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HEARNIANAE: THE REMAINS OF
THOMAS HEARNE, M. A., OF
EDMUND HALL. BEING EXTRACTS FROM
HIS MS. DIARIES, COLLECTED, WITH A
FEW NOTES, VOL. II**

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THOMAS HEARNE & PHILIP BLISS & EDMUND HALL

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Reliquiae Hearnianae :



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THOMAS HEARNE, M.A.,

OF EDMUND HALL.

BEING EXTRACTS FROM HIS MS. DIARIES, COLLECTED,

WITH A FEW NOTES.

BY PHILIP BLISS,

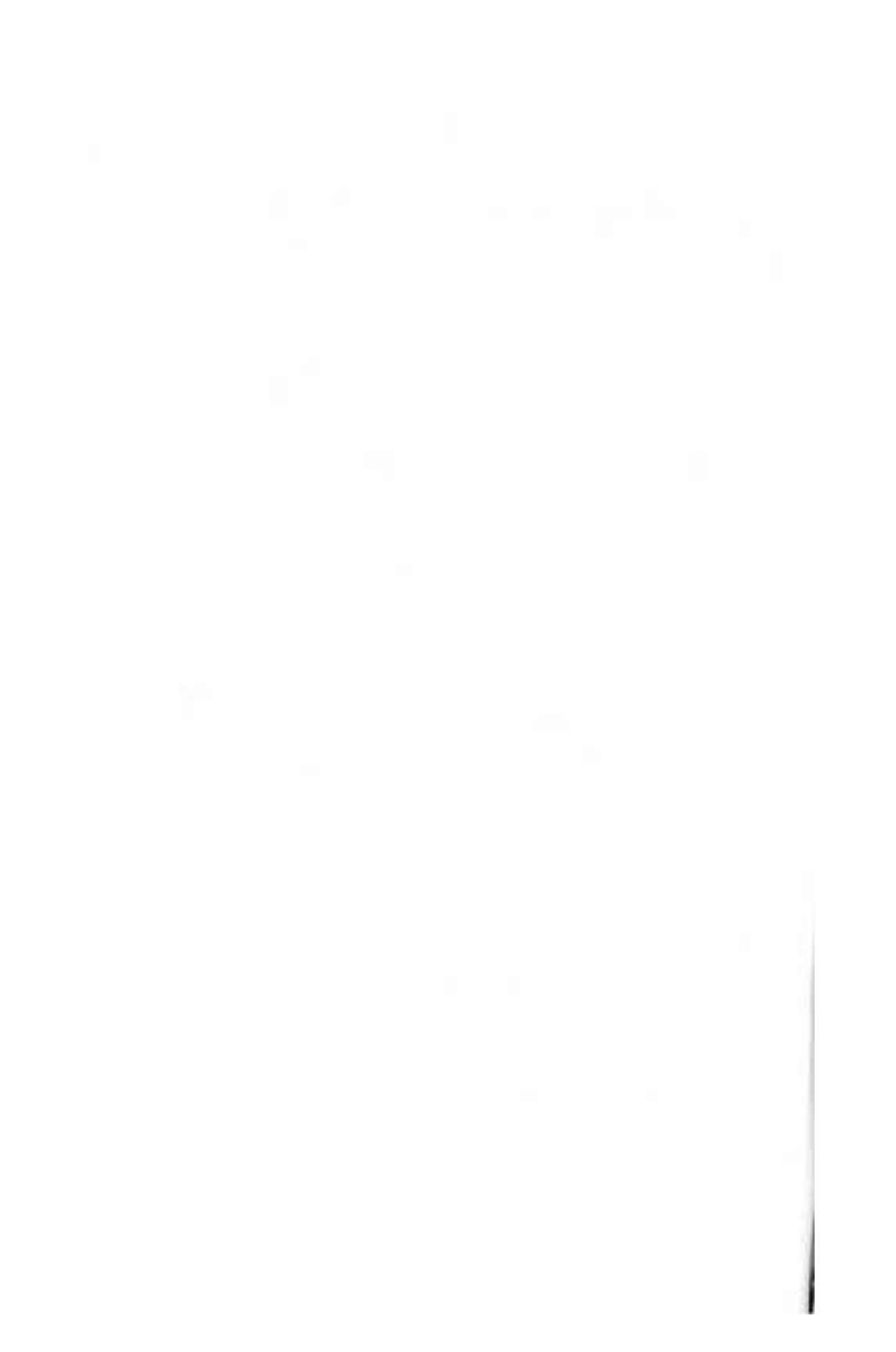
LATE FELLOW OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, NOW PRINCIPAL OF
ST. MARY HALL, IN THE UNIVERSITY
OF OXFORD.



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RELIQUIÆ HEARNIANÆ.

1715. *May 11.*

LAST Munday came to Oxford one Henry Wild, a taylor of Norwich. He came on foot, and brought with him letters of recommendation from Dr. Tanner, chancellor of Norwich, to Dr. Charlett, master of University college, and to one or two other persons; and as he came along he called upon Browne Willis, esq. at Whaddon hall, near Fenny Stratford, who delivered him a letter to me, in which letter there is this passage relating to this taylor: “ Since
“ I wrote this, which was to have gone by this post
“ to Mr. Anstis in order to be frankt to you, here is
“ come in, one Henry Wild, a taylor of Norwich, a
“ person that Dr. Tanner gives me this character of
“ in his letter: *I have ordered this beaver to call upon*
“ *you, who is a very extraordinary person, and I believe*
“ *will appear so to you, when you shall know that being*
“ *only taught English, and apprenticed to a country*
“ *taylor, and forced to work for his bread, has by his*
“ *industry and application obtained good knowledge in*
“ *Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Samaritan, Chaldee, Arabic.*
“ *Syriac, and Ethiopic. He has hitherto lived in great*

