

**JOURNAL OF A
RESIDENCE AT VIENNA
AND BERLIN IN THE
EVENTFUL WINTER 1805-6**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649619429

Journal of a Residence at Vienna and Berlin in the Eventful Winter 1805-6 by Henry Reeve

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Cover @ 2017

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HENRY REEVE

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BY
THE LATE HENRY REEVE, M.D.

PUBLISHED BY HIS SON

LONDON
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.

1877

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INTRODUCTION.

I am led to print these fragments of my Father's Journal by the reflection that time gives some value to contemporary impressions, however slight, of great historical events, and that social intercourse with men who have left a name in arts or letters is never wholly devoid of interest. The author of these pages, written seventy years ago, without the least idea of publication, either then or afterwards, found himself in Austria during the most memorable and brilliant of the campaigns of NAPOLEON. He saw the great conqueror on the morrow of Austerlitz; he had the good fortune to be introduced to HAYDN, to be present when BEETHOVEN conducted 'Fidelio,' to hear HUMBOLDT relate his travels and FICHTE lecture on his philosophy, and to meet a great number of persons worthy of note at a time when the Continent was thought to be entirely closed against English travellers. Perhaps this circumstance may

justify me in the attempt to rescue this little record from entire oblivion.

The writer of these pages, born in September 1780, was the second son of ABRAHAM REEVE, Esq., of Hadleigh, in the county of Suffolk. His mother was ELIZABETH, eldest daughter of Dr. WALLACE, Rector of the parish of Messing, in the county of Essex. The family, originally from Maldon, had inhabited for some generations the pleasant border land of those two Eastern counties, and young REEVE was sent to Dedham School, situated upon the river Stour, which divides them. He studied under Dr. GRIMWOOD, and was early remarked for the excellence of his Latinity. Amongst his forefathers on the WALLACE side there had always been a physician. A diploma is still in existence of a Dr. JOHN WALLACE, who graduated at Padua in 1628 under FABRICIUS AB AQUAPENDENTE, and may have heard the lectures of GALILEO. In the last century the physicians of the family practised in Ipswich, where they are buried in St. Helen's Church. A physician therefore their descendant was to become, and he never seems to have doubted his vocation. At sixteen he was placed at Norwich to study surgery and anatomy under Mr. PHILIP MEADOWS MARTINEAU, justly celebrated throughout the Eastern counties for his skill as an operator and his knowledge of physic. At twenty he removed to the University of Edinburgh, then perhaps at the most

brilliant period of its existence. In addition to the lectures of Dr. GREGORY on Medicine, of MUNRO and BARCLAY on Anatomy, he followed the courses of Dr. RUTHERFORD on Botany, Mr. HOPE on Chemistry, Mr. COVENTRY on Rural Economy, and above all that of Professor DUGALD STEWART on Moral Philosophy, from whom it was said that he caught something of the grace and elegance with which he afterwards attempted to convey to others what he had himself learned. Nor were his associates of his own age, or somewhat beyond his own age, less remarkable. He became intimate with FRANCIS HORNER and LORD DAER, well acquainted with HENRY BROUGHAM and SYDNEY SMITH, conversant with the society which at that very time originated the Edinburgh Review. That was in the autumn of 1802, when REEVE had barely completed his twenty-second year. He contributed to the first numbers of that Journal, an article on PINEL'S 'Treatment of the Insane,' and a paper 'On Population.' In the Edinburgh Medical Journal he wrote more frequently on professional subjects.

In November 1802 he was elected a member of the 'Speculative Society of Edinburgh'—a body of young collegians who met weekly to debate questions of literature and politics, but who counted amongst their members not a few names destined to be illustrious in after-life. Lord HENRY PETTY,

BROUGHAM, HORNER, Lord KINNAIRD, CHARLES and ROBERT GRANT, JEFFREY, HENRY COCKBURN, JOHN MURRAY, MACKENZIE, ALEXANDER MACONOCHE (afterwards Lord MEADOWBANK), were members of that society. I observe that one of the questions proposed for discussion on March 15, 1803, by Mr. REEVE, was this: 'Ought Government to interfere at all in regulating the education of youth?' Even at that early period the cause of popular education had enlisted his warm and constant sympathy. The thesis Dr. REEVE wrote for his degree was entitled 'De Animalibus in hyeme sopitis;' and in 1809 he published an Essay on the 'Torpidity of Animals'—a phenomenon which never ceased to engage his attention.

Having taken his M.D. degree in 1803, he proceeded to London, rather to continue his studies than to exercise his profession. In London he appears at once, thanks to the social relations of his friends in Norfolk and in Edinburgh, to have had access to the society he preferred. I find by his letters that he was cordially received at the hospitable board of Messrs. LONGMAN in Paternoster Row, where he met the elder DISRAELI on one day and COLERIDGE on another. Mr. DAVY, with whom he struck up a rapid friendship, showed him his experiments at the Royal Institution, and presented him to the great autocrat of science Sir JOSEPH BANKS. In the house of Mrs. BARBAULD and her accomplished

brother Dr. AIKIN he found a ready welcome; and I even trace him to a ball given by a lady of fashion, which was less to his taste.

But these attractions did not decide him to settle in London, or even to prolong his residence there. The most intimate of his Edinburgh friends had been Dr. DE ROCHES, a Swiss student, who graduated in medicine about the same time; and upon the return of this gentleman to Geneva, Dr. REEVE resolved to accompany him, although since the rupture of the peace of Amiens the expedition was not altogether an easy or a safe one. In the spring of 1805, the two friends set off together by way of Husum, through Lubeck, Magdeburg, and Frankfort. At Neuchâtel Dr. REEVE spent several months to perfect himself in the French language; it was just before Neuchâtel was ceded by Prussia, and converted into a French principality for Marshal BERTHIER. Under the shelter of an American passport he even ventured for a few days upon the soil of Geneva, then part of the territory of France. In the course of these wanderings, Dr. REEVE formed an acquaintance with the family of Mr. ACKLOM, who were travelling homewards from Italy, and they agreed to make the voyage down the Danube together. In the earlier portion of this Journal there is little or nothing of importance, and I therefore omit it. But from the departure for Vienna, on the eve, as it turned out, of a most abrupt and terrible campaign,

which encircled the travellers on every side, I think the narrative acquires some interest.

Shortly after his return to England, Dr. REEVE settled as a physician in the city of Norwich, and married there. He continued to devote himself with energy and intelligence to his professional pursuits and duties, and he was elected a physician to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital; but his health failed, and just as he had entered upon his thirty-fifth year an insidious organic disease terminated his life. He died at his father's house at Hadleigh on September 27, 1814.

It would not become me to attempt to retrace the character of a parent whom it is my misfortune not to have known; but I may venture to borrow the concluding words of an address delivered on October 6, 1814, to the Philosophical Society of Norwich by Mr. WILLIAM TAYLOR, the author of the 'Survey of German Poetry,' in memory of a friend to whom he was warmly attached:—'Dr. REEVE'S mind shed a light equally the reverse of obscurity and of splendour; neither flashy nor intermittent; which cleared without dazzling; day, rather than sunshine; a steady serenity aiming less at effect than at truth. No form of personal character is so difficult to delineate with precision as one where there was hardly anything of excess or defect, and where a natural proportionate value was set on the luxuries, on the affections, on the virtues, on the talents. Sir JOSHUA