

(a) Hist. of Europe for 1708, p. 409.

(c) From the information of the Rev. Mr. B. of St. John's.

(d) Wood's Fasti Oxon. Vol. ii. col. 166.

(f) Taken from his Travels, Lond. 1685, folio.

(g) This Journey is inserted at the close of the folio edition.

(b) Sir Thomas Browne's Life, by the Rev. Mr. John Whitefoot, p. xxxi.

(k) Hist. of Europe for 1708, p. 410.

BROWNE (EDWARD), a very eminent Physician, and President of the Royal College at London, as well as Physician to his Majesty King Charles II., was the son of Sir Thomas Browne before mentioned, and was born some time in the year 1642, notwithstanding what has been reported by some writers, who took it for granted that he was in the seventieth year of his age (a) when he died. He received the first tincture of letters under the care of his father, who observing in him a great propensity to learning, resolved to spare nothing in his education (b), that might tend to the improvement of his natural genius, and gratify his strong appetite to knowledge. He spent some time at Norwich school, which was in those days very famous, and from thence, when he was about fifteen, he removed to the university of Cambridge; but in what college of that university he studied, I have not, at this distance of time, been able to discover. In all probability, the reason of his going thither was, for the sake of being near the place of his father's residence, and that he might have the opportunity of enquiring into, and facilitating his progress in learning, which exceeded even the hopes of his indulgent parent; since, while a very young man, he became a perfect master, not only of the learned languages, and more especially of Greek, but of every kind of academical knowledge: so that in 1665, he took there the degree of Bachelor of Physic (c). He removed afterwards to Oxford, and there, June 19, 1666, he was admitted to the same degree (d), and settling in Merton-college the year following, viz. July 7, 1667, he proceeded Doctor in that Faculty (e), and then returned to Norwich; so that such writers as have asserted that he travelled before this time, are utterly mistaken. But after remaining about a year there, he, with the consent, and probably with the advice, of his father, resolved to make a tour through Germany; and accordingly, August 14, 1668, he embarked at Yarmouth for Holland; and, having passed through the United Provinces, the Spanish Netherlands, and the Lower Germany as far as Cologne, he went from thence through Bavaria to the imperial city of Vienna, where he remained for some time; and then, passing through Moravia, and Bohemia, where he made some stay at Prague, and having examined the silver mines at Guttenberg, pursued his journey through Saxony, visiting the Electoral Residence at Dresden, the mines at Friedberg, the celebrated university of Leipzig, and the famous city of Magdeburg, from whence he travelled to Hamburgh, and after a short stay there, embarked on board a vessel bound for London, and landed in Kent upon Christmas-day that year (f). In these five months he made so many curious observations, contracted acquaintance with so many persons considerable in the world by their rank or learning, and obtained such a knowledge of the advantages bestowed by travelling on persons of his profession, that he resolved to go abroad again, and to make a more extensive tour, which he accordingly did in the year following; passing through most of the dominions of the House of Austria, visiting several provinces, and taking a considerate view of the mines in Hungary. Afterwards he went to Larissa in Thessaly, where the Grand Seignor then resided, and having travelled through that country and Macedonia, returned again to Vienna; from whence he went to Venice by land through the country of Friuli, which gave him an opportunity of seeing and examining the quicksilver mines. He returned from Venice to Vienna, which is three hundred and fifteen miles, alone, and upon one horse. He had, before this, made either a journey or a voyage to that city, and from thence, in company with Sir William Trumbull, who was afterwards Secretary of State, Mr. Soames, Dr. Palman, Dr. James, and Mr. Dashwood, to Genoa, from whence he returned home through France, but at what time we cannot exactly distinguish (g). In the course of his travels, besides his great improvements in all kinds of knowledge, more especially Antiquities, Natural History, and Physic, he had an opportunity of seeing the courts and persons of four of the greatest Monarchs, viz. the Emperor Leopold at Vienna; the Grand Seignor, Mohammed IV. at Larissa; Pope Clement IX. at Rome; and Lewis XIV. at Versailles (h). Upon his return to London, he became a Member of the Royal Society, as well as of the College of Physicians (i); and being equally distinguished by his extensive learning and polite conversation, grew into high favour and esteem with the famous Earl of Dorset, and other persons of great quality and distinction (k), at whose request he published a relation of some part of his travels [A]. This book had a great character given it in the *Philosophical Transactions*, and

(b) Life of Sir Thomas Browne, prefixed to his Posthumous Works.

