady Knightly, at Pawley-Lodge, in Northamptonshire, for the most part of the time (p), and that he was *beyond*

(q) Letter signed P.S. dated 1684. Note [D].

sea about Jan. 1670 (q). Some time or other, more or less advanced in the course of the seven years specified, certainly William Courten, Esq; formed his plan of life, dropt his litigation with Carew, got things in a train for final settlement, and secured the best means he could stipulate for his own and his sister's future livelihood.

Now with whatever prudence or privacy the arrangement was settled, out-standing creditors must know, that the grandson of the family could legally enter on the administration of the estates of his ancestors, and conclude, from his deferring to administer, that he had compounded with Carew, the former administrator, and received something very considerable to induce him to relinquish his rightful claims, and all his own, and his sister's inheritance. Any knowledge, or even suspicion of this kind, was sufficient to bring on, towards the close of the septennial period above-mentioned, the law-suits and vexations that obliged Mr. Courten to make the preceding declarations, and compelled him finally, for peace-sake, to quit the kingdom, to change his name to CHARLETON, and to live abroad as he did for many years (*).

(*) About 14, or 16.

Floyd's prosecution grounded ultimately, as it seems, on a family debt to a Dutchman, of the name of Vanlore, or Vanlere, pursued Mr. Courten, it is said, to *the Land's End*, about Jan. 1670, continued to go on against him after he was *beyond sea*, and was still likely to put him to more trouble and expence fourteen years after, i. e. in the year 1684, as appears from the letter of his cousin P. S. of that date (r).

(22) MSS. March. 424 1, 410.

[T] WILLIAM CHARLETON.] "*M. Guillaume Courten, fut plus connu posterieurement, sous le nom de Charlton, qu' il prit apres avoir perdu un tres beau domaine appartenant a sa famille* (22)." His will is made in his family name of William Courten, but his death is announced in the *Post Angel* for March 1702, 410. p. 137, in the following words. "March 27, 1702, William Charlton, Esq; of the Middle Temple, eminently known for his fine collection of curiosities, viz. medals, shells, &c. died at the Gravel Pits at Kensington, and has left the foregoing curiosities to Dr. Sloan." There is likewise an entry of his death, under the name of William

Charleton, on March 17, 1702, in Le Neve's MS. obituary (23). This information was given as a probable conjecture, in a late edition of the *TARLER* with notes, Vol. VI. p. 477. It is now beyond a doubt, and to the proofs of it, already given, unquestionable evidences of his having long borne the name of William Charleton, will occur in the sequel of this article. It is sufficient to know, with certainty, that William Courten actually took this other name, of Charleton; but it is unnecessary here to ascertain, with nicer precision, the occasion, or the time of his taking it.

(23) MSS. at p. 477.

(24) MSS. 35.

The most dry and unpleasant part of this article the writer would willingly close here, but that it seems necessary to say something farther on this head, to obviate a very serious objection to Mr. Courten's moral character, for which, it does not clearly appear, that there is any real foundation. It is stated by B. S. a writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, who maintains in brief, that every farthing that William Courten, Esq; recovered from Carew, or from the wrecks of the Courten-estates, ought to have been distributed among the creditors of the family;—that Mr. Courten had no right to whatever monies he derived from his inheritance; and that his application of it to his own, or his sister's support, was *ipso facto* an impeachment of his integrity.

The objection deserves consideration the rather, as it is not grounded on a point of law, but on a principle of rectitude, which, like *Bayes's* simile in the *Rehearsal*, might do very well, if it were but well applied. It seems necessary, therefore, to state the following circumstances, with a view to vindicate Mr. Courten's character from this odious aspersion, and to guard it from injurious misconceptions in future.

In the course of this narrative, it has been said, in the words wherein the relater found his information, that Sir William Courten died *involved in great debt*,—and that his son, overpowered with his father's debts and his own, and with large sums at interest, &c. withdrew from the Administration, and left this kingdom *insolvent*. Merchants, properly so called, and many others of respectable professions, when very extensively concerned in trade, may, however, be *involved in great debt, insolvent, even bankrupts* [U], and yet be in a condition to pay twenty shillings in the pound, and to make, after all, decent and ample provision for their families.

There was no bankruptcy in the Courten-family; yet from a peculiarity of circumstances, which it is not requisite to mention, this appears to have been eminently the case of Sir William Courten's affairs, when he died *very deeply in debt*; and of his son's too, at the very time of his *insolvency*, but much more at the period we are now come to, twenty, or it may be more years after his death.

The accounts of the family, both on the debtor and creditor side, are unquestionably incomplete, and by no means before us in such an accurate state, as that we can speak or reason upon them with arithmetical exactness; but still we know enough of them otherwise to support the following apparently conclusive arguments.

G. Carew had certainly all the knowledge that we want of the affairs of the Courten-family; he had been long employed in them both at home and abroad; he had balanced, no doubt, the debtor and creditor sides of their accounts; and as he was a man of equal perspicacity and industry, certainly in a business wherein he embarked so deeply, it may well be supposed that he knew perfectly what he was doing. Surely he was no fool, and would not have taken the trouble, or paid the price he did for the administration of the Courten-estates, but with, I say not a probable, but a certain prospect of very ample recompensation. Now if this administration was an object well worthy of all the trouble and cost that G. Carew expended upon it, there can be no doubt but that it would have been equally advantageous, and more beneficial to Mr. Courten. It seems therefore highly reasonable to conclude, not only on the face of the general accounts, but more especially from the drift of Carew's conduct, and his unremitted perseverance in the pursuit, that the debts due to the Courten-family greatly exceeded the debts payable by it, and to a very large amount.

To the partial statement of 498,828 *l.* on the creditor-side, well ascertained, and in very many particulars upon oath, which by no means included the whole of what was due to the family, it seems difficult, indeed impossible, to find debts equally well authenticated, of half the sum, to oppose upon the debtor-side. If justice then had been done, [and we go on principles of rectitude] if the debts on both sides had been liquidated, *in toto*, or by composition, the vast overplus must assuredly have been the whole and sole property of William Courten Esq; and his sister. He and she, therefore, were creditors, in appearance the principal creditors on the estates of the Courten-family.

Besides, the debts of the many creditors of this family in Holland and Zealand were settled, it seems, and paid by the Treaty of Breda; for if by this treaty, no debts antecedent to it were afterwards to be paid to British subjects over all the dominions of the States, certainly no antecedent debts need be paid to Dutchmen in any of all the territories of Britain.

It is, indeed, obvious to remark, that on this principle, the Courten-family cleared with Vanlore, and their relatives of the Cromling-family, and thereby gained something considerable, though they still lost vastly more. But this loss, Mr. Courten and his sister were well entitled to have made up to them, by the community which enjoyed the blessings of this treaty, and which, doubtless, owed full reparation to the individual sufferers, at whose great

[U] *Even bankrupts.* This has not uncommonly happened even in more recent times; and may be exemplified in the case of Mr. Knapton, the famous bookseller, who, with the utmost integrity, and with a surplus of many thousand pounds, submitted to

become a bankrupt, as the readiest mode of collecting his out-standing debts, in order to pay the demands of all his creditors, and to retire on an affluent independence.

expend the beneficial treaty had been obtained. And if the King and his Council on this occasion had driven a hard bargain for the public, still the public must abide by the loss, and no reason could be assigned why two innocent orphans, against whom nothing was alledged, or pretended, should be plundered of their property, and left to starve, by the act of the Sovereign, or of his negociators, who, by assuming a power of giving what was not theirs to give, recognized the right of the proprietors to come upon them for damages and reparation.

William Courten, Esq; claimed, moreover, as his right, the administration of his father's and grandfather's estates; and a great Crown-lawyer honestly admitted the right, and vouched for the legality of his claim, in direct contravention to a prior royal grant.

Sir Jeffery Palmer's determination put the administration in Mr. Courten's power, but left it at his option; nor was he by any means obliged to administer, contrary to the dictates of prudence, the advice of his friends, or his own inclination. Had Mr. Courten actually engaged in the administration, there is no ground to doubt, but that, if justice had been done to him, he would have done ample justice to the creditors, and would have had in the end, an abundant provision for himself and his sister.

Circumstanced as Mr. Courten was, he probably acted in the best, as well as in the most cautious manner possible. The estates on which he was to enter, might have been injured irreparably, by the preceding administrator he was about to supersede. He might have been over-awed by the apprehended embarrassments, and threatened opposition of this artful man. He might have thought it more difficult and more expensive, than it was in reality, to get equal justice done to himself, and to do equal justice to the creditors; and have been more apprehensive of the final issue than he had good cause to be. He might commiserate the condition of the creditors, and despise and detest the character of the man whom the king had appointed administrator, and agent for them.

Nevertheless, if terrified at the prospect of an office so troublesome and so perilous, or smitten with the love of a studious and quiet life, he chose rather to give up greater but more precarious advantages, for a lesser but more certain provision; and if his sister likewise consented to the composition, what indeed was to hinder him from compounding with Carew, for all his own and her claims. Whatever right he, or his sister had, or might be supposed to have in reversion, with her previous consent, he was certainly free to transfer. He might do, as some creditors had done before him, as others probably did after him. In treating with Carew, who was the legal administrator, if he himself declined to become so, he had to deal with a man, who parted, it seems, with a decent livelihood, to make himself rich in this disreputable way, and who was likelier to give him less than an equivalent, than more than enough.

If, because "he was faint," or constrained by dire necessity, he sold his own and her birth-right for a mess of pottage, Was he not to eat it? Was the poor pittance he got, after all, not his own? Might he not honestly retire with it wherever he pleased? Sharing it, as they could agree, with his sister, which he appears to have done to the end of her life. Surely, all things considered, there is more call here for sympathy, than for censure; for commiseration, than for reproach.

