

EDMUND HOWARD

That Howard was an extraordinarily capable and well-informed man there is no room to doubt after reading the whole of his memoirs; of his abilities, indeed, he has left a very practical proof in the Old Church clock, which is still keeping excellent time, though manufactured by him under the most extraordinary difficulties. At the same time, it might well be objected by those who have not had an opportunity of judging the man, that it is hardly fair to leave Sir Hans Sloane's character to a servant—even though he was not his valet. I will therefore conclude by giving his short summary of Sloane's character, which I think does sufficient credit to them both.

"This was my situation at entering into Sir Hans Sloane's service, which proved the most disagreeable and noways profitable nor elegant employment, although my master was the philosopher's king, for he was at that time President of the Royal Society, and I think also of the College of Physicians; but if I have any judgment in mankind, I think I have been acquainted with many men superior to him both in natural talents and acquired accomplishments. He was, however, easy of access, very affable, and free in conversing with all who had any concerns with him, and a good master to his servants, for they lived many years with him; he was