

striking feature of which was that splendour of language which should at least not be neglected in describing him. It is highly important," he proceeds, "that there should be something in the manner of telling the facts which may keep alive to a late period the desire and pleasure of perusing them." Lord Camden also did "not seem to entertain any hope of a very spirited history from that quarter." Long trusted that any idea of the Bishop's undertaking it was quite out of the question. Even after the Bishop's announcement of his intention it was hoped that he would hand over his materials to some more competent hand. There had been some talk of Rose's undertaking the work in conjunction with Tomline, and Rose thought that the Bishop would have little hesitation in transferring it to Stonard. But nothing more was heard of such a project, or of Rose's partnership, or of Stonard's candidature. Tomline had determined to write the book, and to write it alone.

There is nothing to censure in this resolution. There was evident among Pitt's friends a tender jealousy, both of his friendship and his posthumous fame, which was a singular feature of their feeling for a statesman who was supposed to be cold and aloof. Of these friends Tomline was incomparably the earliest, and perhaps the closest. He had the first claim to undertake the task. Nor is our quarrel with him the same as that of his contemporaries. We do not demand "brilliancy and animation." We could readily have dispensed with "splendour of language," if only he would have told us something about Pitt which the whole world did not know already.

Paradoxical, too, as it may seem, a biographer who knew nothing of Pitt would have written a better book. For, satisfied with his own knowledge, the Bishop seems to have disdained any other materials. Many sources have thus dried up, in all probability, for ever. The widow of Pitt's early tutor, Wilson, is said to have had "papers of a very interesting nature indeed, and of great extent." Melville allowed

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