In a word, the present writer, after a revival, cannot see that there is any thing in the *long account* that B. S. refers to, in the *longer account* given here, or in any account he has ever seen, that really militates against Mr. Courten's integrity in the way surmised, or that invalidates the ample and repeated testimony under the hand of Sir Hans Sloane, corroborated beyond all suspicion, and much to Mr. Courten's honour, as will appear in the sequel, by the cordial friendship of John Locke, one of the greatest and best of men, eminent alike as a philosopher, and as a christian.

Indeed, to this writer, the composition with Carew, for what he could get, and his easy relinquishment of the administration to a man of the world, whose keenness and conduct argue its value, appear to be strong and unsuspicious evidences of Mr. Courten's integrity.

Having thus, with difficulty, in the course of several of the best years of his life, collected, from the remains of his fore fathers opulence, some future provision for himself and his sister, and it may be, an ample sufficiency for all the wants of a scholar, whose humble walk he chose, Mr. Courten entirely withdrew from active life, in which he apparently engaged with reluctance, and indeed, from necessity. Contented with the little he got, he retired to indulge his contemplative disposition, and declined the very probable prospects of bettering his circumstances, which his extensive and honourable connections held forth, if he would have taken to any learned profession or lucrative employment.

In the British Museum, over a door in the second shell-room, there is a fine portrait of William Courten Esq; drawn, seemingly, before his leaving England for the second time, about the close of 1667, and certainly by some eminent painter. It was probably at this period of his life, that "he travelled [as Sir Hans Sloane informs us] over most parts of Europe, studying the languages, observing the customs and manners of its inhabitants, and purchasing every where, whatever he could get curious in nature or art."

Of the course, or duration of his travels, the present writer can give no particular information. It may be reasonably judged, that after a peregrination of three or four years, at most, he settled in his former place of abode, at Montpellier, where he certainly resided for the greatest part of the time that he lived abroad. Sir Hans Sloane says, expressly, that he was absent from England, at different times no doubt, twenty-five years in all; and though the particular years are not stated, it would not be very difficult, if it was of any importance, to ascertain them.

Mr. Courten seems all along to have paid great and general attention to polite literature. His papers and place-books, many of which are preserved in the British Museum, discover various, judicious, and extensive reading; and his own frequent remarks shew, that he thought as well as read.

About this time he seems to have been much engaged in the study of coins, both ancient and modern. In this entertaining and useful, but expensive branch of knowledge, he certainly made great proficiency, and attained at last extraordinary skill.

It appears from one of his pocket-books, referred to in the margin (s), that in 1669, he began to collect coins, in both kinds, and in all metals, at considerable expence. There is no doubt but that his collection in this way became ultimately ample, well-selected, and very valuable; but there is now no possibility of ascertaining its extent, its merit, or its value; for it certainly appears, that he not only exchanged his duplicates, as all collectors do, but that he very frequently sold, as well as bought, and bought for others, as well as for himself. From several of his priced catalogues in the British Museum, latterly very accurate, and entirely in the manner of a master in the science, the present writer is inclined to think, that very many, perhaps most of the coins in that repository, might be traced to their original purchaser and prices. The whole catalogue of coins gathered in Spain, and purchased by Sir Hans Sloane (t), those presented by John Lee Esq; and all donations of this kind posterior to the death of Mr. Courten, are obviously out of the question. It ought likewise to be mentioned here, as it is upon good authority, that the original coins purchased by the public, told several hundreds above a thousand, short of Sir Hans Sloane's inventory delivered to Parliament.

(s) MSS. Sloane.
3988.
Plut. xxxi. c.

(t) MSS. Sloane.
2824.

Certainly Mr. Courten, on his return to England, about fourteen years after the time we are now speaking of, was looked up to here, and apparently with justice, as a person of superior skill in medallic science, wherein no man, who is not a good scholar, can ever arrive at any great degree of eminence. This very desirable literary accomplishment, at times perhaps, may have been over-rated by some of the few who have been too lavish of their time, ingenuity, and expence, in the acquisition. It has oftner been undervalued, like the grapes in the fable, and treated by the illiterate, with a Gothic ridicule, manifesting a kindred disposition and an absurd vanity, similar to that which Diogenes manifested, in trampling with insolence, on the cloak of Plato.

It is now well known, that the best and most elegant writers of antiquity, cannot be read with just understanding and true taste, without good maps. Genuine coins are serviceable in the same, and in very many other respects. As they might be so very advantageously employed in the course of our early instruction in classical literature, the means of that part of our education are manifestly defective, where a good cabinet of coins, or the best books that represent and explain them are wanting, or not brought into common use. Unquestionably, after all that can be said to depreciate this kind of knowledge, it must still be held in considerable estimation, and very deservedly, by all who are desirous to know with certainty, the history, chronology, geography, arts, manners, customs, and notions, both civil and religious, of ancient times, which these compendious and indubitable monuments do, in so many pleasing and useful ways, contribute to illustrate, to rectify, and to establish in truth, or verisimilitude.

Mr. Courten's superior skill in this science, a hand-maid to so many other arts and sciences, is well ascertained, by his catalogues of his own coins, by his many papers, and his epistolary correspondence on subjects of this nature, with Sir John Evelyn, the honourable Heneage Finch, and others, but especially with Lord Colrane, his own *elevé* in this science, and a pupil that evidently appears by his proficiency to have done great honour to his master.

The present writer having derived, from a little cabinet of his own, purchased at more expence perhaps than was suitable to his circumstances, a great alleviation of uneasiness, and much elegant enjoyment, distrusts his own judgment in this case, and forbears rather reluctantly, giving any of all the many curious extracts that might have been given from these letters, for fear of being carried farther on a favourite subject, than might be acceptable to the generality of readers. The perusal of the originals in the British Museum, is easily accessible to the curious in this way, who may there freely gratify their curiosity. In the notes taken for this writer's private use, the references have been too often omitted, and he has neglected to mark, particularly, every thing of this kind that has been examined; but some, and perhaps the principal references, are given in the margin (u) to direct the search, and facilitate the enquiries of such as think justly, and as they ought to think, of this kind of knowledge.

(u) MSS. Sloane.
3961. f. 3962. f.
Plut. 3982,
1828, &c.

It was most probably abroad, and about the year 1675, that Mr. Courten's acquaintance and friendship with the celebrated Mr. John Locke began; for in the summer of that year the bad state of Locke's health, and an apprehended consumption, induced him to repair to Montpellier, then as famous for the cure of diseases of the lungs, as Antycira was of old for those of the brains. For many years past, people have discontinued to resort to Montpellier, when afflicted with pulmonary and consumptive complaints, its air having been long judged peculiarly improper for them; though it is now said to be much mended, by draining a morass, or planting, or destroying a wood. Bishop Atterbury, who was there in the summer 1729, represents it as so uncomfortable, that he was forced to take shelter from the sultry heats, at Vigan in the Cevennes, ten leagues distant.

The unpublished letters of Mr. Locke, to Mr. Courten, &c. given below [X], about ten years after this time, prove the intimacy and dearneſs that subsisted between them, and which,

[X] Unpublished letters of Mr. Locke, to Mr. Courten, &c. given below.]

Dear Sir, Amst. 12 Aug. —87.

I cannot but take kindly, from Dr. Goodall, any service that he has done you: and he cannot oblige me more than by putting it to my account, which is with great justice done, since there is no thing that more nearly concerns me than your health. When I write to him, I shall acknowledge it, and also recommend it to him as an interest *ſee* properly mine, that he may assure himself, that if he administers any thing to the recovery of your health, he truly takes care of mine. I have not had time, since the receipt of your letter yesterday, *ſee* to inform myself as to answer all the particulars of his, *ſee* as I desire; for which I must beg you to excuse me to him, with the return of my thanks, till I shall be in a condition to do it by an answer to what he demands. In the mean time, pray do me the favour to inform him, that I remember a friend of mine, one Mr. Charleton, had, by the use of tobacco in snuff, contracted at Montpellier, a continual head-ach; which, upon the forbearing of snuff, left him again: whether this at all concerne your present case, I beseech you consider; and if *ſuſſion* has prevailed upon you to do yourself harme, to quit it again. I with the more importunity *preſſe* this, because I remember, it was with great instance and violence I extorted that pleasure from you, which perhaps forgetfulness has suffered you to return to again. I have already spoke to a friend of mine, to get for you any rarities that he can light on in the East-India fleet, which is now here every day expected. I, the last week, put into the hands of Mr. Smith, a bookseller, *liveing* at the Prince's Arms in Paul's Church-yard, twenty-six draughts of the inhabitants of several remote parts of the world, especially the East Indies, they are marked thus, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30; and the names of them writ on the backside with my hand; those, whose names are not writ, if you know them not, I will get explained here; the Brazilian Canibals [of which there are one or two] are easily known; but since there was not the name of the particular nation from which they were taken, I would not add them myself. For the excellency of the drawing I will not answer, they being *don* by my boy, who hath faithfully enough represented the originals they were copied from, *ſee* that one may see the habits and complexion of the people, which was the main end they were designed for, and therefore you must excuse them if they be not excellent pieces of painting. I also put into the hands of the said Mr. Smith, a little box, with the seeds and husks of *Fœniculum Sinense*. The husks have a very fine *aromatical* taste, and are used by the Muscovites, to be mixed with their The, as I have been told, which is not, I imagin, the most *ſotish* thing they are guilty of. If you think the seeds will grow, and then find to spare, I would be glad you would send two or three of them in my name, to Jacob Bobart, the gardener of the Physick-garden in Oxford, who may endeavour to raise plants from them. He is a very honest fellow, and will not be unwilling to furnish you with any curiosities of that kind. Moreo, I find,

by your *ſee* often mentioning it, lies heavy upon your hands, not that you are weary of the book, but are impatient till I have it. I tell you truly, if I had a better friend, to whose care to commit it till I return, I should presently ease you of it; but if you cannot be easy in your conscience, till you find it wholly in my possession, I must intreat you yet to have patience till I *bethinke* myself how to dispose of it commodiously. You are one of those scrupulous friends that cannot be at rest till you have more than quitted scores, (for so your exact putting them to account, gives me reason to speak) with the kindness of your friends. In this respect, Dr. Guinellon and you are well met; and I, who am of a more loose and careless temper, am pleased to see, that this nice humor has a little perplexed one, or both of you, for I see the Doctor is in pain that he cannot find *Gorlaeus* and the other books you desired. I most earnestly wish your health, and am,

Dear Sir,

Your most humble,

and most obedient servant,

J. LOCKE (24). (MS. A. 9. 2. 106.)

I was told you promised to enquire of Sergeant Maynard for the *beerbe* which cures the leprosy; give me leave to *aske* whether you have *don* it. It is not fit so useful a thing should be lost.