(e) *Id. ibid.* col. 170.

(i) These titles are given in the *Philosophical Transactions*, No. XCIV. p. 6039.

[A] *A relation of some part of his travels.* The title of this work at large runs thus: 'A brief account of some travels in Hungaria, Servia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Thessaly, Austria, Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, Friuli, &c. By Edward Browne, M. D. of the College of London, Fellow of the Royal Society, and Physician in Ordinary to his Majesty. London in 4to.' It is to be observed, that our author, after his return from Hamburgh, had communicated his design of making a tour through these countries, to some of the Members of the Royal Society; and as it was the custom of that learned body, at this time, to frame instructions for the use of travellers, that they might receive such

lights as might conduce to the improvement of those sciences which fell more immediately under their inspection; so we are informed, that their Secretary delivered such to our author, which we find printed at large in the *Transactions* under the following title (1): 'Directions and Inquiries, as they were some time since recommended by the Publisher, to the care of the ingenious and learned Dr. Edward Browne (son to that deservedly famous Physician, Dr. Thomas Browne, and Fellow of the Royal Society) travelling in Germany, Hungary, Turkey, &c.' To these queries, Dr. Browne gave very copious answers, which were also printed at large in the *Transactions*; and were so full of curious, entertaining,

(1) See the *Transactions* of the Royal Society, No. LVIII. p. 115.

and was received with universal applause, which, without doubt, it very well deserved, as it contained a copious and circumstantial account of several countries, with which we were very little acquainted (l); and indeed, from that time to this, there has been nothing published of the same kind that comes near it in any degree. Yet the Doctor, considering that there was some part of Germany, and more especially the baths of Aix-la-Chapelle, the mineral waters at Spa, and other curiosities in that neighbourhood, which he had not seen, took the advantage of the Congress held at Cologne in 1673 (m), and having accompanied thither our Plenipotentiaries, Sir Joseph Williamson, and Sir Leoline Jenkins, he went from thence, in the beginning of July, to Aix-la-Chapelle; and having curiously examined, not only the baths for which that city is famous, but the mines in its neighbourhood, and particularly that of *lapis calaminaris* in the country of Limburgh, he proceeded to Spa, and enquired narrowly into the nature and virtue of the waters. He went next to Liege, and from thence, by Tongres, Louvain, Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent, Bruges, Ostend, Newport, and Dunkirk, to Graveline, and from thence to Calais, where he embarked for Dover, and arrived the latter end of the same year at London. He had promised, in the volume of Travels which he published, that if they were well received, he would present the world with another collection of the like nature; and it was very probably with a view of completing this second collection, that he made this last tour through Germany and the Low-Countries. Yet he did not publish his second volume till some years afterwards, when it met with the same reception from the learned world as the former volume had done, and with equal justice (n) [B]. About this time he settled in London, married, and began to grow into great practice; for his furtherance in which, upon the decease of Sir John Mickelthwaite, a very eminent Physician, he was, upon the King's recommendation, chosen to supply his place in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, some years before which, the King had made him his own Physician. He was elected at the Hospital, September 7, 1682 (o). The year following he published the Life of Themistocles, in the English translation of Plutarch undertaken by Mr. Dryden, and therein gave a proof of his perfect acquaintance with the Greek language, and his great skill and accuracy in writing his own (p). On Michaelmas-day in the same year, he was, according to their charter, elected one of the Censors of the Royal College of Physicians (q). In 1684, the Life of Sertorius, as translated by him, was made public (r); and in 1685, he augmented, as well as corrected and improved, the Collection of his Travels, which he then published all together [C]. These, as far as I have been able to trace them, are all the works

(m) Dr. Browne's Travels, p. 180.

(q) As appears from the Catalogue of the Members of the College, printed that year.

taining, and instructive circumstances, that he was pressed and prevailed upon to digest and put into order the whole series of his travels, in order to their being made public. As soon as they appeared, they were taken notice of in, and recommended by, the Transactions of the Royal Society, in very strong terms; the publisher introducing his account of them in the following manner (3): 'This learned and inquisitive traveller gives so good an account of the voyages he made through those parts named in the title, that thereby he excellently instructs others what great benefit may be made by travelling, if performed with curiosity and judgment.' After which follows a kind of extract from his travels, of several passages relating to Physical Discoveries and Natural History.

