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cells of the monks; the wall which rests on these arches still remains nearly of its original height, and stands quite secure, although from the slightness of the base it seems as if a slight effort would be sufficient to overthrow it.

We are just setting out for Strabane, so I must conclude for the present. I am, &c.

ACCOUNT OF A TRACT CONCERNING THE DEATH OF KING JAMES I.

WE received the following account of a rare and curious work, which at one time attracted considerable notice, from a Correspondent in Dublin. Though copies of it have been inserted in several collections of curious Tracts, the original impression, which is here described, is, we believe, seldom to be met with. The principal event to which it refers, the death of King James, is now among the uncertainties of history. It is commonly ascribed to a tertian ague: but all writers acknowledge that it was attended by some singular circumstances, which at the time excited much suspicion; and might have been more carefully investigated, had it not been for the high degree of favour enjoyed by the Duke of Buckingham, on whom the suspicion chiefly fell. The author of the Tract here introduced was most active in accusing Buckingham. He was forced to flee to the Continent on account of some expressions he had used on the subject; and lived many years in the Netherlands, where he published this Tract, which was translated into Dutch, and circulated on the Continent by the friends of the Elector Palatine, whose interests it was considered as calculated to promote. This work is referred to by Dr. Wellwood, in his Notes to Arthur Wilson's *Life and Reign of James I.*; who speaks of it as rare in his time; and states that he "read it some 15 years ago, in the hands of the Spanish Ambassador." He adds, that "it was wrote with such an air of rancour and prejudice, that the manner of his narrative takes off much from the credit of what he writes." Whatever credit may be given to the statements, this Tract is worthy of being preserved as now among the *Curiosities of Literature*.

The Author, George Eglisham, was a Scotch Physician, employed by King James, and brought by him to London, at his accession to the English throne. He is best known in *Literary History*, as the rival of his illustrious countryman and contemporary, George Buchanan, for the palm of Latin poetry. When Buchanan's celebrated translation of the Psalms into Latin verse appeared, Eglisham had the vanity and the hardihood to bring himself into competition, by publishing a furious criticism on the 104th Psalm, commonly regarded as the most beautiful in the collection; and exhibiting a translation of his own, as decidedly superior: proposing at the same time, to submit the comparison to the judgment of the University of Paris. His vanity soon met with a severe check, in a galling satire, by Dr. Arthur Johnston, one of the best Latin poets of the

age, who also composed an elegant Paraphrase of the Psalms, chiefly in Elegiac verse, second only to Buchanan's; and also in a severe criticism by Dr. Barclay, another learned Physician, in which the strictures on Buchanan are refuted; and many mistakes and puerilities in Eglisbam's version are exposed.—*Editor.*

Our limits only allow us to give a short extract. The Title of this piece is accurately as follows:—

The FORERUNNER OF REVENGE upon the Duke of Buckingham, for the poisoning of the most potent King James of happy memory, King of Great Britain, and the Lord Marquis of Hamilton and others of the Nobilitie. Discovered by M. GEORGE EGLISHAM, one of King James his Physitians for His Majestie's person, above the space of ten years.—Franckfort, 1626.

It is a thin quarto volume, and consists of *three* parts; the first and second refer to the charge of poisoning the Marquis of Hamilton; the third gives an account of the poisoning of King James, which, being brief, and of very considerable interest, we subjoin:—

“ The Duke of Buckingham being in Spayne, advertised by letters how that the King began to censure him in his absence freely, and that many spoke boldly to the King against him, and how the King had intelligence from Spayne of his unworthy carriage there, and how the Marquis of Hamilton, upon the suddaine news of the Prince's departure, had nobly reprehended the King for sending the Prince with such a young man without experience, and in such a private and suddaine manner without acquainting the nobility or counsel therewith; wrote a very bitter letter to the Lord Marquis of Hamilton, conceived new ambitious courses of his owne, and used all the devices he could to disgust the Prince his minde of the match with Spayne, so far intended by the King; made haste home, where when he came he so carried himself that whatsoever the King commanded in his chamber he controlled in the next: yea received packets from forraine Princes without acquainting the King therewith: whereat perceiving the King highly offended, and that the King's mind was beginning to alter towards him, suffering him to be quarrelled with and affronted in his Majesty's presence, and observing that the King had reserved my Lord of Bristow to be a rod for him, urging daily his dispatch for France, and expecting the Earl of Gondomar his coming to England in his absence, feared much that the Earl, who was greatly esteemed and wonderfully credited by the King, would second my Lord of Bristow's accusations against him. He knew also that the King had vowed, that in spite of all the devils of hell, he would bring the Spaynish match about again, and that the Marquis of Evechosa had given the King bad impressions of him, by whose articles of accusation the King himself had examined some of the nobilitie and privy council, and found out in the examination that Buckingham had said, after his coming from Spayne, that the King was an old man: it was now time for him to be at his rest, and to be confined to some park to pass the rest of his tyme in hunting,

and the Prince to be crowned. The more the King urged him to begone to France the more shiftes he mayde to stave, for he did evidently see that the King was fully resolved to rid himself of the oppression wherein he held him.

