

a defect which caused him to hold the prayer-book close to his face: over the top of the leaves, with the sly simplicity of an urchin at school, he frequently took a peep at us, but whenever he caught my eye, cowered, as it were, down, afraid, and 'conned his task' in the most exemplary manner. The way he did this was exceedingly amusing; but the worst of it was, that I could not conceal the effect, and accordingly 'I and the king' continued to play at bo-peep during all the remainder of the service.

"To these two incidents, as they may be called, I owe those particular traits of individuality which have been embodied in the scene with Sir Andrew Wylie; and which, I must believe, are not unlike. I know, from good authority, that George the Fourth remarked, in reading the description, it was 'by far the likeliest portrait of his majesty he had ever seen.'

"It often struck me, that the late Duke of Kent had much of his father's manner. I was, for many years immediately preceding his death, honoured with his royal highness's condescension, and I have still, among my papers, several curious documents which he gave to me, illustrative of domestic matters in the royal family. The occasion was this: circumstances, which need not be explained, led him to incur debts, and he was advised, I think foolishly, to apply to parliament to discharge them. He mentioned the circumstance to me, and I took the liberty of at once condemning the advice. From less to more, he mentioned it had been suggested to him that he had a legal claim. This I knew he had not; and sensible, that an application on such a ground might lead to unpleasant discussions, I recommended him to consult competent legal advisers.

"His royal highness, knowing that I was acquainted with Sir Archibald Macdonald, who had been chief baron, put the papers into my custody, to show to him, and requested me to sound him on the subject. Sir Archibald, at once pronounced the same opinion that I had done, and went immediately to Sir William Grant, the eminent master of the rolls, who also concurred, and strongly deprecated any sort of public proceeding. I reported progress, and, in the end, the duke did not apply for public money, though he conferred on the subject with different influential gentlemen.

"Among these papers, was a long well-written letter, by the duke himself, to his brother the Prince Regent, noticing some of the circumstances alluded to. His royal highness sent a groom to