

OF all the members who have represented the town of Bridgwater in the nation's Parliament, none can compare in notoriety with George Bubb Dodington. It would, perhaps, be hardly fair to call him a typical politician of the eighteenth century, for there were some upright and honest men in those corrupt days. The majority of public men, however, had one ideal ; it was to get on, and to make money or position, or both. Patriotism, in its noblest sense, was then mostly a sickly and drooping plant. It was too frequently overshadowed by grosser growths. The pushing, the unscrupulous, the time-server, and the schemer were apt to succeed where the upright man was likely to fail. It was probably untrue that Walpole said, as was alleged, that every man had his price. But it would have been true to say that a great many men had, and also that in the secret counsels of their party cabals they would have unblushingly admitted it.

A very able writer has summed up the position of things then, with an incisive pen indeed, yet with truthfulness. *It seemed, he says, as if the English people, so devoted to faction in their earlier days, were sinking into absolute indifference. The only event which occupied a session was the alteration of the calendar ; and the nation enjoyed a halcyon period, during which such strange creatures as Bubb Dodington and his like intrigued and distorted themselves on the surface of politics for the edification of the universe. The symptoms of a change, however, were manifesting themselves ; and the outbreak of the seven years' war had ominous meanings not as yet obvious to the world.* The writer then proceeds to refer to Brown's *Estimate of the Manners and Principles of the Times*. This book, he declares, was one of the popularity of which appeared to contemporaries to be a significant symptom. *It is a vigorous indictment against the English nation. Admitting that his countrymen have still some spirit of liberty, some humanity, and some equity, he argues that their chief characteristic is a vain, luxurious, and selfish effeminacy. At our schools the pupils learn words not things; university professorships are sinecures ; on the grand tour, our young men learn foreign vices without widening their minds ; we go to dinner in chairs, not on horse-back, and spend money on foreign cookery instead of plain English fare ; conversation is trivial or vicious ; for solid literature we read silly plays, novels, and periodicals, though, amidst the general decay of taste and learning, one great writer, to wit Warburton, bestrides the narrow world like a*

Colossus ; the fine arts are depraved ; opera and pantomime have driven Shakespeare into the background ; our principles are as bad as our manners; religion is universally ridiculed, and yet our irreligion is shallow ; Bolingbroke is neglected, not because he is impious, but because he fills five quarto volumes, whilst Hume's flimsy essays may amuse a breakfast table ; honour has gone with religion ; we laugh at our vices as represented on the stage, and repeat them at home without a blush ; public spirit has declined till a minister is regarded as a prodigy for simply doing his duty ; and if the domestic affections are not extinct, we may doubt whether their survival is not another proof of our effeminacy. This indictment is indeed a scathing one. Englishmen have always been noted for their readiness to find fault with their own times and with themselves. Perhaps it may be a healthy sign. At any rate it is certain that there was plenty to complain of in the time which was then under consideration.*

George Bubb Dodington, who was born in 1691, was not directly descended from the old family of the Dodingtons of Dodington, in Somerset. A John Dodington who died in 1683, and who held an office under Thurloe, had married Hester, the daughter of Sir Peter Temple. By her he had a son George Dodington, who died in 1720, and who was a lord of the Admiralty in George the First's time. He had also a daughter, who was married to Jeremias Bubb, whose antecedents are not very evident. Bubb has been variously described, as *an Irish fortune-hunter*, and also as *an apothecary from Weymouth or Carlisle*. Jeremias and Hester Bubb had a son, George Bubb, who afterwards became member for Bridgwater. His descent from the Dodington family is thus only through the female line.

George Bubb was, it is surmised, at Oxford, and there gained such education as was usually acquired by the young men of the day. He was ever shrewd, but never profound. He had, however, some interest at his back, and in 1715, at the age of twenty-four, was elected Member for the old Borough of Winchelsea, a safe seat well under the control of his family. In the course of the same year he was sent out to Spain on some diplomatic business as envoy extraordinary, and remained there till 1717. The real commencement of his career was, however, in 1720, when the death of his uncle, George Dodington, put him in possession of a splendid estate. At this stage of his career he ceased to be George Bubb, and became George Bubb Dodington. In 1721

he was made Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, and in the following year sat for Bridgwater as member, for the first time. The names of the Bridgwater members just at this period are rather confusing. A George Dodington — one of the old family — was returned as member for the Borough in 1708, 1710, and 1714. In 1720 he died, and the seat being vacant was filled in 1722 by George Bubb, the new man who now succeeded to his uncle's property, and who became the George Bubb Dodington of later fame. Thus of the eight elections in Bridgwater won by Dodingtons between 1708 and 1747, three were won by the old George Dodington, and five by the later George Dodington, who entered the world with the patronymic Bubb. It is the latter with whom this chapter has to deal.