Directed. "For Mr. William Charleton, to be left with Mr. William Garret, Merchant in Lime-street, London."

Dear Sir,

26 Aug. —87.

I lately gave you the trouble of a letter, to let you know, that I had sent you, by Mr. Smith a Bookseller, at the Feathers, in Paul's Church-yard, 26 draughts of the habits of several *ſavages* [especially Asiatick] people; and also a little box, of the seeds of *Fœniculum Sinense*. What other commands I have from you, in your's of 26 of July, I shall take all the care I can to give you satisfaction in. I herewith send you a letter, and a little manuscript, to Lord Pembroke, which I beg the favour of you to deliver to his own hands, and to send me what answer his Lordship shall please to honour me with. If his Lordship be at Wilton, I beg the favour of you to send the whole packet away by the next post, to Dr. David Thomas at Salisbury, with the letter here inclosed to him. If I make you not an apology for this trouble, 'tis because I know, with what pleasure and *readiſſe* you oblige your friends, which lays on me the greater obligation to be, as I am,

Dear Sir,

Your most affectionate and

Most humble servant,

J. LOCKE (25). (MS. A. 9. 2. 107.)

Directed. "For Mr. William Charleton, to be left at Mr. William Garret's, a Merchant in Lime-street, London."

Endorsed in Mr. Courten's hand-writing,

"Copy of mine of the 26 July, in answer to Mr. Locke's of 10th of June."

Dear

which no doubt continued to the end of Mr. Courten's life, for Locke, though his senior about eight years, was the survivor. It appears that Mr. Courten was one of the select friends among whom Locke practised physick, of which he had taken a Bachelor's degree at Oxford. That Locke practised a little, and was exceedingly well qualified for the employment, appears from many circumstances mentioned in his article, and particularly from the following testimony of the celebrated Dr. Sydenham. "You know how much my method has been approved by a person who examined it to the bottom, and who is our common friend: I mean Mr. John Locke, who, if we consider his genius, and penetrating and exact judgment, or the strictness of his morals, has scarce any superior, and few equals now living (x)." That Mr. Courten attended particularly to Locke's prescription, and derived benefit from it, is evident from his answer, and from the following entries in a Saunders's Almanac for 1698, in which there is a MS. Diary, not by Dr. Walter Charleton, as it is entitled in the Museum, and the Catalogue of MSS. but relative solely to Mr. William Courten, being his own hand-writing, which is sufficiently distinguishable, and moreover vouched as his, by the information itself. "July 27, 1698, being distressed with my head-ach and giddiness, I left off entirely taking tobacco in snuff, having only taken it but four times a day, for several days before, and never after 7 at night." Aug 20, 1698. "Must shew my things, [meaning his Museum] but seldom, never two days consecutively for the future (y)."

(x) Biog. Brit.
Art. LOCKE,
1st. edit. p. 2995;
Note [H].

(y) MSS. Sloane
4956.

Certainly Mr. Courten cultivated medallie science with pleasure, avidity, and considerable success: the curious may see the most satisfactory proofs of this at the British Museum, both in the coins he collected, and in the accounts he has given of them. It appears likewise, from very many of his papers in the same repository, that as a general scholar he was far from being contemptible, and that he was not unskilled in making experiments. Some of these papers the curious may easily find in Mr. Ayscough's Catalogue of MSS. but to others of them, not less worthy of notice, as they are loose and unentered, no express references can be given. The only paper of Mr. Courten, which the present writer has ever seen in print, is a translation from an original in Latin, published ten years after the death of its author, in the Philosophical Transactions, at large, Vol. xxvii. page 485, for the months of July, August, and September. The title, and some account of it, the reader may see below [2].

Mr.

'Dear Sir, July 26, 1687.

'Inclosed, I send you the long expected letter from our worthy friend, Dr. Goodall, for whose extraordinary *kindness* and civility to me, on your account, I intreat the return of your thanks. It is now near three months, that I have been sorely afflicted with violent and constant pains in my head, accompanied with great *giddiness*, inasmuch that I was not able to read your letters on the back of a book, placed on a shelf of an ordinary height, without being ready to fall. In this condition the able and compassionate Dr. found me; and after he had taken a very exact account of the circumstances of it, he prescribed me several things in order to my cure; amongst others, a sort of lozenges, by which I found benefit, though he would receive none, it not being in my power to fix one single fee on him, telling me, that perceiving I was so intimate a friend of yours, I should have his advice gratis. I thank God I am somewhat better than I have been, but I fear that I shall scarcely ever be freed from this unhappy distemper. Pray let me know in your next, when I shall send the Moreri's Dictionary, and the other books you formerly mentioned, &c.'

The letter concludes with an order for some insects, birds, and animals, from a catalogue of objects of Natural History, apparently on sale about this time at Amsterdam.

Endorsed by Mr. Courten, in his own hand.

"Copy of mine of the 28th Aug. in answer to Mr. Locke's of the 12th and 26th *ditto*."

'Dear Sir, Aug. 28, 1687.

'I have received both yours of the 12th and 26th instant; and, according to your order, my Lord not being in town, I have sent the let. and MS. into the country. Mr. Smith the Bookseller is not yet arrived; when he comes, I shall enquire of him for the favours you designed me, and send to Mr. Bobart some seeds of the *Feniculum Sinense*. He was recommended to me not long since, by a very good friend, and I gave him a sight of the collection of plants I made at Montpellier, and of the fine exotic ones you were pleased to send me, several of which he had never seen before. I told

'Dr. Goodall what you had written relating to his letter; he presents you his service. I am endeavouring to follow your kind and good advice, and have so far prevailed on myself, as to forbear taking tobacco in powder, using, instead of it, cut tobacco: when you are pleased to write, I should be glad to have your opinion about it. I have some few things by me, that if your friend is not already furnished with, I shall take care to send, by the first opportunity: [then follows a list of them too long to insert.]

'When Sir Henry Hobart was in town, he promised to enquire of his father-in-law concerning the herb you mentioned, but I heard not since from him. When he comes again, I shall wait upon him, and put him in mind of it. My humble service to Dr. Guenellon, &c.

It appears from another letter in the same volume of MSS. that Mr. Courten succeeded in propagating the seeds of the *Feniculum Sinense*, and sent some of them to James Bobart, as Locke requested. There is, *ibidem*, a letter from this gardener, to Mr. Courten, accompanied with some African seeds; among which, he recommends, particularly, one under the name of *Cucumis Africanus echinatus*.

[P] The title, and some account of it, the reader may see below.]

II. Experiments and observations of the effects of several sorts of poisons upon animals, &c. made at Montpellier, in the years 1678, and 1679, by the late William Courten, Esq; communicated by Dr. Hans Sloane, R. S. Secr. Translated from the Latin MS.

Two ounces of the juice of Dutch Nightshade [*Solanum Batavicum*] did a dog no manifest injury; the same dose of the juice of hemlock [*Cicuta*] did not hurt him; nor did he appear to be hurt by a pretty large root of wolfs-bane [*Aconitum Pardalianthes*] bruised with the leaves and flowers of the same plant mixed with flesh. Two drachms of white hellebore [*Helleborus albus*] disordered the same dog very much, but he recovered, and afterwards swallowed five roots of meadow-saffron [*Colchicum Ephe-merum*] fresh dog, with which he was violently tormented, but did not die. Two drachms of opium stupified, but did not kill him. He was afterwards cauted to be bit three or four times on the belly by

an

Mr. Courten was evidently a pretty general student, and not ill-versed in most parts of polite literature; but whatever branch, or branches of knowledge, might, more or less, engage his attention occasionally, it manifestly appears, that his *forte*, his principal and favourite study, was always that of Natural History; a most engaging and extensive science, that ministers very copiously to the wants and the pleasures of human life, and furnishes us throughout all the works of nature, with the most delightful demonstrations of the wonderful power, wisdom, and goodness of its all-perfect author.

It has been said, on the respectable testimony of Sir Hans Sloane, that Mr. Courten, “from his earliest years disregarding the pomp and vanities of the world, gave himself up to the contemplation of the works of God, &c.” Many papers, in Mr. Courten’s hand writing, appear in aid of the Baronet’s testimony; and it seems very certain, that the writer of them prosecuted this inexhaustible science, in all its branches, *con amore*, and with success, to the remotest period of his life, which extended beyond the age of three-score years.

The Catalogues of Mr. Courten’s plants, at Montpellier, &c. referred to in the margin (z), afford abundant proofs of his skill in Botany, and may serve, with the assistances of various accidental notices contained in his papers *passim*, to give a tolerable idea of the state, at that time, of the Botanical Garden at Montpellier, then celebrated as the best of the kind in Europe. His friendship with Dr. Sherwood, which lasted to the end of his life, seems to have been grafted, originally, on their common attachment to Botany [Z].

Mr.

an enraged viper, and would probably have died, if he had not been cupped, scarified, and relieved with *Theriaca*, and volatile spirit of hartshorn, mixed in broth. He was at last killed by another dog. By fifteen grains of the dried root of monks-hood, [*Napellus*] powdered and mixed with flesh and broth, a dog was variously distressed, and miserably tormented for an hour, but recovered by degrees. A little dog, by a drachm of the root of monks-hood [*Napellus*] laboured under the same grievous symptoms, more violently and longer; but he likewise recovered: but an ounce of the leaves, flowers, and seed of the *Napellus*, when green, bruised, and given to a dog, scarce disordered him any more than if he had eaten so much grass.

