

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Correspondents whose questions remain unanswered will be pleased to consider that we are either unable or decline to attend to their requests, the limits of our Journal precludes the possibility of devoting much space to answering questions relating to history, &c. &c.

B. Y.—*It is a well-authenticated fact that Charles II., died of apoplexy, though some supposed him to have been poisoned. Burnet, in the "History of his own times," says "The King's body was indecently neglected; his funeral was very mean; he did not lie in state; no mourning was given, and the expense of it was not equal to the funeral of an ordinary nobleman." In his last illness only the rites of the Catholic faith were received.*

ELINOR.—*Do you think so, fair lady, be it so then. Let us remind you of the lines of the song:—*

*"If ever care his discords flings
O'er life's enchanted strain,
Let love but gently touch the strings,
'Twill all be sweet again."*

MODERATE.—*Temperance is a very good thing, but wine does occasionally give wings to genius. There are some men, however, whom it only makes more stupid, as Cowper says in his memorable lines—*

*"The punch went round and they were dull
And lumpish still as ever,
Like barrels, with their bellies full,
They only weighed the heavier."*

VERAX.—*Just think of the old Chinese proverb, and it will do you a world of good. "Our greatest glory consists not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."*

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SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED MEN.

THE NAPIER FAMILY.

[Under the head of "SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED MEN," we published in our last number a short account of the career of that gallant sailor, Commodore Napier, and promised our readers an authentic sketch in the present number of the various "deeds of arms," of Sir Charles Napier, the British Commander in Chief of the Army in India, but we think that the following outline of the Napier family will interest our readers and prove that the Indian Commander belongs to a stock that have deserved well of GREAT BRITAIN.]

The Napiers, of Merchistoun, are one of the oldest families in Scotland. Sir John Napier, the celebrated inventor of logarithms, was lineally descended from Sir Alexander Napier, who held courtly offices in the reign of James II, of Scotland. The family intermarried with several of the first patrician houses,

and was ennobled in 1627. The sixth Lord Napier was twice married, and the gallant Commodore Sir Charles Napier is the eldest son of the sixth lord's second son Charles, who was also a naval officer. The sixth lord married, secondly, in 1750, Miss Henrietta Johnston, of Dublin, who had issue by him George Napier, who became a colonel in the army. He was a man of considerable talents, a soldier of daring courage, and possessed considerable knowledge of the art of war. He served in the American war in 1777, and was afterwards on the Earl of Moira's staff in the Duke of York's expedition. He became comptroller of military accounts in Ireland, and was also town major of Dublin for some time.

While he was residing in Ireland, about the period of 1781, he made the acquaintance of the celebrated Tom Conolly, of Castletown, the first Irish commoner of the day in point of family and fortune. Conolly was at the head of the country gentlemen in parliament, and possessed considerable influence. He had married Lady Louisa Lennox, the second daughter of the second Duke of Richmond, and there resided at Castletown with Lady Louisa Conolly, her younger sister, one of the most remarkable women of her time. That younger sister was the celebrated Lady Sarah Lennox, of whom George the Third was so enamoured that it was believed he would have made her his queen. She was a woman of dazzling and magnificent beauty, and her manners were most captivating. She was the first of her sex who inspired the heart of King George with a tender passion: and his admiration of her was no secret. Lady Sarah's eldest sister (the Lady Caroline) was married to Henry Fox, the first Lord Holland, and father of the illustrious whig orator. Lady Sarah had fallen under the tutorage of her brother-in-law, Fox, than whom a more artful man of the world never lived; and the young Lady Sarah spared no pains to captivate the heart of her youthful sovereign. She used to appear every morning, in the spring of 1761, in a fancy habit, making hay in the lawn of Holland house, close to where the king would pass—(Vide Walpole's George III., vol. i. p. 64). But the king married a much less handsome woman, though the intimacy had gone so far that Lady Sarah did not despair of receiving the crown from her royal admirer. Lady Sarah, however, had to bear Queen Charlotte's train, as one of her bridesmaids, and she afterwards married Sir Thomas Bunbury, of Suffolk. "Her union with a clergyman's son, in preference to some of the greatest matches in the kingdom, proved," says Walpole, "that ambition was not a rooted passion in her." Did Walpole think that one of the Suffolk Bunburs was disparaged by having been in hot orders?

The marriage did not prove a happy one. It was dissolved by act of parliament, on May 14, 1776—[Collin's Peerage, by Sir Egerton Brydges, vol. i. pag. 210]. She afterwards resided with her sister, Lady Louisa Conolly; and her residence in Ireland was rendered more attractive to her from the fact that another of her sisters, Lady Emilia Lennox, had married James, twentieth Earl of Kildare, and afterwards first Duke of Leinster. Lady Emilia brought not less than seventeen children to the bed of her liege lord, and was mother of the ill-fated Lord Edward Fitzgerald, her fifth son. It is observable that the second Duke of Richmond, father of the Countess of Kildare, had not less than twelve children