

**EDINBURGH AND
ITS SOCIETY IN
1838: IN SIX PARTS**

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Edinburgh and Its Society in 1838: In Six Parts by Sebaldus Naseweis

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SEBALDUS NASEWEIS

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ITS SOCIETY IN
1838: IN SIX PARTS**

John Oswald.

EDINBURGH

AND ITS SOCIETY

IN 1838.

IN SIX PARTS.

BY

SEBALDUS NASEWBIS, Esq.

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1838.

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REFLECTIONS
ON
MODERN ATHENS.

ERRATUM.

Page 5, line 10, *for canister, read canister.*

antiquity; and their original stamp and habits have remained with little alteration from long before the time of Charlemagne. They have since spread over the whole of the civilized world into various distinct branches, and came in numbers from the Continent to Britain during the Saxon era. They have multiplied to a great degree in this island, are distinguished by different characteristics, and vast

swarms of the present generation in Britain have been in a manner engrafted upon them by the adoption of similar habits. Some of my forefathers, after the lapse of several centuries, went to America; and on returning to Germany, brought with them a taste, unknown there at the time, for using tobacco in every possible manner — some became *puffers*, by blowing out the smoke at their mouth and nostrils from a twisted leaf — others resorted to the elegant expedient of plugging the leaf up their nose, and breathed through their mouth only — a third set had the tobacco ground, and fed their nose in that way — a fourth, and more sober-minded branch of our family, took to the pipe, which they enjoyed in their moments of contemplation and study without annoying others; and it is from this branch I more immediately descend. We were all of us remarkable for a certain degree of self-complacency; and one of my forefathers (a great smoking crony of Sir Walter Raleigh) was the first to parade the streets of Vienna as

a smoker. He was immediately followed by the people, who, knowing him to be of the family, called out to the bystanders, "*Da geht ein Naseweis.*" This appellation has been the means of immortalizing our race, and giving it a distinguished name among future generations. Families in those early periods rose to distinction from very singular causes. The head man of a village in Austria, who was remarkable for his good nature, and had a pinch at hand for every passenger, got the name of *Vetter Schnaubendorff*. Another, who was constantly in the field, and never held the plough without a pipe in his mouth, was called *Hans Rauchenfeldt*; and at a later period, a man of letters and of profound learning, who could not write a line without his favourite *meerschaum*, was ennobled, and his descendants to this day bear the name of *Baron Puffendorff*.

The good people in the heart of Germany are remarkable for great simplicity of manners; and in remote districts, where they have no occupation but the labours of the field, they

have a strong attachment to all the domestic animals which surround them. In a certain small village, while all the inhabitants were occupied with their harvest-work, an ass was left to take charge of it, who soon became of no little importance, and when the circumstance was related, it always ended with the words *und am Esel traut man sich*.

From so trifling a beginning a name took its rise, which is to be found at this day in many parts of Germany, the families having that appellation being indebted to their musical progenitor for their celebrity. But to return to my forefathers, and particularly to my great-grandfather and his immediate descendants. They gave me at all times excellent advice, and a good example — how far I have profited by this, it is not for me to say; but I was brought early into the world, and gradually acquired by habit a certain degree of taciturnity, and a retired manner, which enabled me the more easily to study and analyze the human character, and to view things dispassionately, without