“ *obscurity. He has a mighty inclination to goe among the books, and is now footing it to Oxford, where I should be glad if he might meet with encouragement; for by the help of books, &c. I don't know but he might be as eminent as Master Slow was in our way. However he is modest, and disposed to return to his trade, if nothing better offers.*” This taylor is now about thirty years of age, and was sometime agoe examined by Sim. Okely, the professor of Arabie in Oxford, who gave him a testimonium under his own hand, which I saw and read, signifying that this person had attained a competent skill in those languages before mentioned; and Dr. Prideaux, dean of Norwich, set his hand to two or three lines in the same paper, signifying, that he thought he might deserve encouragement upon account of his genius to the orientals, though he did not go so far as to vouch for a good or competent skill. Nor do I believe Okely a good judge in any but Arabick. Nor do I think that Okely's probity is so great as to be relyed upon in the case, tho' he were as great a judge as he would fain be taken to be. However allowing that this taylor hath a competent skill, then I think that 'tis a very great reproach upon the dignified clergy, particularly those of Norwich, to let him continue without their particuler care; but if he hath not these qualifications, then 'tis withall a reproach to them to characterize him for them.¹

May 28. This being the duke of Brunswick, commonly called king George's birth-day, some of the bells were jumbled in Oxford, by the care of some of the whiggish fanatical crew; but as I did not observe the day in the least myself, so it was little taken

¹ See under the year 1721.

notice of (unless by way of ridicule) by other honest people, who are for king James III. who is the undoubted king of these kingdoms, and 'tis heartily wished by them that he may be restored.

May 29. Last night a good part of the presbyterian meeting-house in Oxford was pulled down. There was such a concourse of people going up and down, and putting a stop to the least sign of rejoicing, as can not be described. But then the rejoicing this day (notwithstanding Sunday) was so very great and publick in Oxford, as hath not been known hardly since the restauration. There was not an house next the street but was illuminated. For if any disrespect was shewn, the windows were certainly broke. The people run up and down, crying *King James the third! The true king! No usurper! The duke of Ormond!* &c. and healths were every where drank suitable to the occasion, and every one at the same time drank to a new restauration, which I heartily wish may speedily happen.

In the evening they pulled a good part of the quakers' and anabaptists' meeting houses down. This rejoicing hath caused great consternation at court. The heads of houses have represented that it was begun by the whiggs, who met at the King's Head Tavern on Saturday night, under the denomination of the *constitution club*, and being about to carry on extravagant designs, they were prevented by an honest party that were in an adjoining room, and forced to sneak away. Some of these fanatical persons shot off guns in some places, and had like to have killed many. Two or three were wounded.

June 5. King George being informed of the pro-

ceedings of the cavaliers at Oxford, on Saturday and Sunday, (May 28, 29,) he is very angry, and by his order, Townshend, one of the secretaries of state, hath sent rattling letters to Dr. Charlett, pro-vice-chancellor, and the mayor. Dr. Charlett shewed me his this morning. This lord Townshend says, his majesty (for so they will stile this silly usurper) hath been fully assured that the riots both nights were began by scholars, and that scholars promoted them, and that he (Dr. Charlett) was so far from discountenancing them, that he did not endeavour in the least to suppress them. He likewise observes, that his majesty was as well informed that the other magistrates were not less remiss on these occasions. The heads have had several meetings upon this affair, and they have drawn up a programma, (for they are obliged to do something,) to prevent the like hereafter; and this morning very early, old Sherwin the yeoman beadle was sent to London to represent the truth of the matter.

June 10. This being king James the III^d's birthday, he being now compleat 27 years of age, it was given out that there would be the same rejoycings in Oxford as there were on the 29th of May. And 'tis probable there had been very great publick rejoycings here amongst some people, had not Dr. Charlett, who is pro-vice-chancellor, and the proctors and others, been very industrious to hinder them. Several new officers were made upon this occasion. So that all honest men were obliged to drink king James's health, and to shew other tokens of loyalty, very privately in their own houses, or else in their own chambers, or else out of town. For my own part I walked out of town to Foxcomb, with honest Will. Fullerton, and Mr. Sterling, and Mr. Eeeles, all three non-juring

civilians of Balliol college, and with honest Mr. John Leake, formerly of Hart hall, and Rich. Clements, (son to old Harry Clements the bookseller,) he being a cavalier. We were very merry at Foxcombe, and came home between nine and ten. Honest Will. Fullerton and myself (it being very near ten o'clock) were taken to by the proctor (Dod of Braz-nose) just on this side Christ Church, as we were coming to Cairfax. The proctor was very civil to Will. and did not pretend to say any thing to me. No sooner had we got from him, but we met Dr. Charlett, with Will. Rawlins, the yeoman beadle, before him. He apprehends Will. Fullerton, but soon dismissed him, as soon as he understood I was with him. But notwithstanding this diligence, there was illuminating at Wadham, tho' 'twas soon stopped by Charlett's order and contrivance. The bishop of Bristol (Smalridge) invited all the noblemen and gent. commoners of his house to a supper, and kept them in his own lodgings; he being one of the sneakers, and terribly afraid of disoblising the debauched court of king George.

July 1. Last night, between seven and eight o'clock, a fellow who goes by the name of *Cornish Tom*, who was lately a soldier, pretended to fly from Cairfax tower, but had like to have broke his neck.

July 24. There is just come over a very fine large print of king James III^d. which I have purchased for half a guinea, besides half a crown I gave for the frame.¹

¹ A copy of verses spoken by a young lady on the sight of a picture.

What Briton can survey that heavenly face,
And doubt its being of the martyr's race?