

**MEMOIRS OF HIS ROYAL  
HIGHNESS THE  
PRINCE OF WALES, IN  
THREE VOLUMES, VOL. II**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649646500

Memoirs of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in Three Volumes, Vol. II by  
Anonymous

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Cover @ 2017

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OF  
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS  
THE  
Prince of Wales.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

—◆—

“In these unhappy times, the world, Sir, examine the conduct of Princes with a jealous, a scrutinizing, a malignant eye. No man is more aware than I am of the existence of such a disposition, and no man is, therefore, more determined to place himself above all suspicion.”

*Letter from the Prince of Wales to the King.*

—◆—

VOL. II.

40,  
LONDON:  
PRINTED FOR J. F. HUGHES,  
BOOKSELLER TO H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES,  
No. 15, Paternoster-Row, and 5, Wigmore-Street,  
Cavendish-Square.

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1808.

MRS

THE NEW YORK  
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ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS  
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B. CLARKE, Printer, Well-street,  
Cripplegate.

# MEMOIRS

OF

*H. R. H. George Augustus Frederick*

PRINCE OF WALES.

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## CHAPTER I.

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VINDICATION OF THE PRINCE OF WALES FOR HIS PATRONAGE OF PUGILISTIC CONTESTS—DISSERTATION ON THE ENGLISH CHARACTER—REMARKS ON THE PRINCE'S CONNECTION WITH THE TURF—THE SPORTS OF RACING DEFENDED—NARRATIVE OF SOME OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS'S SPORTING ENGAGEMENTS.—ACCOUNT OF THE JOCKEY CLUB—MISREPRESENTATIONS CORRECTED—DISPUTE RELATIVE TO THE PRINCE'S HORSE ECLIPSE, OCTOBER 20th AND 21st, 1791—CHIPNEY'S ACCOUNT OF THOSE MATCHES—EXAMINATION OF CHIPNEY BEFORE THE JOCKEY CLUB—CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN CHIPNEY AND THE PRINCE OF WALES—TERMINATION OF THE PRINCE'S TURF ENGAGEMENTS—EXCULPATORY AFFIDAVIT OF CHIPNEY—FURTHER VINDICATION OF THE PRINCE OF WALES—REPLY TO VARIOUS CALUMNIES.

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VOL. II.

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**WE** now come to speak of some transactions in which his royal highness was engaged at this period, and by which he incurred a very considerable, but, in our sincere opinion, wholly unmerited, share of obloquy. We allude to the Prince of Wales's connection with the turf. Athletic sports seem ever to have been favourites with the English nation, and it was no doubt sound policy to encourage them, inasmuch as the safety and independence of a nation must, in a great degree, depend upon the martial spirit and habits of its natives. Our ancestors, in their rude and boisterous sports, seem to have had two objects in view—to season the youth of England to firmness of mind and agility of body, or, in other words, to make them skilful in the science of offence or defence, and intrepid in the encountering



of danger. And it must be confessed, that our national character, from the earliest records of our history, appears to have been admirably calculated to receive impressions of the kind here described. The character of a native Englishman, undebased by any adventitious circumstances, is perhaps the noblest that the present race of men, in any quarter of the globe, can produce. In the hour of danger he is bold, in the moment of victory he is generous and humane. No nation that ever made war so frequently as the English nation could ever boast of such a series of victories, unsullied by any imputations of cruelty, as those that have attended the arms of England in every quarter of the globe. There are undoubtedly unworthy exceptions; but the courage of Englishmen, in general, is unalloyed with any mixture of ferocity, and *in many instances we*

have been at a loss whether most to admire, the invincible resolution or the matchless generosity of our heroes. The sports of England, for the most part, have a tendency to confirm this temper. They are boisterous, it is true, but at the same time admirably calculated to produce a manly and courageous spirit, without permitting the martial emotions to which they give rise to degenerate into cruelty or ferocity. This is exemplified in the contentions of the vulgar, and in our prize-fights. Nothing is allowed to superior strength: the fallen antagonist, in such contests, is protected by a national law of honour (a law peculiar to English combatants) from the attack of his opponent, who, should he ungenerously strike his prostrate and helpless foe, would be sure to call down upon himself the indignation and the *vengeance* of all who beheld him. It

is from this cause that in our prize-fights superior personal strength is so often obliged to yield the palm of victory; and it is from this cause that the feuds of the populace are rarely attended with fatal consequences.

It is a mistaken humanity which would lead us to wish to see abolished the sports of the common people. What should we establish in their stead for the recreation of the hardy peasantry of England? The dancing or the duelling of France; the music-houses of Holland, where liquor and prostitution go hand in hand, and the orgies of the night terminate with a skirmish of knives? or shall we recommend the Russian mode of calling foul names, boxing ears with the flat hand, and pulling of beards, or the still more detestable American fashion, derived certainly not from their *English ancestors*, but probably borrowed