

Holland House portrait became mistaken for one of Addison it would be difficult to explain; but this circumstance may assist in accounting for its being at Holland House at all—Addison and Sir Andrew Fountain were intimate friends, and both friends of Sir Stephen Fox, the founder of the Holland family. Touching the merit of the supposed portrait itself, it is rather singular that Lord Macaulay, in his Essay on Addison, speaks of it in terms of qualified praise, which, after the discovery just made, have a remarkable significance. After looking at the picture he writes,—‘The features are pleasing; the complexion is remarkably fair; but in the expression we trace rather the gentleness of his disposition than the force and keenness of his intellect.’ Now that the mistake has come to light, it is in the interest of art and literature that it should be made generally known, in order to prevent any further resort by artists or publishers to a mythical portraiture of the great essayist.” So says a writer in the *Illustrated London News*. But what of the Addison, *alias* Fountain, of Poet’s Corner? It would seem to be curable in the estimation of some, at least, of the critics, by the very simple process of a new inscription, which shall give back to Sir Andrew his own face, and turn the fictitious Joseph out of the Abbey, till his friends and admirers shall see fit to restore him in honest good faith. “Why should not Sir Andrew Fountain be in Westminster Abbey?” writes a Norfolk man to the Athenæum; and all disinterested readers echo, why not? “Sir Andrew Fountain was one of the most distinguished men of his time. Born of an ancient family of the County of Norfolk, he entered the University of Oxford at an early age, where he displayed remarkable talent. He was selected, as the most distinguished scholar of his year, to deliver the Latin oration before William III., who was so pleased with him that he knighted him on the spot. He formed part of the brilliant embassy of Lord Macclesfield to the Electress Sophia, in 1701. He there was a conspicuous ornament of the most brilliant circle in Europe. He became afterwards the constant correspondent of Leibnitz, who frequently consulted him, Sir Andrew Fountain being one of the most learned Anglo-Saxon scholars in Europe. He published a treatise on Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Danish coins, in Hickes’s ‘*Thesaurus Septentrionalis*.’ He was intimate with Pope and Addison; and, above all, he was the first *real* friend Swift ever found during his stormy life—the first man who took him by the hand and treated him like a gentleman, and introduced him to his distinguished friends as an equal. Sir Andrew accompanied, in 1707, the accomplished Thomas Lord Pembroke, then Lord Lieutenant, to Ireland, where he found Swift living in comparative obscurity. Sir Andrew introduced him to Lord Pembroke, and they all three became most intimate. They returned together to England in the following year, and Swift then resided with Sir Andrew; and now, for the first time, Swift’s talents were appreciated by the great London world. Sir Andrew Fountain was the trusted friend of Caroline, wife of George II.; indeed, so highly did she appreciate his great abilities, that she requested him to superintend the education of her favorite son William.” On the death of Sir Isaac Newton, he became Warden of the Mint. Men of less mark, therefore, than the friend of Swift, and Newton’s successor in the Mint, have undoubtedly got admission among the Abbey’s noble dead; though none of them by so odd a chance of mistaken identity.