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ANECDOTES OF MR. SAMUEL RICHARDSON.

[From Nichol's Biographical and Literary Anecdotes.]

MR. SAMUEL RICHARDSON, who was born in 1689, had no acquaintance with the learned languages but what a common school education afforded; his mind, like that of Shakspeare, being much more enriched by nature and observation. He exercised the profession of a printer, with the highest reputation, for a long series of years in Salisbury court, Fleet-street. Dissimilar as their geniuses may seem, when the witty and wicked duke of Wharton (a kind of Lovelace) about the year 1723 fomented the spirit of opposition in the city, and became a member of the Wax Chandlers company; Mr. Richardson, though his political principles were very different, was much connected with, and favoured by him, and printed his 'True Briton,' published twice a week. Yet he exercised his own judgment, in peremptorily refusing to be concerned in such papers as he apprehended might endanger his own safety, and which accordingly did occasion the imprisonment and prosecution of those who were induced to print and publish them. He printed for some time a news-paper called 'The Daily Journal;' and afterwards 'The Daily Gazetteer,' which was for the most part under the patronage of Sir Robert Walpole; but on that minister's withdrawing his support, he declined it about the year 1747, when it fell into other hands. Through the interest of his friend Mr. Speaker Onslow, he printed the first edition of the Journals of the House of Commons. He purchased a moiety of the patent of law-printer at Midsummer, 1760, and carried on that department of business in partnership with Miss Catherine Lintot.

By his first wife Martha Wilde, daughter of Mr. Allington Wilde, printer in Clerkenwell, he had five sons and a daughter, who all died young. His second wife (who survived him many years) was Elizabeth, sister of the late Mr. Leake, bookseller of Bath. By her he had a son and five daughters. The son died young; but four of the daughters survived him; viz. Mary, married, in 1757, to Mr. Ditcher, an eminent surgeon of Bath; Martha, married, in 1762, to Edward Bridgen, Esq, F. R. and A. S. S.; Anne, unmarried; and Sarah, married to Mr. Crowther, surgeon, of Boswell court, and since dead. His country retirement, first at North End near Hammersmith, and afterwards at Parsons Green, was generally filled with his friends of both sexes. He was regularly there from Saturday to Monday, and frequently at other times, being never so happy as when he made others so, being himself, in his narrower sphere, the Grandison he drew; his heart and hand ever open to distress. His Pamela, which appears to have been written in three months, first introduced him to the literary world; and never was a book of the kind more generally read and admired. It was even recommended not unfrequently from the pulpit, particularly by Dr. Slocock, late of Christ Church, Surrey, who had a very high esteem for it, as well as for its author. But it is much to be regretted that his improved edition, in which much was altered, much omitted, and the whole new-modelled, has never yet been given to the public, as the only reason which prevented it in his life time, that there was an edition unfold, must long have ceased.