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L O N D O N

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To the EDITOR of the EUROPEAN MAGAZINE.

SIR,

Looking over the life of Lord Barrington in the Biographia Britannica, I was surprised to find that the Editors of that Work had not availed themselves of the information concerning his Lordship they might have derived from the funeral sermon preached by Mr. Mackewen on his Lordship's death. The authenticity of Mr. Mackewen's Memoirs admit of no doubt, and therefore I recommend them to the notice of those who are engaged in the Biographia, when a new volume of that Work shall make its slow appearance,

Halfhead,
June 17, 1791.

I am, &c.
T. W.

"**H**E was descended from * worthy ancestors, eminent for their virtue and zeal for the cause of liberty, several of whom served the Kings of England with honour, as commanders in the wars of Normandy, when Normandy was annexed to the crown. He had a graceful person, a happy constitution, and an extraordinary genius, improved by a pious and liberal education; and, if I am not mistaken, it will hereafter be accounted an honour to Utrecht, where he finished his academical studies, to have contributed to the forming so great a man; for he was a person of almost unequalled abilities, and many excellent and uncommon virtues: his great judgement, extensive knowledge, acute sagacity, and intensive application, rendered him, perhaps, upon the whole the most finished character in life.

"His principles of christian and civil liberty were rational, demonstrative and immovable; and his happy faculty of communicating his thoughts upon any subject made his conversation extremely agreeable and instructive to men of sense and taste. Such admirable talents could not long be hid; and therefore he had an early and strict friendship with several persons of the greatest rank, learning, and virtue, which he never sought; was made a Commissioner of the Customs in virtue of a promise he never asked; and had several employments of honour and profit

offered him, which he declined to accept whilst the Occasional Act was in force. He was adopted without his knowledge by two gentlemen of good estates and the greatest worth, Francis Barrington, of Tosts in the county of Essex, Esq. pursuant to whose settlement he took the name of Barrington; and John Wildman of Becket in the county of Berks, Esq.; from a just persuasion of his inflexible attachment to the interest of religion and virtue in general, and the religious and civil liberties of his country, was chosen into Parliament by the town of Berwick upon Tweed without a bribe; and was created a Peer of Ireland by the bounty of King George the First, against his will, for his eminent services and unshaken loyalty to the illustrious House of Hanover, and the British constitution; the support of which, with the extension of liberty and rational religion, was the noble and constant end of his thoughts and actions; and therefore he was prevailed upon, contrary to his inclinations, and in apparent prejudice to his health and affairs, to be a candidate at the late election, and might have been chosen, would his principles have permitted him to have given a bribe of forty pounds; but he had too strict a regard to the laws and interest of his country to countenance corruption, and trifle with the sacredness of oaths. This may be ridiculed by a sort of men; but it will be a lasting honour to his me-

mory, when they will be forgot, or only remembered for their infamy. He had indeed too high an idea of the moral character of men; which, though an instance of the uprightness of his own intentions, exposed him the more to their treacherous designs.

"But as eminent talents, virtues, and attainments, seldom fail of raising envy, it would be very unreasonable to form a character of him from the inhuman treatment he met with from various sorts of men; particularly the unprecedented censure which he unjustly underwent, and mercenary scribblers employed against him.

"He will appear to every unprejudiced and discerning person to have been governed by an earnest and steady love of truth, liberty, his country, and mankind, in all the different periods and circumstances of his life; which ought to be the chief objects of every man's pursuit. To these he sacrificed not only his private interest, and the flattering secular vices; but, as is known to his intimate friends, even his constitution.

"He was a person of unlimited christian charity to men of all persuasions, free from every degree of superstition, and had the utmost abhorrence to all kinds of persecution, as perfectly anti-christian: he was always zealous to serve his friend, and ready to forgive injuries, which generous christian principle the worst treatment could never extinguish: his gratitude and generosity have many witnesses among the relatives and friends of his benefactors, as well as others.