Gifted with a manner of considerable assurance, possessed of ample means, and having a safe seat in the House of Commons, Dodington set about to fashion his career. He quickly gained recognition. In 1724 he succeeded Henry Pelham as a Lord of the Treasury, and he also had the sinecure of the clerkship of the pells in Ireland. His first care was to find out the man whom he should follow. Walpole seemed to be the most promising, and him accordingly he cultivated. But soon came a hankering in his mind for higher game, and, abusing Walpole, he laid siege to Frederick Prince of Wales, hoping to ingratiate himself with the heir to the throne. The alliance lasted for a while, but the influence of others was strong enough to oust him from the Prince's favour in 1734, and thereupon he tried to cast in his fortunes with the Duke of Argyle. Shortly afterwards the Prince made a determined struggle to have his allowance from the civil list raised from £50,000 to £100,000. He approached Dodington on the matter, but the latter, hesitating to join the Prince's party, voted against the measure, which Pulteney proposed, but which was lost. Very shortly afterwards the Duke of Argyle and Walpole separated, and Dodington, following the former, had to vacate his post at the Treasury. Walpole's power came to an end in 1742, yet Dodington did not gain by the retirement of his old leader, whom he had bitterly attacked. Indeed, his conduct brought him, deservedly, into great ill favour. It was getting to be seen that he possessed no real loyalty, and that no man could depend upon his word.

Then came the triumph of the Pelhams, the *Broad-bottomed ministry* as it was called. Dodington's turn came again. Pelham made him Treasurer of the Navy, and various members of the Prince of Wales's following also received their reward in sundry offices under the Government. Quickly upon this, in March, 1749, came one of the vital moments in his career. The Prince of Wales made up his mind to overlook Dodington's former desertion, and determined to approach the member for Bridgwater with the view of securing his services. It was a momentous decision which the latter had to make, and the story had better be told in his own words.

Happily at this interesting stage of our member's political life a document is available which supplies us with information at first hand. This is his famous Diary, which was published by Henry Penruddocke Wyndham in 1784. Dodington, at his death, left all his property to his cousin, Thomas Wyndham of Hammersmith. Thomas Wyndham in his will left to *Henry Penruddocke Wyndham all my books, and all the late Lord Melcombe's political papers, letters, and poems, requesting of him not to print or publish any of them but those that are proper to be made publick, and such only as may, in some degree, do honour to his memory.* How the possessor of the Diary could decide to publish it, is certainly strange. In his preface he admits that it (i.e., the Diary) "*shews Dodington's political conduct (however palliated by the ingenuity of his pen) to have been wholly directed by the base motives of avarice, vanity, and selfishness. What, besides these motives,*" he asks, *induced him to quit the service of George the Second, and to prefer the protection of Frederick, Prince of Wales, to that of his old master? Alas! He could not then foresee the black cloud which was preparing to obscure the expected glory of the rising sun, and to blast the hopes of all its worshippers.*

The *Diary* is quaintly dedicated (not by its writer, but by its possessor at the time of publication, after Dodington's death) to *that man, whenever he may appear, who, blessed with a soul superior to all lucrative and ambitious views, will dare to stand forth the generous advocate and benevolent protector of the public welfare. Who, when in office, will make the good of his fellow subjects the sole rule of his administration; and who, when out of office, independent of every partial connection, will steadily and uniformly adhere to the same honest plan.*

It is on March 8th, 1749, that the Diary begins. Dodington had been laid up for nearly three months with an attack of the gout. He was now fifty-seven years of age. It opens with the news of the offer of the Prince of Wales to take Dodington under his protection, and thus to detach him from the King's service.

March 8. During my illness, several kind expressions from the Prince toward me were reported to me, and on the 8th of March His Royal Highness ordered the Earl of Middlesex to send Mr. Ralph with a message from His Royal Highness, to offer me the full return of his favour, and to put the principal direction of his affairs into my hands. I told Mr. Ralph that I desired the two following days to consider of it.

