

dry details and dates. Each memoir concludes with a summary of the character of the individual,—and in such summary are picturesquely and skilfully grouped together anecdotes and facts which would have interrupted the thread of the narrative.—The reader is thus presented with correct facts and dates, and, at the same time, with sketches of character, written in terse and elegant language, and conceived in a tone of considerable impartiality. It is plainly to be perceived that the politics of the editor, who superintended the work, are those of the old Whigs.

Before we proceed to extract from the main body of the work, we will, in the words of the Preface, take a rapid review of the principal events that characterised the reigns of the four Georges. “In comparison with the Elizabethan, or the Modern Augustan, (as the reign of Anne has been designated,) that which may be appropriately termed the Georgian Era possesses a paramount claim to notice; for not only has it been equally fertile in conspicuous characters, and more prolific of great events, but its influence is actually felt by the existing community of Great Britain. It is rendered memorable by the accession of a new family to the throne;—by the intrigues and daring exploits, the final discomfiture, romantic adventures, and great sufferings of the Pretenders and their adherents;—by the revolt of the American Colonies, and the foundation of a mighty Empire in the West;—by the awful struggles of this country with nearly all the nations of Europe, and the domestic excitement produced by the French Revolution;—by the mutiny of the Fleet,—the Rebellion in Ireland,—and the alarm of an invasion;—by the dazzling career of Napoleon, his final overthrow at Waterloo, and the capture of Paris;—by the military achievements of Granby, Wolfe, Elliott, Albemarle, Clive, Lake, Cornwallis, Abercromby, Wellington, Moore, Anglesey, Hill, and other distinguished commanders;—by the naval victories obtained by Rodney, St. Vincent, Howe, Hawke, Duncan, Hood, and Nelson;—by the successful labors of Cook, Anson, Carteret, Bruce, and other voyagers and travellers, and

the spirited endeavours made to find a North-West passage;—by the astonishing advance of Science in all its branches;—by the discovery of vaccination, — by extraordinary improvements in manufacture,—the vast extension of commerce,—the increased spirit of speculation,—the fluctuations of public credit,—the South Sea Scheme, and the Bubble Companies of 1825;—by controversies of singular interest among the Dignitaries of the Established Church, and the important foundation of Methodism;—by political contests of almost unprecedented bitterness, many of them marked by the circumstance of the Heir Apparent supporting the opposition;—by the close imprisonment of one Queen Consort, and the introduction of a bill of pains and penalties against another;—by the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts,—the emancipation of the Catholics, and the strenuous exertions made to obtain a change in the representation of the people;—by the number of masterly productions in Literature and the Arts, and by the rapid advancement of general knowledge.”

In turning over the pages of this interesting Volume, with a view to select the most striking and entertaining passages, we are completely at a loss to know which to choose.—We think, however, that we cannot do amiss in commencing with a brief but vivid delineation of the character of that great Statesman—

#### EDMUND BURKE.

In the beginning of the year 1797, Burke's health declined with great rapidity. Although enfeebled in body, his mind remained unimpaired, and he conversed with his usual powers, until a short time before he died. His young friend, Mr. Nagle, of the War-Office, attended him in his last moments. While that gentleman and Burke's servants were conveying him to his bed, on the 8th of July, 1797, he faintly articulated, “God bless you!”—and after a brief struggle, expired in their arms. He was buried in Beaconsfield church.

Burke was about five feet ten inches in height; robust in form, but not corpulent; in his youth he was remarkable for activity, and his countenance, during the early part