"He owned no master but Christ in his church and kingdom, and maintained that revealed religion did not subvert, but assist natural. For these and the like sentiments, he was calumniated by the crafty, the ignorant, the envious, and bigoted; but his patience and fortitude will be admired by generations to come: for as no man knew better the interest of virtue and his country, so none, perhaps, ever had greater resolution to promote it. This was well known to those who have had the honour of the greatest share of power and credit in the present and two preceding reigns.

"The years of his retirement were spent to the noblest purposes, the study of the sacred oracles; in which province he shined with a peculiar lustre. His profound skill and facility in handling these divine

themes, by the happiest mixture of reason and oratory, was the admiration and delight of all that had a just relish of them; and, I speak it from knowledge, the contemplations which filled his own mind with the highest rational pleasure, were of the Supreme Being, his moral government, particular providence, and dispensations to mankind. We may view the picture of his mind in these patherick and admirable lines wrote to his son and heir, whom he tenderly loved, a few weeks before his death.

"The study of morality," says he, "is the noblest of all other; those eternal truths that regulate the conduct of God and man. This alone can be called the science of life; will instruct us how to act in this scene with happiness and usefulness; to leave it with composure, and be associated in a future and better state to the best moralists and philosophers that ever lived; to the wisest men, and the greatest benefactors of mankind; to confessors and martyrs for truth and righteousness; to prophets and apostles; to cherubim and seraphim; to the Holy Spirit that searches and knows the deep things of God; to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant; and to God the Judge of all, who is before all, above all, and in us all."

"His first and steady view was always truth and right; and his fine genius and just sentiments gave him that distinguishing share in the esteem of the greatest and best men * this nation ever knew; which, together with his vindications of revelation, will make his name immortal.

"His conjugal friendship and affection was inviolable and manly; he was a peculiarly kind and tender parent, and the principles of religion and liberty, which he took care to instil in the minds of his children and servants with a suitable address and singular perspicuity, were just and rational, worthy of God and the dignity of human nature. His ardent desire was, that they might be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth, and the love and practice of virtue. In a word, he was a strict observer of the laws of God and his country; a shining example of sobriety, regularity and justice; a terror to evil-doers, and a most assiduous and able patron of afflicted virtue, and the just and natural rights of mankind; religious without enthusiasm; zealous without bigotry; learned without pedantry."

* Wharton, Sommers, Locke, King, Cowper, Nevil, Burnet, Clark, Newton, &c. with many virtuous and shining characters that still adorn their country.

Besides the works mentioned in the Biographia, Lord Barrington published at Utrecht, "Dissertatio Philosophica Inauguratio de Theocratia Civili; quam annuente summo Numine, ex auctoritate magnifici D. Rectoris D. Hermannii Witsii S. S. Theol. Doctoris, ejusdemque in Inclytâ Academia Ultrajectrina Professoris Ordinarii, et Ecclesiæ ibidem Pastoris, nec non amplissimi Senatûs Academici Consensu, Subtilissimæque Facultatis Philosophicæ Decreto, pro gradu Doctoratûs in Philosophia et Liberalium Artium Magisterio, omnibusque prærogativis, honoribus et privilegiis rite ac legitime consequendis, publice propugnabit Johannes Shute Londino Anglus ad diem 12. Octob. horis locoque solitis. 4to. 1697.

In the London Daily Post 25th December 1734, is the following article:

In a letter from **Shrivenham** in Berks, it is said of Lord Barrington, "He had not been right well since he fell out of his chaise when at Berwick; he had something of a dropsy and an asthma, but was on horseback in the fields the Wednesday before he died; on Thursday he eat a very hearty dinner, and at night played at cards; about ten he was seized with a chilness, and had like to have been carried off with fainting fits; on Saturday morning early he died."

After his death a marble monument to his memory, by **Mr. Cragg** of Oxford, was set up in **Shrivenham** Church.