March 11. This day in the morning I wrote to Mr. Pelham, desiring him, as I was not able to go out, to wait upon the King, and in my name humbly to resign into his Majesty's hands my office of Treasurer of the Navy. The same day I gave Mr. Ralph my answer in writing to the Prince's gracious message.

The same morning, I received a very civil letter from Mr. Pelham, testifying his concern and surprise at my resolution, and desiring that he might see me before he delivered my message to the King.

March 13. This day early in the morning Mr. Pelham made me a long visit with much civility ; he seemed to wish much that this affair might go no further. I told him that I saw the country in so dangerous a condition, and found myself so incapable to contribute to its relief and so unwelcome to attempt it, that I thought it misbecame me any longer to receive great emoluments from a country whose service I could not, and if I could, I should not be suffered to promote ; so I begged him to excuse my Commission to the King, and then we parted.

He came to me again about eleven o'clock, to let me know that the King accepted my resignation very graciously.

Thus Dodington forsakes the Pelhams, and throws himself completely in with the party of the Prince of Wales. A very important interview soon follows.

July 18. This day I arrived at Kew about eleven o'clock. The Prince received me most kindly, and told me he desired me to come into his service upon any terms, and by any title I pleased ; that he meant to put the principal direction of his affairs into my

hands ; and what he could not do for me in his present situation, must be made up to me in futurity. All this in a manner, so noble and frank, and with expressions so full of affection and regard, that I ought not to remember them, but as a debt and to perpetuate my gratitude.

After dinner he took me into a private room and of himself began to say that he thought I might as well be called Treasurer of the Chambers, as any other name ; that the Earl of Scarborough, his Treasurer, might take it ill if I stood upon the establishment with higher appointments than he did ; that His Royal Highness' destination was that I should have £2000 per annum. That he thought it best to put me upon the establishment at the highest salary only, and that he would pay me the rest himself. I humbly desired that I might stand upon the establishment without any salary, and that I would take what he now designed for me, when he should be King, but nothing before. He said that it became me to make him that offer, but it did not become him to accept it, consistent with his reputation, and therefore, it must be in present. He then immediately added that we must settle what was to happen in reversion, and said that he thought a Peerage, with the management of the House of Lords, and the seals of the Secretary of State, for the Southern Province, would be a proper station for me if I approved of it.

Perceiving me to be under much confusion at this unexpected offer, and at a loss how to express myself; he stopped me, and then said, *I now promise you on the word and honour of a Prince that as soon as I come to the Crown I will give you a Peerage and the seals of the Southern Province.* Upon my endeavouring to thank him he repeated the same words, and added, putting back his chair, *and I give you leave to kiss my hand upon it, now, by way of acceptance,* which I did accordingly.

This was certainly a good start, so far as prospects of his future were concerned, for the member's new career. Nothing of special importance is entered for some weeks.

November 12. I dined at Carleton House. The company, only the Prince, the Earl of Egmont, and Dr. Lee. Our business, the immediate steps to be taken upon the demise of the King, more particularly with relation to the Civil List. His Royal Highness said he had three methods proposed to him : the first was to let the present Ministers settle it, and then

part with them and the Parliament. The second was, to dismiss four or five of the principals, but to vote the civil list before the Parliament was dissolved. The third (which he was pleased to say, he thought was my opinion) was to dismiss the Parliament immediately, to turn all those out he did not design to continue, and to throw himself upon the country for a new Parliament, and a provision for himself and family, which he desired should be only a clear annuity of £800,000, giving back the duties to the public, with whatever surplus might attend it.

The three suggestions were then fully discussed, and one can imagine Dodington's pride when he writes the next item in his Diary.

We were all, at last, of opinion that the third proposition was the greatest, most popular, and the best. His Royal Highness came heartily into it, gave us his hand, and made us take hands with each other to stand by, and support it. I undertook to find £200,000 or £300,000 to go on with, till a new Parliament could grant the civil list.

The Prince of Wales was a clever man. He could, and did, dispense his promises freely. There was no end to what Dodington was to have. But in the meanwhile the Prince needed money. It was a way he had. So Dodington's full pocket was to be utilised. He might have known why he had been chosen. He was known to be wealthy ; he was known to be inordinately ambitious. So the Prince was willing to promise him the future gratification of his ambitions, upon Dodington's immediate replenishing of the exchequer. In the Prince's household there was considerable jealousy of his new Treasurer. Dodington complained about this. The matter was glossed over, but the feeling of irritation remained. The story is too long for repetition here.

