

interview, in Windsor Park, between Sir Andrew Wylie and George the Third. He informs me, that it is considered as the transcript of a real occurrence, and that I am supposed to have had, myself, a meeting with his majesty similar to the scene described; otherwise, it is thought, his familiar manner could not have been so represented.

"The supposition is not correct in fact, but the impression which I entertain of two droll incidents with the 'half gilly, half gut-chard' old king, has contributed to the force of the picture. Some eight-and-twenty years ago, my friends, Park and Spence, were in London, and I went with them to see Windsor Castle. Wyatt's great staircase was then nearly finished, but the interior scaffolding was not all removed. In looking at the construction, I got up the main flight of steps, and was gazing about, when the king was announced. Before I could get down, his majesty, with the architect, came in, and I was obliged, in consequence, to remain for some time standing where I was.

"The king observed us, particularly myself, who was so conspicuous, and lingered with Mr Wyatt, until he had satisfied his curiosity by looking at us; speaking all the time, 'his tongue never lay,' and looking about as he was speaking. It was evident that he spoke more at random than seriously addressed the architect, being occupied in noticing us. Something in his manner drew my attention, and from that interview, which lasted probably several minutes, I caught a durable remembrance of his peculiarities.—I see him still.

"The other occasion was still more characteristic of the good intentioned venerable man. It was on the morning of that day, on which he dissolved the parliament of the Whig administration, formed after the death of Mr Pitt. I happened to be with a friend, at morning prayers, in the oriel chapel of the Castle. The king was there, and the late princess Amelia, with a few attendants, besides the gentlemen of the chapelry; in all, about twenty persons. It was a sight worthy of remembrance. The old man remained seated, with an humble worshipping demeanour, while the prayer for the king was said, but he stood up, and repeated aloud, with pathos, the petition for the people.

"With this really touching solemnity, all gravity, however, fled from me. It is well known that his majesty was very near-sighted.