

to the fashion of that age. Hence his reputation was extended far and wide, as one foremost among the antiquarian authorities of his day.

But Stukeley's day was one in which antiquarian zeal was little tempered by critical judgment. The historian Gibbon, while turning to account his "Medallic History of Marcus Aurelius Valerius Carausius, Emperor of Britain," adds in a note: "I have used his materials, and rejected most of his fanciful conjectures." Few writers have more widely differed in every mental characteristic, than the calm, philosophic, sceptical historian of "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," and the fanciful, credulous, but enthusiastic author of the "Itinerarium Curiosum." He visited Oxford, in September, 1724, and one of its fellows, Thomas Hearne, has recorded the fact in his Diary, with this comment on his brother antiquary: "This Dr. Stukeley is a mighty conceited man, and it is observed by all I talked with that what he does hath no manner of likeness to the originals. He goes all by fancy. . . . In short, as he addicts himself to fancy altogether, what he does must have no regard among judicious and truly ingenuous men." A biographer in the "Penny Cyclopædia" sums up his character in this fashion: "No antiquarian ever had so lively, not to say licentious a fancy as Stukeley. The idea of the obscure, remote past, inflamed him like a passion. Most even of his descriptions are rather visions than sober relations of what would be perceived by an ordinary eye; and never, before or since, were such broad continuous webs of speculation woven out of little more than moonshine." An amiable enthusiast himself, he was well fitted to maintain in friendly cooperation the fellowship of antiquaries who, in that eighteenth century, set themselves to work, with characteristic enthusiasm, on coins, medals, seals, ancient monuments, records, rolls, genealogies, and manuscripts of all sorts; and was specially noticeable among the antiquarian fraternity, as one to whom a novice in the craft might turn for sympathy, without much danger of being troubled by critical doubts or questionings as to the genuineness of any plausible antique submitted to him. He was accordingly selected, in due time, as the confidant of an antiquarian discoverer, of a type peculiar to that eighteenth century; and has since owed his chief fame to the part he bore in the marvellous literary disclosure.

In the year 1743, in which Dr. Stukeley published his learned folio on "Abury, a Temple of the British Druids," the Princess Louisa, youngest daughter of George II., was married, at the age of nineteen,