July 2, 1750. Dined with Lord Talbot, who informed me of the many lies which were told of me to the Prince, and the unalterable inveteracy of the family against me. God forgive them — I have not deserved it of them.

September 11. Sir Francis Dashwood told me at Wycombe what he had learned of Mr. Boone, viz. that my adversaries were satisfied that my design, when I came into the family, was to turn them all out, even to the women : that the Prince told Boone that I forced myself into his service, and that he could not help taking me, etc. That Lord Egmont said he

knew that the Prince never advised with, or communicated anything to me ; that Lord Egmont defrayed the Prince's expenses at Bath, and so on.

September 16. Messrs. Furnese and Ralph came to me. We had much conversation. We agreed that the Prince should, as soon as possible, be brought to some *eclaircissement*, and be informed, with proof, of the lies that had been told of me.

November 4. The King landed about twelve o'clock at Harwich, and came to St. James' between ten and eleven.

November 18. Mr. Tucker and I met Mr. Pelham at Mr. Scrope's by appointment : we settled the Weymouth re-election, according to the agreement made, on obtaining the new Charter.

January 7, 1751. Supped at Lady Middlesex's. It being Twelfth Night (Monday) she staked 75 guineas and L [£] 125 with the Prince, who sent us word that we had lost eight guineas between us. Spent the week at Kew, where we had plays every day.

January 20, 1751. Went in private coaches with their Royal Highnesses, Ladies Middlesex and Howe, Lord Inchiquin, and Sir Thomas Bootle, to Mr. Glasse's, where we sent for a conjuror.

February 11. Mr. Oswald, with other friends, was with me, who treated me in the most affectionate and friendly manner: told me all his views, and the offers that had been made to him, and concluded by saying- that he wished to act always with me, and that he would accept of the Prince's service if he might come into it as my friend, and by and through my hands, but that he would not come in by any other hands or canal.

February 12. Went to wait on His Royal Highness at Kew, proposed to him the securing of Mr. Oswald by my weight with him ; the Prince hesitated a little, as having made a trial some time ago by another hand, without success. At last he allowed the importance of the acquisition, and ordered me to sound Mr. Oswald's disposition towards it — His Royal Highness ordered me to dine and sleep there.

February 13. Mr. Oswald dined with me, and agreed to come to Hammersmith next mornin, to settle what report I should make to the Prince.

February 15. Mr. Oswald came this morning and was pleased to put himself

entirely into my hands, and to rely upon my friendship.

February 16. Dr. Lee came to me. I talked over to him, at large, the points of the Spanish treaty — Mr. Lascelles' privy seal — the ordnance contract — and the expedition. He seemed to approve of them, and I gave him several papers to look over at home. He told me very frankly that whatever I proposed he would cheerfully support with all his power in the debate ; but as he was enjoined secrecy, he could not be the mover or seconder, because that would look like breaking short with Lord Egmont, and with others he had acted with.

February 23, Had a conference with His Royal Highness, and I began with telling him that on Monday Mr. Oswald was with me, to acquaint me that he had received positive offers from Court ; he was surprised, and asked me what they were : I told him that though I owed my first duty to him, I ought not to conceal anything from him that related to his service ; yet that there were also other duties that I held sacred, and if I should discover the secret of a friend to him, I hoped His Royal Highness would be pleased to promise me that it should go no further. He promised me, and I then told him that Mr. Oswald had been offered to be made Comptroller of the Navy, with a promise that he should have the assistance of all Mr. Pelham's power to reform the abuses of it, and full liberty to follow his own opinion in Parliament, and that he came to ask my advice upon it. The Prince, concluding he would accept of the place, said he was glad he should find so honest a man in business. I told him that from the many reasons I had given him, he declared to me that as he saw no reformation could be thoroughly and effectually brought about but by the concurrence of the Crown, which was not to be hoped for in our present situation, he had much rather attach himself to his Royal Highness, from whom only he could hope for that concurrence ; but as he was no Courtier and had no connections of that kind, he must be contented to do his best in the station that was offered to him. That I bade him seriously consider whether, in case I would venture to sound his Royal Highness' disposition towards him, he would empower me to say that he would refuse all offers of the Court, if the Prince was willing to admit him into his service. — That he told me, I positively might; upon which I promised to undertake it. After a good deal of talk, the Prince thanked me,

and ordered me to send Mr. Oswald to him at Leicester House between seven and eight o'clock on Monday next.