The stomach and small guts of another dog, killed by the *nux vomica*, were found very red and inflamed by the corrosiveness of the medicine.

A strong lusty dog was, by a warm injection of an ounce of *vinum emeticum*, distressed with a variety of lamentable complaints, circumstantially narrated in the paper, and died convulsed in a few hours, though twice revived with warm broth through a funnel.

A drachm and a half of *sul armoniac*, dissolved in an ounce and a half of water, injected warm into the jugular vein of a dog, convulsed and killed him presently. A whelp, bit in the lower lip by a blind worm [*Cæcilia*] so that the blood appeared in the wound, died the same day. An injection of a drachm of *Salt of Tartar*, dissolved in an ounce of warm water, convulsed and killed a dog almost immediately. A warm injection of an ounce of urine, made by a man fasting, produced no convulsion or other ill symptoms. A gentle decoction of two drachms of white hellebore, well powdered, in spring water, and evaporated to nine drachms and a half, strongly pressed out and injected turbid into the jugular vein of a dog, instantaneously produced convulsive motions, and on its entrance into the heart, killed him as suddenly as if he had been shot dead with a bullet; and he hung flaccid, like a fleece, in the hands of the person who held him.

A whelp stung in the tongue, &c. a pigeon stung likewise by a scorpion, the sting being often forced into the wounds, and the bladder, supposed to contain the venom, being pressed, remained unhurt; so also did a rat, included and stung often by scorpions, in a large glass. The provoked rat attacked the scorpions and gnawed off, and devoured part of them, with the precaution of keeping his eyes shut meanwhile. Several animals were killed by injections of spirit of salt, of spirit of wine, and opium; but an injection of two drachms of sugar, dissolved in an ounce of water, did a dog no harm; and an injection of a drachm and a half of common salt made him only very thirsty, and drink greedily. An injection of half an ounce of warm oil of olives into the crural vein of a little dog, deprived him presently of all external

sense, and killed him in three hours; and the injection of an ounce of the same oil, into the jugular vein of another dog, suffocated him in the same moment.

An injection of ten drachms of highly rectified spirit of wine, into the crural vein of a dog, killed him quietly, and as it were with pleasure, in a very little time. An injection of five ounces of strong white wine, into the crural vein of a dog, made him very drunk; but the drunkenness abated and he recovered.

An injection of three drachms of rectified spirit of wine, into the crural vein of a small dog, made him apoplectic; in a little time he recovered from his apoplexy, but was giddy, and reeled, and drunken; but in four hours he eat bread, and was next day out of danger.

A dog died terribly convulsed from an injection of an ounce of a strong decoction of tobacco; but a similar injection of ten drops of distilled oil of sage, mixed with half a drachm of sugar, did a dog no harm. A drachm of purified white vitriol, injected into the crural vein, killed a dog immediately. Another recovered, with much difficulty, from an injection of fifteen grains of salt of urine; so also did another, from a warm injection of a decoction of fena, in water, to the quantity of two drachms. A mole, stung in the side by a scorpion, died immediately, convulsed; and on dissection, the experimenter discovered that the *intestinum cæcum* is wanting in moles. Next follows, an account of the effects of tying nerves, arteries, &c. in dogs, for which, the curious reader is referred to the paper itself.

[Z] On their common attachment to Botany.]

Extract from a copy of a letter of William Courten, Esq; to Dr. Sherwood, dated Middle Temple, May 11, 1691 (26).

‘ Sir,

‘ I am ashamed to mention the date of the letter I received from you; but having so favourable an opportunity of writing by Mr. Harison, I could not but own the receipt of it, and assure you, that though I have not had the civility of returning an answer till now, yet I did several times wait upon our friend, in relation to what you desired, and acquainted him, that whatever *kindness* he should express towards you, I should esteem it as done to myself; and he was pleased to say, that he should espouse your concern as if it was his own, &c. &c. My most humble service to Sir Arthur Rawdon, and when you write to Dr. Tournesfort, be pleased to give him my service. I wish you at our club the other night for an hour or two, to have had a sight of a curious book of plants of the Cape of Good Hope in miniature, presented by the States, to the Bishop of London. There were to the number of forty, and as our chief Botanist had most of them not described. May you have a ple-

asant

Mr. Courten's intimacies, correspondencies, and friendships with Doctor, afterwards Sir Hans Sloane, with Doctor, afterwards Sir Tancred Robinson, Physician in Ordinary to George I. with Doctor Martin Lister, with Mr. L. Pluckenett, with Mr. Edward Llwyd, &c. &c. were certainly founded on congenial taste, and argue no contemptible degrees of proficiency in the various branches of Natural History.

Though Mr. Courten was very greatly Sir Hans Sloane's superior in the knowledge of the science here spoken of, as appears from many and various evidences in the British Museum, nevertheless their intimacy seems to have grown from their common affection for Natural History; and their friendship seems to have been cemented and cherished to the last by their persevering ardour as naturalists, and the mutual assistances they lent to each other in similar pursuits. The extracts from Sir Hans Sloane's own letters given below [AA], seem to confirm what has been said; the hardest part of which, the writer well knows, cannot be contested by the ablest officer in the Natural History department of the British Museum.

We can now only guess at the nature of Sir Hans Sloane's great obligations to Mr. Courten; but it seems, by Sir Hans's own account of them, that they were very great in whatever way, fourteen years at least, before the date of Mr. Courten's last will, by which this very worthy Physician was so much more obliged, as shall be shewn in the sequel. In 1687, at his departure from this country for Jamaica, in quality of Physician to the Duke of Albemarle, who went there as Governour, Sir Hans Sloane, under a grateful sense of peculiar obligations to Mr. Courten, purposed, it seems, to collect *natural things* principally for him, and to enrich a collection which his benefactor had been making from his earliest years, and for which, it is not unreasonable to suppose, that there was no inconsiderable foundation in his family before he was born.

However this was, Mr. Courten, about three or four years before the date of Doctor Sloane's first letter, that is, about 1684 [BB], had returned to his native country, where

‘fant season in your intended progress, and the satisfaction of meeting with whatever may be rare in the parts you visit, &c.’

N. B. Mr. Courten in his last will, left Dr. Sherwood five pounds to buy him a ring.

[AA] The extracts from Sir Hans Sloane's own letters given below.]

Extract of a letter signed H. Sloane, dated from Portsmouth, Sept. 10, 1687, and directed to William Charleton, Esq; at his Chambers over Mr. North's, in Brick Court, Temple.

‘I thank God I am come hither very safe. I hope before this you are likewise come safe from Dover with your friends, &c.’—‘I hope, for my sake, you will abstain as much from *excess* in wine, as your too good and complaisant humour will suffer you. You cannot do me a greater favour than to be careful of your own health.’ [Then follow particular advices, directions, and prescriptions relative to his health, earnestly recommended to Mr. Courten's observation.] ‘I am extremely obliged to you beyond any in the world, and upon all occasions, and in all places, I shall endeavour some manner of requital. I design to send you what I meet with that is curious from the several islands we land at, which will be most of our plantations. Remember me to all friends, not forgetting Mrs. Wood. I am in all sincerity,

‘Dear Sir,

‘Your most obedient,

‘most obliged, and

‘most humble Servant,

‘HANS SLOANE.’

N. B. Dr. Sloane was at this time on his way to Jamaica, in the character of Physician to his Excellency the Duke of Albemarle.

Extract of a letter signed Hans Sloane, dated Barbadoes, Nov. 28, 1687, and directed to William Charleton, Esq; to be left at Mr. William Cockram's, Merchant, in London.

‘Dear Sir,

‘I would have wrote to you from the Madeira, but there were no English ships there bound homewards. This is the first one I meet, and I am

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‘heartily sorry, I being new landed here, cannot now send with this any natural things; for what I had at Madeira cannot be come at, which are plants, and what is here, I have not as yet gathered; but you may assure yourself, that what these parts of the West Indies afford, is all your own, the best way I can send them. You may be sure the taste I have already is delightful to me, for this is indeed a new world in all things. I wished heartily for you to day, if you could have been back in your Chambers at night. I find this place very warm; my greatest work is sweating and drinking water, which I find does well, and better than other small liquors of this place. From Jamaica you shall hear and receive from me at large. My humble service to Dr. Lister, to Dr. Robinson, to whom I design to write very soon, and to Mrs. Wood.

‘Your very affectionate, &c.’

There is, *ibidem*, a letter, signed Hans Sloane, dated Newhall, July 11, 1690, directed to W. Charleton, Esq; at his Chambers over Mr. North's, Essex-Court, Middle-Temple, full of affection, and particular directions about Mr. Courten's health.

In a letter dated likewise from Newhall, Sept. 12, 1690, and directed as above, Dr. Sloane recommends three Ladies, who came to town with the Duchess of Newcastle, to see Mr. Courten's *sine curiosities*; informs him that Dr. Mullens died at Barbadoes, of a spotted fever in three days; and acquaints him with his own intention of being in town in ten days at farthest.

There is, *ibidem*, a letter directed to the Worshipful William Charleton, Esq; above Mr. North's Chambers, in the Temple, dated Oxford Sept. 25, 1691, signed Edward Llwyd, advertising him of the robbery of the Ashmolean Collection, with a curious account of the particulars, for which the reader is referred to the British Museum (27).

[BB] About 1684.] In a printed paper in the British Museum, and likewise in the *Vox Veritatis*, *ut supra*, it is said, that “William Courten, Esq; lived in France in 1683, on a small estate in money, not having a foot of land in England of all his father's or grandfather's large possessions (28).”

From a letter written by his cousin Posthumus Salwey, dated August 8, 1684, from Throckmorton, it seems that Mr. Courten was then living at his Chambers in the Temple. Probably he made a short visit to his friends in England, in 1681-2,

(27) MSS. Sloan. *ut supra*.