[B] *The same reception from the learned world as the former volume had done, and with equal justice.* The title page of this second volume of our author's travels, runs thus, 'An account of several travels through a great part of Germany, in four journeys. 1. From Norwich to Cologne. 2. From Cologne to Vienna, with a description of that imperial city. 3. From Vienna to Hamburgh. 4. From Cologne to London, wherein the mines, baths, &c. London 1677, 4to (4).' It is necessary to acquaint the reader, that the three first parts contain an account of our author's voyages to and from Germany, and his travels through a great part of that country, in 1668; so that these are prior in point of time to the travels published in the former volume. As for the fourth part, it relates to his last journey to Cologne, when the Congress was held there, of which we have given an account in the text. One may easily perceive that it was his great skill in minerals, and the curious accounts he had given upon his first return home, that, on the one hand, induced the Royal Society to lay so great a weight upon his communications, and, on the other, prompted him, after two such long and fatiguing journeys, to make a third, that he might have an opportunity of viewing and examining all the remarkable mines in the Lower Germany, as he had before taken a view of those in Bohemia, Saxony,

Hungary, and Friuli. It is indisputable, that the relations he has given us upon these subjects, are, beyond all comparison, clearer and more correct than any that are to be met with either in our own or perhaps in any other language. He was a man that not only understood these matters in the highest degree of perfection, but was also very far from being credulous, and took little or nothing upon trust, as appears from the accounts he gives us, in which he mentions a great variety of experiments made by himself upon the spot, in order to ascertain the facts which he delivered. It may not be amiss also to observe, that he travelled at a time when the knowledge of metals was in particular esteem, so that several Princes in Germany employed both their heads and their hands in this study, and therefore his inclination for it was sufficient to procure him in every place throughout that country a favourable reception, and even particular indulgencies. We have a very strong instance of this in the compliment made him by the learned Lambecius, who was at that time Library-keeper to the Emperor Leopold, of not only carrying to his lodgings any Chymical manuscripts he desired, but offering to cause them to be transcribed for his use, or even to allow him to carry them with him into England (5). This second volume was also mentioned in the *Philosophical Transactions*, with the highest marks of approbation of the book (6), and respect for its author; and this raised his reputation to such a height, that he was considered even by the most knowing men in those times, as a perfect master of Chymistry in all its branches, as well as of every part of Natural History, and of Antiquities, more especially medals, of which in this and in his former volume of travels, he delivers a great deal, and discourses of them with much sagacity and judgment, as well as on several points of Roman and Greek Literature relating to them; as he likewise does of ancient inscriptions, in the collecting which he was very diligent, and equally happy in explaining them.

[C] *Corrected and improved the collection of his travels, which he then published all together.* It is not necessary to give the reader the title-page of this book,

(l) See the note [d].

(n) See the Philosophical Transactions, No. CXXX. p. 767.

(o) Hist. of Europe for 1708, p. 410.

(p) Plutarch's Lives, Vol. i. p. 354.

(r) Plutarch's Lives, Vol. iii. p. 598.

(3) See the Transactions of the Royal Society, No. XCIV. p. 60; 9.

(4) In several Catalogues, this book is said to be printed A. D. 1679, but that is a mistake.

(5) Dr. Browne's Travels, p. 146.

(6) Philosophical Transactions, No. CXXX. p. 707.

