

once paid to the surpassing merits of Britain's "juvenile hero," scarcely one retroverted glance seems to have been cast, by the memorialists of the time, towards the personal or family antecedents of the man; an unworthy negligence which was noted and lamented by the late Robert Southey, obliging that eminent recorder of great actions to give up a meditated intention of writing his life, in utter despair of obtaining sufficient staple for the work.

Through favor of a happy chance, there was put into my humbler hands, by a friend, (James Buchanan, Esq., Glasgow, once, perhaps still, secretary of the Western Bank of Scotland), about the time mentioned, a packet containing thirteen original letters from Wolfe, written from various parts of North and South Britain, between the years 1749 and 1758. Twelve of these were addressed to Lieut. Colonel William Rickson, quarter-master general of the royal forces in Scotland; who seems to have been a brother in heart and mind, if not by blood, to his correspondent. In these letters I found many valuable notices of the military history of the time, as well as a few precious particulars of the writer's private life, and estimations of men and things around him.

Another likely source whence to obtain original information regarding my subject, and suggested by the gentleman who lent me the letter packet referred to, was that offered by the aids to historical inquiry lent in the London *Notes and Queries*. To the editor of that useful medium, therefore, I transmitted a call upon such of his correspondents as could furnish any unpublished notices, great or small, regarding the history, public and private, of General Wolfe. Six replies, each contributing interesting particulars, resulted. The helps thus derived, along with the unedited letters, and the material to be found in the best accredited biographies of the hero, enabled me to give to the British public if not a complete, yet a more satisfactory memorial of him at least, than had till then appeared.

The following were its opening passages:—

"Our military annals, during the eighteenth century, had much of an inglorious character. They began, indeed, with the

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