(28) *Ibid.* 3515.

he opened, as the Doctor himself informs us, "A Museum extremely well furnished with every thing curious either in nature, or for illustrating history, and ancient times." It filled, it seems, ten rooms in the Middle Temple, where, says Dr. Sloane, "Mr. Courten shewed it *very freely*, and with great civility, to the advancement of the glory of God, the honour and renown of the country, and the no small promotion of knowledge and useful arts."

Dr. Sloane's own collection, or *closet*, as is called, at the time here spoken of, that is, in 1687, and long after, was, probably, inconsiderable, certainly never comparable to Mr. Courten's Museum, which it had always, from his earliest youth, been the chief business of this intelligent Naturalist's life to form, and to render every day less imperfect.

It has been said, that in the formation and disposition of it, Mr. Courten did not overlook any thing that was rare or curious in art, and that he enriched it very skilfully with coins and medals ancient and modern, antiquities [CC], seals, pictures, drawings, prints, vases, &c. for the "illustration of History and ancient times;" but certainly his chief attention was, to bring together the principal and most curious objects of the vegetable, animal, and mineral kingdoms, which he collected through the whole course of his life, with great judgment and at great expence.

It appears from his Catalogues and MSS. in the British Museum, that this able collector was well acquainted with the best methods of preserving, and the most scientific modes of classifying them then known, to the improvement of which, he seems to have been, himself, no contemptible contributor. It is equally evident, and deserves to be recorded to Mr. Courten's honour, and for the imitation of such as engage in similar studies and pursuits, that though he did not overlook their classification and arrangement, his principal attention was bestowed on the wise contrivance and beneficent design discoverable in the objects he collected, on their admirable œconomy, and on the most judicious and ingenious applications of them to the many various purposes of use and ornament in human life.

It is highly proper, indeed absolutely necessary, that the multifarious objects of Natural History should be well ascertained, and distinguished with nicety in all their varieties. The science, and lovers of it, are unquestionably indebted to the able Naturalists, who have spent their time, and exercised their ingenuity, in devising commodious methods of arrangement, and inventing systems for identifying the things about which it is conversant, with accuracy, and less danger of fallacy or mistake.

If students in this way could but agree universally to adopt any one of the methods or systems of classification, the worst of them all, much more the best, brought into general use, and constantly adhered to, would doubtless facilitate very greatly the study, and banish entirely that immense superfluity of synonymous terms, and ever-growing jargon, that is at present, the embarrassment and reproach of their favourite science.

All who are, or would wish to be thought Naturalists, certainly ought to consider, that the best possible mode of classification, the Linnæan system not excepted, is after all, only an introduction to Natural History; and the Naturalist who goes no farther, hardly deserves that name: he embraces a cloud for a goddess, quits a substance for a shadow, substitutes the means in place of the end of the science, brings the study of it into disreputation and contempt, and prosecutes the knowledge of Natural History as if he conceived it to be only a mere vocabulary. The ingenious and indefatigable Linnæus, who spent his life in fabricating the curious system of classification now in vogue, intended it certainly for the advancement of Natural History, as a basis for the service of knowledge and the benefit of mankind. But surely some of his admirers seem to have overlooked his views, and taken the scaffold for the building; or if the writer is mistaken in this opinion, there can be no harm in expressing a wish, that the lovers of Natural History, would in the prosecution of the science, think of the true ends of knowledge, and endeavour to promote their own instruction, and the advancement of others, and not pursue it from mere curiosity, or only for the arrangement of objects, but chiefly with a view to their application to the occasions and uses of life, all along conducting and perfecting the study in the spirit of benevolence.

Perhaps it may be of more use, some time or other, than is commonly apprehended, to define, with precision, the class, order, genus, species, sex, family, and habitation of a plant, for example, if possible with all its varieties; but why, in the mean while, should the plant itself remain, I say not useless [for certainly nothing in nature is so], but unuseful, and no attention be paid after ascertaining and arranging it, to discover, by experiment, its virtue as a

or, as we may reasonably infer from the conclusion of another letter from his cousin Richard Salwey, dated London, June 30, 1681.

N. B. In a marginal note on the preceding article, p. 323, the word *maclær* is misinterpreted. In the Flemish language, this word variously spelt, *maka-lær*, or *maclær*, &c. signifies a broker, a factor, an agent, a man that deals in trade on commission, &c.

[CC] *Antiquities*, &c.] *Old*, *ancient*, and *antique*, heighten the signification of one another. A fashion is *old* when it ceases to be followed; it is *ancient* when the use of it is entirely laid aside; and it is *antique*, or *antiquated*, when it has been a long time *ancient*. *Oldness* refers to age, *ancientness* refers to families, and *antiquities* to things that have existed in times far remote from our own.

dye;

dye, its benefit as a food, cloathing, or physick to man, or its serviceableness in whatever way to him, or to any of all the multitude of animals subservient to his use, or ministerial to his pleasure. But even during this æra of apparently mere classification, Natural History may in reality have been advanced, or advancing, and therefore, with these hints only, certainly well intended, the present writer passes, very willingly, from a theme so unpleasant, with a sincere wish, and in great hopes, that it may become every day less and less necessary for any person to resume it.

Mr. Courten prosecuted the study of Natural History in the most useful way, and to its full extent; and he collected, disposed, and communicated the various objects of it, with solicitude, judgment, and liberality. Some instances of this the reader may collect from what has been said, to which I shall only add the following. Among his apparently earliest MSS. in the British Museum, there is a methodical treatise on the *asbestos*, and of the best methods of applying it to various useful purposes, in Latin, certainly in the hand-writing of Mr. Courten; but whether it is altogether original, or only transcribed with observations and remarks, from the papers of Dr. Lister, Dr. Plot, &c. published about that time, on the same subject, the present writer not having seen them all, cannot pretend to determine.

When Mr. Courten could only be about the age of fourteen, his name appears in the list of benefactors to "TRADESCANT'S Ark"[DD]; for the "*Museum Tradescantianum*" was published in 1656, 12mo. and contains an account of the plants, shrubs, and trees in the extensive Botanical Garden of this family, as well as a Catalogue of their Museum properly so called. When this early collection, after remaining for some time in the possession of Elias Ashmole, Esq; who augmented it very considerably, became, by that learned and worthy Gentleman's bounty, a kind of public property, by being deposited at Oxford, where it might best answer the ends of judicious enquirers through all succeeding ages, Mr. Courten continued to be a generous contributor to it, and in a variety of ways, as appears from the authentic testimonial given below [EE].

Mr. Courten's own Museum remains to this day, and may be still seen *very freely*, and probably much in the state he left it, though improved, as may well be supposed, and now arranged for the most part, to greater advantage, according to the Linnæan system. Of his curious collection, it is now impossible to ascertain the exact Catalogues, or the precise value. None of all the present catalogues that this writer has seen, though differently written, appear to be in Mr. Courten's hand-writing, nor are they made in his way, or indeed in any very accurate or scientific manner. Swelled with short and unscholar-like histories and accounts of their contents, they amount, it is said, in all, to thirty-eight volumes *in folio*, and eight volumes *in quarto*; but the present writer has not seen the whole number of them, nor even examined what he saw very particularly.

[DD] "TRADESCANT'S Ark." One of the earliest Museums formed in this country, in a scientific way, by very intelligent collectors, and with liberal and public spirited views, was so called from the name of the Flemish family who formed it. The curious are referred, for farther information about it, to the "*Museum Tradescantianum*" mentioned in the text, 179 pages, exclusively of the long list of benefactors, which is not very scarce, or very dear, except on account of the two fine prints of the original collectors, by Hollar, prefixed, which, during the late and present humour of preserving the heads of eminent men, have raised it, without any consideration of the curious publication itself, to the price of one guinea. The two John Tradescants, father and son, whom these two prints represent, certainly well deserve to be better known, for their early and eminent services to Botany in particular, and to Natural History in general, which they laboured expensively, and not unsuccessfully, to promote in this country. The reader is referred for the fullest account that has hitherto been given of them, to the additional notes in the first volume of the last edition of the *TATLER*, with biographical, historical, and critical annotations, p. 435, & seqq. To this first Catalogue that the present writer has ever seen of a Museum, printed probably by John Mayler, next succeeds, so far as he knows, in 1664, and in 12mo. likewise, "A catalogue of the many *natural rarities*, with great industry, coll. and thirty years travel into foreign parts, collected by Robert Hubert, *alias* Forges, Gent. and sworn servant to his Majesty, and daily to be seen at the place called the Music House, at the Mitre, near the West end of St. Paul's Church-Yard." Of this Collector, and his place of abode, the curious may see a more particular account in the edition of the *TATLER*, *ut supra*, N°. 221, Vol. VI. p. 33, Note.

Sir J. Hawkins affirms, on the authority of Mr. Oldys, that HUBERT'S *Museum* came at last into the possession of Sir Hans Sloane, most probably with Mr. Courten's superior collection, of which it might be some part. Of the following very rare book, or of the collection it announces, the present writer knows nothing but the title given on the authority in the margin (29). "*Catalogus Musei instructissimi. By the industrious labour of Johannes Jacobus Swammerdam, Apothecary, at Lambeth,*" 1679, 8vo. 143 pages. About the same time Mr. John Coniers, an ingenious and intelligent Apothecary, who lived in Shoe-Lane, and in whose hand-writing there are sundry and very curious original MSS. in the British Museum, formed with much assiduity, with unquestionable skill, and at great expence, another collection of Natural History, but chiefly of Antiquities; and in 1691, he made a proposal to the public, of opening it for general inspection. Such as are curious to know more of this, are referred for a farther account of it to "The Athenian Mercury," Vol. IV. N°. 16. Nov. 21, 1691. Printed for John Danton, at the Raven in the Poultry, *in folio*. See also *TATLER* with Notes, &c. Vol. VI. p. 336, and *Ado.*

[EE] *The authentic testimonial given below.* It is endorsed, not in the hand-writing of Mr. Courten, but by some other writer, "A copy of the register of your benefaction at Oxford."

