

an event in the life of Charles XII, for the sake of effect: 'Confess,' he said, 'that it did not occur as you told it.' 'Confess,' replied Voltaire, 'that it is better as I have told it.' Sir Robert Walpole expressed in the strongest terms his want of faith in history. Having been asked, when he was unwell, what book he would like read to him, he answered: 'Anything but history, for history must be false.'

The following singular account of the circumstances that led to Wolfe's death may be found in Hone's "Table Book," p. 126, (1827), and, as I have not seen any reference made to it before, it may prove interesting to the readers of the *Star*. Hone writes: "It is related of this distinguished officer, that his death-wound was not received by the common chance of war. Wolfe saw one of the sergeants of his regiment strike a man under arms (an act against which he had given particular orders), and, knowing the man to be a good soldier, reprehended the aggressor with much warmth, and threatened to reduce him to the ranks. This so far incensed the sergeant that he deserted to the enemy, where he meditated the means of destroying the General. Being placed at the enemy's left wing, which was opposed to the right of the British line, where Wolfe commanded in person, he aimed at his old commander with his rifle, and effected his deadly purpose."

"Can any correspondent tell where this story 'is related,' as Hone says? Has any serious notice ever been taken of it, or has it been regarded as a mere fable unworthy of being examined? The truth of the tale is not impossible; and that is perhaps all that can be said of it. If the vindictive sergeant really shot his former commander, it is hardly probable that he would have acknowledged his crime except *in articulo mortis*, under the pressure of remorse. But the question is, how did such a narrative get into print? Hone gives us no clue to the origin of the tale."

This is all of my note in the *Star* that need be quoted on the present occasion. No correspondent, apparently,