

well as we may presume of Lady Grenville also. Had he waited for the disappearance of the last, the last volume would have had to wait for forty-three years from the publication of the first; for she survived Tomline no less than thirty-seven. It must indeed be admitted that he was restrained by the extinct delicacy of reticence. It is only bare justice to him to say that he seems to have held private life as sacred, and that it was an agony to him to publish what might be considered as infringing on that sanctity.

Anything approaching a personal touch seems to have affected him with a qualm which was a pain. A good instance of this is the almost maidenly reserve with which he confides to his readers that Mr. Pitt was well acquainted with the Bible. The Bishop narrates this in a footnote, as if it were a damaging and distressing fact. "I may, I trust, be allowed to mention the following anecdote." Such prudery is refreshing in these days; valuable in a writer, insufficiently appreciated by readers. But then he ought not to have been a biographer. Reticence, unguided by discrimination, reticence which seems the effect of an absolute vow of silence, is a biographical vice. Tomline's idea of a biography was a digest of all that had been published on the subject.

So the Bishop, after the first thirty pages, rarely touches on anything with regard to his pupil and friend which might not have been learned from the public press. And in his preface he states that he had felt it incumbent upon him in writing the history of so recent a period to suppress many circumstances and anecdotes of a more private nature, supplied by papers in his possession and other authentic sources, relating to his friends as well as to his enemies, although they would have thrown additional lustre on the character of Mr. Pitt. This is mere barbarity. It is of a piece with those too familiar diaries which abound in entries of this kind: "Dined with Burke and Sheridan. Conversation most brilliant. Home at midnight."

A fourth volume was, we are told, prepared which was to

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