

JOHN HOWARD

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John Howard by Edgar C. S. Gibson

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THE
LIVES OF
ADMIRAL LORD



JOHN HOWARD

From an engraving after the portrait by Mather Brown

JOHN HOWARD

BY

EDGAR C. S. GIBSON

WITH TWELVE ILLUSTRATIONS

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PREFACE

THERE are several Lives of Howard in existence, but, with the exception of Dr. Stoughton's *Howard the Philanthropist*, the longer and better ones have all been for some years out of print ; and Dr. Stoughton's book, full and careful as it is, is somewhat discursive, and gives more space to ecclesiastical matters, which have but little to do with Howard, than seems to be necessary. Hence there appears to be room for another biography which shall tell the main facts of the philanthropist's life, and recall his memory to the present generation. In preparing it, the writer has made full use of Howard's own writings, as well as of the early *Lives* by Aikin and Brown. Of these Aikin's *View of the Character and Public Services of the late John Howard* (1792) is our earliest authority, and has the advantage of being written by one of Howard's closest personal friends. It is, however, very slight and sketchy, and leaves much untold. A far fuller,

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and more thorough work is Brown's *Memoirs of the Public and Private Life of John Howard the Philanthropist*, the first edition of which was published in 1818. Brown had access to Howard's private diary, as well as to a number of his letters, and made careful inquiries of his relatives, friends, and servants; but unfortunately he was unable to obtain any letters from members of the Whitbread family. This necessitated a certain incompleteness in his work, and left a gap which much needed to be filled up. In spite of this, his volume will always remain the great storehouse of material for all subsequent workers, and will ever be the main authority for Howard's life. It needs, however, to be supplemented by the Rev. J. Field's *Correspondence of John Howard* (1855), in which the philanthropist's letters to Mr. and Lady Mary Whitbread were for the first time made public. Field had a few years earlier published a painstaking *Life of Howard*, shortly after the appearance of which he was informed of the existence of this correspondence, and happily obtained permission to publish it, thereby materially adding to our knowledge of Howard. This volume, then, and Brown's *Memoir*, together with Howard's own writings, are the main sources from which the present sketch has been compiled, although full use has also been made of the notices of Howard which appeared shortly

after his death in the *Gentleman's Magazine* and the *Universal Magazine* for 1790, as well as of Dr. Stoughton's work already referred to. Other *Lives*, such as that by Hepworth Dixon, have been consulted, but none of them add materially to our knowledge.

In regard to the illustrations it may be well to note that the history of the frontispiece is given on p. 190. The "Portrait of the second Mrs. Howard" (No. 2) is taken from Brown's *Memoir*, for which the engraving was made from an original miniature, which Howard himself gave to his faithful servant, Mrs. Prole. The "Scene in Bridewell" (No. 3) is, of course, the familiar one from Hogarth's "Harlot's Progress." The representations of the "Courts of the King's Bench" and the "Fleet" (Nos. 4 and 5) are reproduced from Ackerman's *Microcosm of London*. The "Poor Debtor's Cell" (No. 6) is from an engraving in the British Museum. The next three illustrations (Nos. 7, 8, and 9) are all taken from Howard's *State of Prisons*. No. 10, "Howard relieving Prisoners," is from an old print published in 1791 shortly after Howard's death, and the illustration of "Howard's Tomb" is taken from the sketch by R. Heber in Clarke's *Travels*, vol. i. p. 573.

E. C. S. G.