"*Gulielmus Charleton à Medio Templo, London, Armiger, rerum naturalium rariorum, domi forisque, ubique gentium explorator sagacissimus: hujus Musei instructissimi quasi consummationem intentaret; eidem e penu suo CUMULATISSIMO, Zyganam pisicam integram, varias tum Coralliorum, tum Conchyliorum species, numismata item non nulla (plurimum pignora) præstavit* (30)."

(29) Ha 1. MSS. Bagf. 5979.

(30) Bot. Mus. Bibl. Sloane, MSS. 1962. Plat.

From

From what has been said, however, the reader may possibly be inclined to believe, with the writer of this article, that Mr. Courten's collection was choice and valuable; nor is it very unreasonable to suppose, that it might nearly amount to the full price that was afterwards given to the heirs of his generous and bountiful executor for the Museum, augmented no doubt, in very many respects, but diminished, as has been mentioned, in one respect at least, on which certainly, its value greatly depended, and on which it was chiefly estimated.

(a) It was estimated altogether, the library included, at 50,000*l*.

It remained for about half a century after the death of Mr. Courten, in the possession of his executor and residuary legatee, who certainly added very much to it, and was then purchased in 1753, for the use of the public, without so much as the mention of the name of its first, and most scientific collector and proprietor, so far as appears in the whole course of the transaction, for 20,000*l*. though the coins and precious stones alone, were said to be of that value (a). It is now preserved with the Cottonian, Edwardian, and other public Libraries, the Harleian and other MSS. a liberal royal donation of books and pamphlets, the curious collections of Sir William Hamilton, from Herculaneum and Italy, of Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Solander, from the Islands in the South Seas, and a very considerable and accumulating treasure of other occasional donations of printed books, MSS. coins, and various objects for the illustration of ancient times, and Natural History, at the national expence, in the British Museum.

There is a memorable clause in the preamble to the Act of Parliament for the purchase of this Museum, which the reader may not be displeased to find here, as it is not foreign to the purpose of this article: "Whereas all Arts and Sciences have a connection with each other, and discoveries in Natural Philosophy and other branches of speculative knowledge [for the advancement and improvement whereof, this Museum was intended] do, and may, in many instances, give help and success to the most useful experiments and inventions; therefore, to the end that the said Museum may be preserved and maintained, not only for the inspection and entertainment of the learned and the curious, but for the general use and benefit of the publick: May it please your Majesty to enact, and be it enacted, That out of all or any of the monies to be raised by virtue of this Act, the full and clear sum of twenty thousand pounds, lawful money of Great Britain, shall be paid to the executors of Sir Hans Sloane, &c."

This very just sentiment, if not borrowed from Cicero, we find in his fine oration for Archias the Poet; and he has expressed it with the accuracy of a Philosopher, and the curious felicity of a man of genius. '*Omnes artes—habent quoddam commune vinculum, & quasi cognatione quadam inter se continentur.*'

This judicious consideration anticipates and obviates, in a satisfactory manner, the frivolous objections to a public provision of this nature, which generally originate in illiberality and narrowness of mind, and ought to keep wit from over-running judgment in estimating inconsiderately, the comparative value of the various branches of science. To form such estimates justly, requires an impartiality, a greater compass of knowledge, and more patient deliberation than is commonly possessed. *Non omnia possumus omnes*; and even scholars eminently distinguished in various branches of literature, are apt to err, and to be too precipitate, and too peremptory in this respect. There is a proneness to over-rate what we have acquired, to under-value what we have not attained, and to dislike and despise what we have neglected, which ought to be guarded against, as it often discourages study, betrays ignorance, and suggests objections that recoil to the reproach of the objectors.

The purchase in question generously offered at less than half its value, if it had been rejected, would have been still more disgraceful to this nation, than the loss of Vossius's fine library, supposed to have been the best private library then in the world, concerning which the present writer takes this opportunity, to give a little information below [FF], omitted, or unobserved by the biographer of ISAAC VOSSIUS, in the first edition of this work.

The acquisition of Mr. Courten's collection, augmented, as has been said, in books and various respects by his worthy executor, and through his liberality offered, at a price so inadequate to its real value, the establishment and support of it for public use, is very honourable to this nation, and appears to be an act of true wisdom and sound policy.

(31) See BIOG. BRIT. ART. VOSSIUS, (Hac).

[FF] A little information below, &c.] "The library of Vossius, in which were a great many Greek MSS. besides five hundred printed books as scarce as any MS. was offered to our University at Oxford, but unhappily lost through mismanagement. The most ancient of his MSS. Vossius had begged of Christina, Queen of Sweden (31), and these he had from time to time transcribed by the hands of one Faulkner, a Scotchman, which he sold to the King of France, and for some years together, made little less than one hundred

"pounds *per annum* (32)."

This fine library, the joint collection of Isaac Vossius and of his father John Gerard Vossius a more judicious scholar, was suffered to be purchased, and carried out of this kingdom by the University of Leyden, to the great shame and reproach of England. Gabriel Naudæus, who published in Latin, in 1644, "Instructions concerning erecting a Library," never saw, it seems, this curious library of Vossius, though he says he had often importuned Professor Perizonius to procure him that pleasure (33).

In all ages it has been an object of political attention, and ought to be so for ever in every civilized and wise nation; to promote useful learning, to cherish liberal arts, and facilitate the study by supplying the students of them, with suitable assistances of books, MSS. enticing materials, and every fitting encouragement. The kings of this world do really imitate the King of kings, and are truly his vicegerents on earth, when they are thus his ministers for good to their people, and bless them by opening fountains of useful instruction, elegant enjoyment, or innocent amusement. By the erection of Libraries and Museums in their dominions, they build permanent temples to their own glory, and secure to themselves a sort of honourable immortality, by furnishing the means, and patronising the instruments of it.

Public libraries seem, indeed, to be as necessary as public walks; for “reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body; as by the one health is preserved, strengthened, and invigorated; by the other Virtue, which is the health of the mind, is kept alive, cherished and confirmed (*).” In an age when the expence of living is so increased and increasing, that buying books is the first article of expence retrenched, that large libraries are got beyond the reach of most scholars, and even museums in miniature are become imprudent because over-costly pursuits for individuals, the convenience and felicity of this public provision for mental improvement, and intellectual gratifications, are likely to become more and more sensibly felt, and to be more generally resorted to by people of different ranks in life, for filling up with pleasure and profit the accidental intervals of leisure, in ways that may contribute to their delight in retirement, their ornament in company, and their ability in business. It would be lamentable indeed, and a subject of equal concern and reproach, if in a kingdom where no encouragement is withheld from less laudable schemes of pastime and frivolous amusement, an establishment in favour of more manly, more rational, more elegant, and more useful employment should be objected to on the score of expence, or fail for want of support.

Besides what might be urged in recommendation of a Museum well furnished with coins, &c. &c. arranged with propriety for the illustration of history and ancient times, a judicious and well-assorted collection of animal, vegetable, and mineral objects, may truly and devoutly be considered as *A Sanctuary of God*, filled with numberless pleasing and instructive evidences of His adorable goodness, wisdom and power, properly furnished and ordered for free and general inspection, to attract rational notice and serious examination, to excite, enliven, and confirm in the minds and hearts of all beholders, the most pious and salutary impressions of the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all. In this view it is unquestionably well worthy of national attention and expence, as being evidently a great good mean of adding many to the number, and much to the degrees of our purest enjoyments, of making good subjects, by making good men, and of extending the boundaries of science in every way imaginable. The pious, the considerate, the curious, the idle, and the gay, as they resort to it promiscuously, may be benefited there, in an almost infinite variety of ways; and people of genius, by lucky and random-strokes of ingenuity, may draw luminous sparks from one thing and another, sufficient to point out ways and means of applying them happily to purposes of use, conveniency, and ornament, and thereby to discover new methods of lessening the evils, of alleviating the labours, and of multiplying or enlivening the pleasures of human life.

As it is the professed intention of this work to promote knowledge, and the love of it, as well as to celebrate merit in *every way*, there needs no apology for this, or any similar digression, in the course of this article. The present writer, well aware of the nature and scantiness of any information that can now be given, or obtained, of Mr. Courten, would not have undertaken so barren a subject, but chiefly in consideration of this scientific man's pursuits, and of his Museum, now the property of the public, which furnished collateral matter for a proper article in this work, and a fair occasion of enlarging on parts of knowledge that have at times been ignorantly undervalued, and even invidiously treated, with a degree of absurd rudeness and indignity, tending alike, in his opinion, to the diminution of the innocent and elegant amusements of life, and to the general prejudice of useful science.

It seems difficult to account for the twenty-five years, which Sir Hans Sloane says Mr. Courten spent abroad, without supposing that he revisited Montpellier, and lived beyond sea for a year or two, after his return to England in or about 1684. The last fourteen or fifteen years of his life he passed in chambers at the Temple, promoting the knowledge of Natural History, and exhibiting his collection *gratis*, in an instructive manner, of which the reader may form some idea from what has been said. Latterly the declining state of his health obliged him to practise more abstemiousness than was agreeable to his convivial turn; and for several years he was under the necessity of abstaining almost entirely from wine and all spirituous liquors, in which, from a companionable disposition, and in compliance with a fashion then much more prevalent than at present, it seems that he indulged at times, rather too freely. He died at Kensington Gravel-Pits, on the 26th of March, 1702, aged sixty-three, and was buried in the church-yard of that parish. The inscription on his monument there, which shall be given at the conclusion of this article,

ple, was composed by Sir Hans Sloane, who inherited by his will the bulk of his fortune. There is, moreover, in the British Museum, a paper written by this Baronet, which contains the following honourable testimony to Mr. Courten's character: "He was a man of the greatest integrity and benevolence, remarkably modest and inoffensive, and a sincere believer in Christianity."