works of his that are extant. Yet it is both possible and probable, that he might communicate several things to the Royal Society (s), more especially Chemical experiments, of which he made many; and of one of these we find very honourable mention, in the works of that great Philosopher, and true friend to useful knowledge, the famous Mr. Boyle, of which some account will be given in the notes [D]. He attended his royal master, King Charles II., in his last illness, and to the time of his decease (t). Upon the coming of the Duke of York to the crown, he was left out of the number of his Physicians; but his practice still continued as great as ever, or rather increased. After the Revolution, he remained, likewise, at a distance from the Court; but his great success in his profession made him known and considered both at home and abroad, and that too by men of all parties and persuasions, as appears by a letter of his to the celebrated M. le Clerc, in favour of one Mr. Beverland, a man of great learning, and particularly remarkable for writing a most excellent Latin style; in which, however, he had exercised his pen on subjects that occasioned his being banished his country; on the repeal of which sentence, this letter of recommendation was written, at the request of Mr. John Locke and the Earl of Carberry (u). It is, without doubt, as elegant a piece of Latin as can well be seen, and may be therefore considered as a proof of our author's excellence in that respect. In 1701, about the month of May, when King William was preparing for his last voyage to Holland, Dr. Browne, in conjunction with Sir Thomas Millington, Sir Richard Blackmore, and Dr. Lawrence, was called to a consultation on the state of his health; but it does not appear that he attended him in his last illness (w). In the spring of the year 1705, upon the death of Sir Thomas Millington, Dr. Browne, who had risen gradually through all the honours of the Fa-

(w) Hist. of Europe for 1708, p. 410.

book, which comprehends only what is mentioned in those of the other two: but it is very requisite to observe, that it differs from them very much in its contents, the author having enlarged every part of it with fresh observations, so that it is in some measure a new work. Besides this, he has annexed his journey from Venice to Genoa, which is not in either of the two former volumes, and is full of great variety of curious and learned observations, in respect, more especially, to the Roman antiquities, with which he shows himself extremely well acquainted. There is one thing, however, that ought not to be passed in silence, which is his turn for Poetry, of which we will give the reader an instance, that would be no discredit even to a more modern writer. It is the following translation from Virgil, where Venus is introduced expostulating with Jupiter in the behalf of Æneas, which our author produces to prove, that Antenor was the founder of Padua, which by the way he always writes Padoa (7).

(7) Dr. Browne's Travels, p. 195.

— Quem das finem, Rex magne, malorum?  
Antenor potuit, mediis elapsus Achivis  
Illyricos penetrare sinus, atque intima tutus  
Regna Liburnorum, et fontem superare Timavi;  
Unde per ora novem vasto cum murmure montis  
It mare proruptum, et pelago premit arva sonanti:  
Hic tamen ille urbem Patavi sedesque locavit  
Teucrorum, et genti nomen dedit, armaque fixit.

*What time, great King, shall terminate our woes?  
Safe could Antenor break thro' all his foes,  
Pierce to the bottom of the Illyrian bay,  
View kingdoms where Liburnian princes sway;  
Pass the nine mouths of fierce Timavus' waves,  
Which roars upon the hills, and o'er the walls raves,  
And there could fix; and on that foreign ground,  
Great Padoa's towers for after-ages found:  
New name the race, and free from all alarms,  
Hang up in peace his consecrated arms.*

It may not be amiss to add here, the character given of our author's performance in the large Introductory Discourse prefixed to the first volume of Churchill's *Collection of Voyages*, which was either written by, or at least under the direction of, the famous Mr. Locke (8). 'The author, says he, a Doctor of Physic, has shewed himself excellently qualified for a traveller by this ingenious piece, in which he has omitted nothing worthy the observation of so curious a person, having spent much time in the discovery of European rarities, and that in those parts which are not the common track of travellers, who content themselves with seeing France and Italy, and the Low-Countries; whereas his relation is of Hungary, Servia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Thessaly, Austria, Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, and Friuli; adding to these Germany, the Low-Countries, and a great part of Italy, of all which he has composed

(8) Churchill's Voyages, Vol. i. Introduction, p. xcviij.

a work of great use and benefit.' To this we may subjoin, that these travels have been translated into French, and as much esteemed by the learned (9) in France, as their originals here.