“The King being sick of a tertian ague, and in the spring, which was of itself never found deadly, the Duke took his opportunity, when all the Kinge’s Doctors of Physicke were at dinner, upon the Monday before the King dyed, without their knowledge or consent, offered to the King a white powder, the which the King long time refused, but overcome by his flattering importunity, at length took it, drank it in wine, and immediately became worse and worse, falling into many soundings and paynes, and violent fluxes of the belly, so tormenting that his Majesty cried out aloud, “O this white powder; this white powder, it will cost me my life.” In like manner, the Countesse of Buckingham, my Lord of Buckingham’s mother, upon the Fryday thereafter, the Physitians also being absent, and at dinner, and not made acquainted with her doings, applyed a plaster to the King’s back and breast, whereupon his Majesty grew faint, short breathed, and in greet agony. Some of the Physitians, after dinner, retourning to see the King, by the offensive smell of the plaster, perceived something to be about the King hurtful to him, and searched what it could be, found it out, and exclaimed that the King was poisoned. Then Buckingham entering, commanded the Physitians out of the room, caused one to be committed prisoner to his owne chamber, and another to remove from court, quarrelled with others of the King’s servants in the sick King’s own presence, so farre, that he offered to draw his sword against them in the King’s sight; and Buckingham’s mother kneeling before the King with a brazen face, cryed out justice, justice, Sir, I demand justice of your Majestie. The King asking for what? She answered, for that which their lives is no sufficient satisfaction for, saying that my sonne and I have poisoned your Majestie; “poisoned me!” said the King; with that he turning himself sounded, and she was removed. The Sunday thereafter, the King dyed, and Buckingham desired the physitians who attended the King, to syne with their hand-writs, a testimony, that the powder which he gave the King was a good and safe medicine, which they refused to do. Buckingham’s creatures did spred abroad a rumour in London, that he was so sorry at the King’s death, that he would have killed himself if they had not hindered him. Which your petitioner purposely inquired of them that were near him at that tyme, who said that neither in the tyme of the King’s sickness, nor after his death, he was no more moved, than if there had never happened either sickness or death to the King. One day when the King was in great extremity, he rode post to London, to pursue his sister-in-law, to have her stand in sackcloth at Bowles, for adultery. Another tyme of the King’s agonies, he was busy contriving and concluding a marriage for one of his cousins. Immediately after the King’s death, the physitian who was commanded to his chamber, was set at liberty with a caveat to hold his peace; the others were threatened if they kept not good tongues in their heads. But in the meantime, the

King's body and head swelled above measure, his haire with the skin of his head stuck to the pillows: his nayles became loose upon he fingers and toes.

“Your petitioner needeth to say no more to understanding men, only one thing, he beseecheth that taking the traytor, who ought to be taken without any fear of his greatness, the other matters be examined, and the accessories with the guilty punished.”

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

A volume of the Magazine being now finished, which might otherwise have been the first of a series, it is not intended to continue it farther. For this reason, the usual notices of Public Events have been omitted, that room might be found for as many articles from respectable Correspondents as could be introduced; and still some are unavoidably left out. In thus terminating the work, its conductors beg to state, that though they were aware, at its commencement, of many of the difficulties attending it, they find, on trial, that their various engagements render it inconvenient any longer to give it that degree of attention which it would require. It is but justice, however, to mention, that they are to be considered rather as having taken the trouble of superintending it, than as the principal contributors. The greater number of the articles have been furnished by Correspondents in different parts of the country—and some of them from unknown sources. The volume, accordingly, contains a great variety of contributions—all of them *original and gratuitous*; and the conductors beg to express their sincere thanks to those who have so liberally assisted them.

In perusing the volume, the candid reader will recollect that it was commenced under all the disadvantages of a Provincial situation, chiefly with a view to draw forth, and concentrate, the exertions of Literary characters in Ireland, without being subservient to any party views or individual interests. Though they regret that they find it inconvenient to continue their superintendance any longer, they are inclined to think, from the readiness with which many literary men have supported them, that a work of this nature might still be conducted with success in this country; and they would rejoice to see it undertaken by those who can give it more undivided attention. They would only suggest, from their own experience, that it would be most likely to succeed, were it to be undertaken by some of the influential Booksellers, and receive the general patronage of the Trade. With such encouragement as they could give, abundant materials could be found, to render a Magazine for general literature in Ireland, not inferior to any in the Empire; and the means of diffusing information, and cherishing genius, in the remotest parts of the country.