The following passage in the life of Sir Hans Sloane, in the first edition of this work, gave rise to this and the preceding article. It is certainly injurious to the memory of Mr. Courten, and contains an insinuation or suggestion to the prejudice of his character, probably not intentional, which nothing, either in Sir Hans Sloane's last will, or in the *Eloge* quoted by the biographer, can justify. It is therefore necessary to take some notice of it here, to enable the future writer, or reviewer of Dr. Sloane's life, to state it more unexceptionably, and in greater consistency with accuracy and truth (b).

"Our Author's [Sir Hans Sloane's] thirst for Natural Knowledge, seems to have been born with him, so that his cabinet of rarities may be said to have commenced with his being. He was continually enriching and enlarging it; and the fame, which in a course of years it had acquired, brought every thing that was curious in art or nature, to be first offered to him for purchase. But these acquisitions increased it but slowly, in comparison of the augmentation it received in 1701, by the death of William Courten, Esq; a Gentleman who had employed all his time, and the greatest part of his fortune, in collecting rarities, and who bequeathed his whole collection to Dr. Sloane, on condition that he should pay certain legacies and debts with which he had charged it (c). Our Author [Sir Hans Sloane] accepted the condition and performed the will of the Donor punctually: on which account, there are some who do not scruple to say, he purchased

(d) *Ib. ELOGE.* "Mr. Courten's curiosities at a dear rate (d)."

The article from which the preceding passage is quoted, was written, as the signature indicates, by Dr. Philip Nicholls, who seems to have known what he has not said, though most probably true, that Dr. Sloane's *Cabinet of Curiosities*, notwithstanding its commencement with his being, and all its enrichments, and all its enlargements, was still comparatively inconsiderable, before the augmentation, as it is called, received in 1701 [he should have said in 1702] by the death of Mr. Courten. It appears most probable from Dr. Sloane's own testimony, that he collected principally, not long before this time, for Mr. Courten's museum, possibly with the hopes, and in the prospect of benefit from the survivorship, for he was eighteen years younger than his friend. It does not appear that the Doctor's own cabinet of curiosities had acquired the same advantageous to it, as his biographer mentions, before 1702. That year, which was the first of its junction with Mr. Courten's Museum, was most probably the commencement of the æra of its celebrity.

It is left, and recommended to the future writer or reviewer of Dr. Sloane's life, to examine the last will and the *elogé* quoted by Dr. Nicholls, *ut supra*, the consideration of which does not properly belong to this article; though it seems necessary to observe here, that whereas Dr. Sloane's biographer, in the fore-cited passage, would lead his reader to believe, that Mr. Courten died poor, and in debt, for the payment of which, his creditors were beholden to an exertion of Dr. Sloane's generosity and friendship for the deceased, the real fact was certainly otherwise. Mr. Courten died rich, and contributed very considerably to the enrichment of Dr. Sloane, in appointing him, by his last will, his executor, with a legacy of 200*l.* for his trouble, and the benefit of being his residuary legatee. This appears to have been the truth of the case; and though the present writer has not seen Sir Hans Sloane's will, or his *elogé*, he is nevertheless confident that there can be nothing in them to disprove it. The following short account of an attested copy of Mr. Courten's will, extracted from the Registry of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, is amply sufficient to prove all this, and to shew that Dr. Sloane, instead of purchasing Mr. Courten's Museum at a dear rate, acquired, at this Gentleman's death, a very considerable accession to his fortune, though it is now impossible to ascertain the value of it with precision. The authentic paper from which the account is given, this writer will deposit in the British Museum, to throw some light on the story of its original collector, and to be preserved with the other vouchers for the truth of what has been advanced in the historical part of this and the preceding articles.

Mr. Courten's last will is dated March 10, 1701-2: of the three codicils annexed to it, the first is dated March 20, 1701-2; the second is dated March 22, 1701-2; and the last bears the date of March 23, 1701-2, only three days before Mr. Courten's death; and the probate is dated April 4, 1702, in which Dr. Sloane is expressly prohibited, for whatever reason, from intermeddling with the goods, &c. of the Honourable Elizabeth, Countess Dowager of Exeter lately deceased, or with the estates of Mr. Courten's father, or grandfather.

1. *Imprimis.* "Mr. Courten appoints his after-named executor to sell and dispose of what goods of any sort, or other personal estate he should leave behind him, to the best advantage, in order to pay the debts and bequests mentioned in the sequel of his will, except such particular things as he disposes of otherwise by his will."

2. "Mr.

(b) Biog. Brit.
vol. vi. part i
page 3702. The
Art. SLOANE
[Sir Hans.]

(c) Sir Hans
Sloane's will

2. " Mr. Courten states the whole amount of his debts, which he orders to be paid with all convenient speed, at the exact sum of two hundred and forty-eight pounds, six shillings and eight-pence sterling, and no more."

3. Mr. Courten mentions a number of little legacies in small sums of money, some of which he revokes, augments, and alters variously, in the codicils annexed to his will. The sum total of them shall be given in the sequel, and the reader, if curious, is referred for farther particulars, to the will itself in the British Museum, to the signature, sealing, and publication of which, Bernard Lintott the bookseller, subscribes his name as one of the three witnesses (e).

4. The following are the express words of Mr. Courten's will relative to Dr. Sloane: " The residue of my estate, above what will pay my debts and other legacies, I give to my executor; and I do hereby appoint Doctor Hans Sloane, of the parish of St. Giles in the Fields, to be the sole executor of this my last will and testament."

5. The first codicil, dated *ut supra*, discovers that Mr. Courten was entitled, after the death of his aunt, Lady Knightley, to two mortgages, of which there is no mention made in his preceding will. The first mortgage, dated July 7, 1685, for the sum of 1000*l.* the second, dated Nov. 29, in the year preceding Mr. Courten's death, for 400*l.* Both these mortgages were secured to his aunt Dame Ann Knightley, who was to have the interest of both the aforesaid sums during her life, the precise date of which, at the time when this codicil was added, the reader may ascertain by looking back to an attested certificate of her baptism given in the foregoing article.

6. The following bequest to Dr. Sloane is given in the express words of the testator: " I do hereby will and devise to my executor two hundred pounds, in consideration of his great trouble."

7. In the same first codicil of the 20th of March 170 $\frac{1}{2}$, Mr. Courten alters, in sundry respects, his former will, augments generally the sums of his legacies, and increases the number of his legatees, by the addition of Mr. John Gibbes of Mellington, Dr. Paul of Montpellier, and Dr. Sherwood. The signature, &c. of this codicil is attested by three different witnesses (*).

8. What has been called the second codicil, dated two days after the first, is only a memorandum annexed to the first codicil, and relative solely to Dr. Sloane; it is conceived in the following terms, and given here entire.

" Memorandum, That it is my intention and meaning, that the several sums or legacies given by this codicil" [*meaning the preceding codicil, dated March 20,*] "to my will, should be paid by my executor therein named, so soon as the two sums of one thousand pounds and four hundred pounds mentioned in this codicil, wherein I have interest, shall be paid my executor, *and no sooner*. Dated the two and twentieth day of March, 170 $\frac{1}{2}$. William Courten. Signed, sealed, and published by the testator, in the presence of us who subscribed the same in his presence. *John Cumberland, Thomas Smith, John Chandler.*"

9. The third codicil relates likewise solely to Dr. Sloane, and is therefore given entire, and *verbatim*, from the authenticated copy, *ut supra*.

" Whereas I William Courten, of the Middle Temple, London, Esq; have made my last will and testament in writing, and have constituted and appointed Hans Sloane, Doctor in Physick, sole executor thereof, and have made a codicil thereto. Now I, the said William Courten, do hereby give and bequeath unto the said Hans Sloane, his executors and administrators, to his and their own use and benefit, all the rest and residue of my personal and testamentary estate whatsoever, after the payment of my debts, legacies and funeral expences, and I desire this may be added as a further codicil to my said will. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this three and twentieth day of March, *anno Domini* 1701, William Courten. Signed, sealed, published, and delivered in the presence of us, *John Cumberland, Thomas Smith, John Chandler.*"

Mr. Courten's bequests and debts, taken all together, amounted to no more than 2,020*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* sterling. To pay this sum, his executor had in money secured on two mortgages to Dame Ann Knightley, and payable at the death of that Lady then aged eighty-eight [GG], fourteen hundred pounds; and a legacy to himself

[GG] *Aged eighty-eight.* This Lady did not out-live her nephew a full year, for she died on the 14th of Feb. 1702-3; the following account of her, extracted from a recent publication, contains some curious information, and comes very seasonably to explain and confirm many parts of this article.

Ann, daughter of Sir William Courten, Knt. widow of Essex Devereux, Esq; married for her second husband Richard Knightly, Esq; of Fausley in Northamptonshire. Charles II. before his coronation, created Richard Knightley a Knight of the Bath, but Sir Richard did not long enjoy this honour, for he

died June 29, 1661, and was buried in Fausley Church. Sir Richard's first wife was a daughter of the celebrated *John Hampden* the patriot, by whom he had one son, Richard Knightley, who died unmarried at Paris aged 26; and one daughter, Elizabeth, who died when a child. By his second wife Ann, daughter of Sir William Courten, Sir Richard had issue, 1. A son, named *Effix Knightley*, who was his heir, and married *Sarah*, daughter of T. Foley, Esq; by whom he had a daughter named *Sarah*. He died in 1670 about the age of 22, and left this daughter *Sarah*, a rich heiress, though she did not inherit

(e) The names of the three witnesses are Thomas Becher and John Mor-

(*) Theodore Raut, John Cumberland, and George Scott.

self of 200*l.* more. Dr. Sloane therefore being *sole* executor and residuary legatee, might, or might not sell, just as he pleased, and not chusing to part with any thing, he judged it most prudent to secure to himself entirely Mr. Courten's Museum, &c. by paying the expences of his friend's funeral, and a sum of 420*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

Now in point of time, thirty years before this, it has been said in the course of the narrative, and it may be seen from the Collector's own account of only a very few particulars then purchased, that this price was not even one half of the sum, which Mr. Courten had then expended in three years only, and during the very worst state of his affairs, when he had the smallest, indeed no certain income, and was involved in the greatest expence and solicitude (f).