[D] Of which some account will be given in the notes.] This passage in relation to Dr. Browne, occurs in Mr. Boyle's second Essay upon *unsuccessful experiments*, in which he proposes two things. First. To render people cautious of establishing any doctrine of consequence upon single experiments, or even on several experiments, all the circumstances of which they have not particularly observed. The other is, that practical writers should not be too hastily censured on the score of experiments by them related, failing upon repetition. After mentioning various instances in support of these positions, he proceeds thus with regard to our author (10). 'And so having been informed that the learned Dr. Browne somewhere delivers, that aquafortis will quickly coagulate common oil, we poured some of those liquors together, and let them stand for a considerable space of time in an open vessel, without finding in the oil the change by him promised (though we have, more than once, with another liquor, presently thickened common oil). Whereupon, being unwilling that so faithful and candid a Naturalist should appear fit to be distrusted, we did again make the trial, with fresh oil and aquafortis, in a long-necked phial left open at the top, which we kept both in a cool place, and after in a digesting furnace; but after some weeks, we found no other alteration in the oil, than that it had acquired a high and lovely tincture; notwithstanding which, being still concerned for the reputation of a person that so well deserves a good one, the like contingencies we have formerly met with in other experiments, made us willing to try whether or no the unsuccessfulness we have related, might not proceed from some peculiar, though latent quality, either in the aquafortis, or the oil, by us formerly employed. Whereupon, changing those liquors, and repeating the experiment, we found, after some hours, the oil coagulated almost into the form of a whitish butter.' It appears clearly from hence, how great an opinion so good a judge, as Mr. Boyle was, had of our author's abilities, and more especially how just a sense he had of his integrity in reporting, as well as capacity in making, experiments. But at this distance of time, it has not been possible for us to recover the original experiment, as made and delivered by Dr. Browne; and, therefore, this, as well as other circumstances, seems to justify what we have hinted in the text, that there may be several communications of our author's preserved in the archives of the Royal Society, exclusive of those that are to be met with in the printed Transactions, which I have very carefully examined, and find no papers bearing his name later than 1673.

(s) Some piece of his are said to be in the Philosophical Collections by Dr. Hook, but the I have not seen.

(t) Hist. of Europe for 1708, p. 410.

(u) See the General Dictionary, Vol. iii. p. 322.

(9) L'Englet du Fresnoy, Méthode de pu. stud. et l'Histoire, Tom. iv. p. 323.

(10) Boyle's Works, Vol. i. p. 224.

culty, and was at that time one of the Elects, and Treasurer; succeeded him as President of the Royal College of Physicians (x), which office he filled with great abilities, and discharged it with universal approbation to the time of his death, which happened on the twenty-seventh of August, 1708, in the sixty-sixth year of his age, after a very short illness, at his seat at Northfleet near Greenhithe in the county of Kent (y). He was extremely regretted by such as were best acquainted with his merit, as appears by a very large character of him, which I have been favoured with; and which was drawn up for the use of Dr. Harris, in case he had lived to publish the second part of his History of Kent, in which there are several things that deserve notice, and therefore it is remitted into the notes [E]. At the time of his decease, our author had been for several years a widower, and though he had many children, yet only two survived him, a son and a daughter. Of these, the former was Dr. Thomas Browne, who, at the time of his father's death, was Fellow of the Royal Society, and of the Royal College of Physicians. He was, likewise, a gentleman of great parts and knowledge, and made a good figure in his profession, but did not long survive his father, dying in the month of July 1710 (z), without issue. His sister married Owen Brigstock, of Lechdenny in the county of Caermarthen, Esq; to whom the public is indebted for the Posthumous Works (a) of Sir Thomas Browne; and in his family I suppose the estate of Northfleet, which was of the value of about two hundred and forty pounds a year, continues. But in case issue by his son and daughter failed, it was demised, by Dr. Edward Browne, to be equally divided between the Royal College of Physicians, and St. Bartholomew's Hospital (b), in regard to his having been for some time President of the former, and continuing for many years Physician to the latter.

(x) Catalogue of the Members of the College for that year.

(y) Hist. of Europe for 1708; p. 411.

(z) Le Neve's Monum. Anglic. Vol. iv. p. 164.

(a) The Preface to the Posthumous Works asserts this.

(b) Hist. of Europe for 1708, p. 411.