(f) *Ue sup. a.*
MS. Sloan.
p. 88.
Plat. xxxi. c.

It ought likewise to be observed, that Mr. Courten, as appears from the MS. referred to, had not then even begun to collect coins, &c. His Museum at that time was in it's very infancy; the part of it, probably not inconsiderable in such an opulent mercantile family, which it is not unreasonable to suppose came to him as an heirloom, augmented no doubt by the contributions of his friends, and his own preceding unappretiated collections, was not included in the estimate here spoken of; and for more than thirty successive years, it is said, that "he employed all his time, and the greatest part of his fortune," in enriching and enlarging it.

These things being considered, it may be fairly concluded, that the author of the *elogé*, wrote not like an historian, but as a declaimer, and absolutely at random, if he has said any thing to induce Dr. Nicholls, or any body to think, that Sir Hans Sloane purchased Mr. Courten's Museum "at a dear rate."

Certainly it came to Dr. Sloane, as it did afterwards in its augmented state to the public, very much under its original and real value. Sir Hans bears an honourable testimony to the singular modesty of his friend; and considering the benevolent cast of this scientific Gentleman's character, it is not improbable, that it was Mr. Courten's desire, as well as Dr. Sloane's interest, that the Museum should be kept entire, that it should devolve at a great under-value to his friend and executor, and even that it might ultimately be settled according to its final destination, as the property of the public, at a price very much reduced.

It detracts nothing, certainly it is not meant to detract any thing, from the merit and patriotism of the great improver, and immediate donor of the Museum, to think that his bounty might originate in the generosity, and grow out of the public kindness, and national friendship of its first Collector. It does not indeed clearly appear that this was actually the case, from any direct proof now visible, or hitherto seen; but unquestionably Mr. Courten on his death-bed intimated desires, and recommended things to his executor, not mentioned in the written will, which his worthy friend nevertheless observed as a will, and performed religiously.

The following epitaph contains one proof of this, which shall be given, with a reference to its proper place in the inscription, as the conclusion of this article.

*Juxta hic, sub marmoreo tumulo,
Jacet Gulielmus COURTEN, cui Gulielmus pater, Gulielmus avus (g),
Mater Catherina, Johannis Comitissæ de Bridgewater filia,
Paternum vel ad Indos præclarum nomen.
Qui tantis haudquaquam degener parentibus,
Summa cum laude vitæ decurrit tramitem.
Cæsarum per Europam indagator sedulus,
Quas, hinc illinc sibi partas, negavit nemini,
Sed cupientibus exposuit humanissime,
Non avaræ mentis pabulum, sed ingenii.
Si quid naturæ, si quid artis nobile opus,
Id quovis pretio suum esse voluit,
Ut Musis lucidum conderet Sacrarium.
Ast Morti hæc non sunt curæ!
Hic Musarum cultor tam eximius,
Hic tam insignis viator,
Obiit, quievit, 7 Kl. Apr. A. D. 1702.
Vixit annos 62, menses 11, dies 28.*

(g) *Gulielmusque*
præclarus.

inherit the estate of Fausley, which went to his uncle Devereux Knightley, who died in 1681, and left it to a son of the name. Sarah the widow of Essex Knightley, married for her second husband, John Hampden, Esq; grandson to the patriot HAMPDEN. Sir Richard Knightley had likewise two daughters by Mr. Courten's aunt, 1. Elizabeth, who was married to Sir Edward Seabright, Bart. and 2. Jane,

married to Sir Thomas Delves, Bart. In the book from which this intelligence is given, it is said, that Lady Knightley, after being twice married, in the fortieth and second year of her widowhood, died at the age of eighty-eight, but certainly she had completed her eighty-ninth year, for she was baptized Jan. 17, 1614, as appears from the register of her baptism given in the preceding article (35).

(35) *Somerset's*
Memorials
of the
Præbendary
of the
Church of
St. Paul
London
p. 96. and 97.
2d. edit. Baskin
ingham. 1727.

Pompa, 1 vol. 8vo.

*Pompa, quam vivus fugit, ne mortuo feret,
Testamento cavit [HH].
Sed hoc quaecunque Monumentum,
Et quam potuit immortalitatem
Bene merenti, mærens dedit.
Hans Sloane, M. D.*

[HH] *Testamento cavit.*] It seems probable, that Sir Hans had mentioned his intention of erecting a monument to Mr. Courten's memory, in Westminster-Abbey; and that Mr. Courten, disliking the proposal, had expressly requested of his friend not to do it; for it is very certain there is no mention made of this in Mr. Courten's written will.

From what has been said, it appears that Mr. Courten must have had no inconsiderable fortune, to enable him to live like a Gentleman, and to leave behind him besides his Museum, a sum in money, of 1,400*l.* There were two papers, containing accurate

statements of Mr. Courten's *accounts* for two years, transcribed for publication, which went nigh to ascertain with precision, both his annual income, and his sister's livelihood. But as it is judged improper to swell this account by inserting them, the reader can only be referred to the originals in the British Museum, MSS. Sloan. 3962: and to the same repository and MS. the curious must go, it seems, for a sight of the letters signed, P. SALWEY, and other vouchers intended to have formed the note [D] so often referred to, but nevertheless omitted in this article.]

C. N.

COURTNEY (WILLIAM), Archbishop of Canterbury in the reign of King Richard II. was the fourth son of Hugh Courtney, Earl of Devonshire, by Margaret, daughter of Humphrey Bohun Earl of Hereford and Essex, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of King Edward I (a). and was born in the year 1341 (b). He had his education at Oxford, where he applied himself to the study of the Civil and Canon Law. Afterwards, entering into Holy Orders, he obtained three Prebends in three Cathedral Churches, viz. those of Bath, Exeter, and York (c). The nobility of his birth, and his eminent learning, recommending him to public notice, in the reign of Edward III. he was promoted, in 1369, to the See of Hereford (d), and thence translated to the See of London, September the 12th 1375; being then in the 34th year of his age (e). In a Synod, held at London in 1376, Bishop Courtney distinguished himself by his opposition to the King's demand of a subsidy [A]; and presently after he fell under the displeasure of the High Court of Chancery, for publishing a Bull of Pope Gregory II. without the King's consent [B]. The next year, in obedience to the Pope's mandate, he cited Wickliff to appear before his tribunal in St. Paul's Church: but that heresiarch being accompanied by John of Gaunt Duke of Lancaster, and other nobles, who secretly favoured his opinions [C], the Bishop

(b) This appears from his age at the time of his promotion to the See of London.

(e) Registr. Sudbury.

[A] He opposed the King's demand of a subsidy.] He laid before the Synod a written account of some injuries offered to him, and William Wickham Bishop of Winchester, and conjured the clergy not to grant the subsidy required, till satisfaction was made for them. The Synod hereupon being divided, the King could not obtain a subsidy, till he had given hopes of redress; which however he thought no more of after the breaking up of the Synod (1).

[B] He published a Bull of Pope Gregory II. without the King's consent.] The Affair was this: Pope Gregory II. had lately excommunicated the Florentines, and had dispatched his Bulls every where, ordering their effects to be seized. The Bishop of London, without consulting the King, published the Pope's Bull at Paul's Cross, and gave the populace licence to plunder the houses of rich Florentines as were in the City. The Lord Mayor hereupon, restraining the violence of the people, clapped a seal on the doors of the Florentines, and conducted them to the King, who took them into his protection. Afterwards, by order of the King, the Bishop of Exeter, Lord High Chancellor, summoned the Bishop of London into the Court of Chancery, to answer for having dared to publish the Pope's Bull, without consent of the King and Council, and contrary to the laws of the land. Courtney pleaded the Pope's authority and command. But the Chancellor gave sentence, that he should either forfeit his temporalities, or revoke his words with his own mouth. With some difficulty the Bishop of London obtained, that he might re-call them by one of his officers; and accordingly an Official mounted Paul's Cross, and addressed the people in these words: *My Lord said nothing about the Interdict: it is strange you should misunderstand, who hear so many sermons from this place* (2).

[C] The Duke of Lancaster, and other Nobles, secretly favoured Wickliff's opinions.] This appeared openly by their behaviour upon this occasion. The Duke of Lancaster, the Lord Marshal Percy, and others, countenanced Wickliff by their presence in the

Bishop of London's Court. There was a vast concourse of people about St. Paul's Church, so that the Lord Percy could not pass through the crowd without difficulty. Courtney was alarmed at Wickliff's appearance in so extraordinary a manner: upon which there ensued the following dialogue between the Bishop and the two Lords above-mentioned; which I shall set down in Fox's language (*).

'Bishop Courtney. Lord Percy, if I had known before hand what masteries you would have kept, I would have kept you out from coming hither.'

'Duke of Lancaster. He shall keep such masteries here, tho' you say nay.'

'Lord Percy. Wickliff, sit down, for you have many things to answer to, and therefore have need of a soft seat.'

'Bishop Courtney. It is unreasonable that one cited before his Ordinary should sit down during his answer; he shall stand.'

'Duke of Lancaster. The Lord Percy's motion for Wickliff is but reasonable. And as for you my Lord Bishop, who are grown so proud and arrogant, I will bring down the pride, not of you only, but of all the prelacy in England. Thou bearest thyself so; brag upon thy parents, which shall not be able to help thee; they shall have enough to do to help themselves.'

'Bishop Courtney. My confidence is not in my parents, nor in any man else, but only in God in whom I trust, by whose assistance I will be bold to speak the truth.'

'Duke of Lancaster. Rather than take these words at the Bishop's hands, I'll pluck him by the hair of the head out of the church.'

These last words, though spoken softly by the Duke to one next him, were over-heard by the Londoners, who, being enraged to see their Bishop thus used, would have torn the Duke to pieces, had not Courtney interposed, and checked their fury. However they could not be restrained from marching directly to the Duke of Lancaster's Palace in the Savoy, which

(*) Acts and Monuments.