[E] And therefore it is remitted into the notes.] This, and various other characters of persons with whom he had been acquainted, was drawn up by an old Clergyman in Kent, out of pure zeal for the honour of that county; after whose death, they fell into the hands of the Reverend Mr. Knipe, from whom I had it several years ago. ' Though this gentleman was ' no native of Kent, yet having settled, and lived ' therein many years, and seeming to have fixed his ' family there, in case GOD had been pleased to ' continue it in the male line, he may well deserve a ' place amongst the Kentish Worthies. He received ' from his father an earnest desire after useful and ' extensive science, which was the best inheritance he ' left to his son. It is wonderful, that knowing so ' many things as he did, he should know them all so ' thoroughly well. He was acquainted with He- ' brew; he was a critic in Greek; and no man of his ' age wrote better Latin: High-Dutch, Italian, ' French, &c. he spoke and wrote with as much ease ' as his mother-tongue. Physic was his business, and ' to the promotion thereof, all his other acquisitions ' were referred. Botany, Pharmacy, and Chemistry, ' he knew and practised. As to the latter, he inher- ' ited from his father the MSS. of Dr. A. Dee, ' among which too were some of John's (11); but ' his own lights went farther, and taught him, as ' some have thought, the whole Arcana of that my- ' sterious science. In the company of the learned, ' his discourses were so academical, that he might ' be thought to have passed his days in a college. ' Amongst politer company, his behaviour was so ' easy and disengaged, you would have judged that ' he lived all his life in a court. With all this fund ' of knowledge, he was inquisitive, patient, and ' modest; heard with great attention, and spoke with ' much circumspection. In Religion, zealous with- ' out bigotry; in Politics, inflexible but without ' asperity or rudeness; in private life, affable, bene- ' ficent, and cheerful. In a word, he justified what ' King Charles said of him on a particular occasion, ' He was as learned as any of the College, and as well

' bred as any at Court. The nobility were fond of ' his company; his house was the resort of stran- ' gers; and, as he acquired the prudence of age ' without its gray hairs, so when they came he kept ' up all the cheerfulness of youth.' C.

\* \* [Too high a character appears to have been given, in this article, of Dr. Edward Browne's Travels. An honourable friend, speaking of the first edition, in 4to, observes, that, ' bating what is said ' of the mines, it seems a very superficial, and tri- ' fling book. Dr. Browne, like most travellers, had ' his optics so framed as to see all objects as of equal ' magnitude.' Dr. Johnson's account of the same work is not much more favourable. He informs us that he hath heard it commended, by a learned traveller, who has visited many places after Dr. Browne, as written with scrupulous and exact veracity, such as is scarcely to be found in any other book of the same kind. ' But, adds Dr. Johnson, whatever it ' may contribute to the instruction of a naturalist, I ' cannot recommend it as likely to give much plea- ' sure to common readers. For whether it be, that ' the world is very uniform, and therefore he who is ' resolved to adhere to truth, will have few novelties ' to relate; or that Dr. Browne was, by the train of ' his studies, led to enquire most after those things, ' by which the greatest part of mankind is little af- ' fected; a great part of the book seems to contain ' very unimportant accounts of his passage from one ' place where he saw little, to another where he saw ' no more (12).'

It hath been suggested to us (13), that the follow- ing lines in verse, of Dr. Browne's composition, in p. 38 of his travels to Hungary, furnish a pre- sumption that he could not be the author of the poetical translation from Virgil, in note [C].

' Now I believe the Troglodites of old, ' Whereof Herodotus and Strabo told; ' Since every where, about those parts, in holes ' Cunicular men I find, and human moles.' K.

(12) Johnson's Life of Sir T. Browne, prefixed to the ' Chri- ' stian Morals,' p. xxxviii, xxxix.

(13) By the va- luable corre- spondent so frequently related to.

\* \* [BROWNE (SIMON), an able and learned Minister and Writer amongst the Protestant Dissenters, and who was remarkable for being seized with a mental disorder of a most extraordinary kind, was born at Shepton-Mallet, in Somersetshire, about the year 1680 (a). He was instructed in grammar-learning by the Rev. Mr. Cumming, who was pastor of a congregation in that town; from whence he was removed to Bridgewater, for the benefit of academical education, and there finished his studies under the care of the Rev. Mr. Moor (b). As he possessed uncommon parts, which had been improved by the most assiduous application, he was very early thought qualified for the ministry; so that he began to preach some time before he was

(a) Fam. Town and Country Misc. for 1770, 1769, and a Funeral Sermon on the late Re- verend Mr. Simon Browne, Preached at Shepton Mallet, Dec. 31, 1737, by Anthony At- kin, p. 20, 25.

(b) Funeral Sermon, ut supra.