The above incident sheds a lurid light upon the political methods of those days. The plotting, the caballing, the betraying of secrets under promise of secrecy, the efforts to detach men from their allegiance, to capture them for ulterior ends, are intensely sad. Dodington, as his Diary shows, was *au fait* in all this. He loved to pull the strings which moved other men. He seemed even to prefer a secret and dark method to an open, straightforward, and honourable one. He was playing now for a great game. He was using every power he knew to ingratiate himself deeply and irrevocably with the Prince, who, as he firmly believed, would very speedily be king.

February 25. Mr. Oswald dined with me. He told me he was much embarrassed at what had passed since he saw me ; of which he gave me the following account: viz. ; Sunday the 17th Sir Henry Ereskine was introduced to the Prince for the first time ; on Monday the 18th Mr. Oswald was with me to settle the report I was to make to the Prince ; on Tuesday the 19th Sir Henry asked him in the house, Have you received any message from the Prince? What do you mean? he returned. Has the Earl of Egmont delivered you no message? I don't know the Earl of Egmont. He will then, replied Sir Henry, for I was introduced to the Prince last Sunday, and he asked me if I knew you. I said yes, intimately ; he then asked how you were disposed towards him ; I replied that I thought you had the highest regard for him. His Royal Highness then said, I must send to him by Dr. Lee or Lord Egmont, for what comes from them is the same as if it came from me. This seemed strange to us, but I think the drift is evident.

February 26. Went to the Earl of Shaftesbury's. Much talk with him about separating the Tories from the Jacobites, on the quarrel between them about the late University election, which was to be done by bringing them to a declaration of few heads, which, he said, he had made use of, and hoped he should succeed.

February 28. Mr. Oswald came to me from the Prince, whom he found at Carleton House. He was received very graciously, and the Prince talked to him on many subjects and of many persons, but never mentioned my name. They agreed that Mr. Oswald was to

have the Green Cloth, and to kiss hands on Lady-day.

Dodington was getting alarmed as to the permanence and power of his influence over the Prince. The hosts of enemies about his path were undermining him on every side. Nevertheless his command of money, and his numerous supporters, should have sufficed to pull him through his difficulties. It seems evident that he never quite succeeded in inspiring the Prince with the belief that he was an absolutely sincere and trustworthy servant to him.

March 1. Went to the House. Mr. Townshend advised with me about General Anstruther's affair. I begged him to be very sure of his proofs before he began a charge in Parliament. He desired leave to come to me tomorrow and to shew me his papers, which I agreed to, but desired him to consult with wiser persons than me.

March 2. Mr. Townshend came, and I fairly shewed him that calling for the reports in council would lead him to embarrass the Ministry, who, in this case of Anstruther, had delayed justice : that I should be glad it should come forward, but not from him, apprising him where his motion would end, since he asked my advice as a friend, and so on. He thanked me much, and it being late he desired to come again to-morrow morning.

March 3. Went to Leicester House, but just as I was going Mr. Townshend came, and to my infinite surprise told me that he had been with the Earl of Egmont, who had given him a question which comprehended the civil and military behaviour of General Anstruther, which he would read to me. He did so, and asked my opinion. I was astonished at his ignorance, and said, I had nothing to object to it.

March 4. Motion by Mr. Townshend seconded by Colonel Haldane, for copies of all courts martial held by Anstruther while he commanded in Minorca ; and of all complaints against him in council, and the proceedings thereupon. Agreed, without division, to drop the courts martial till some particular facts were alleged, but to suffer the council papers to come.

March 6. Went to Leicester House, where the Prince told me he had caught cold the day before at Kew, and had been blooded.

March 8. The Prince not recovered. Our passing the next week at Kew put off.

March 10. At Leicester House. The Prince was better, and saw company.

March 13. At Leicester House. The Prince did not appear, having a return of a pain in his side.

March 14. At Leicester House. The Prince asleep: twice blooded, and with a blister on his back, as also on both legs that night.

March 15. The Prince considerably improved, and was out of all danger.

March 16. The Prince without pain or fever.

March 17. Went twice to Leicester House. The Prince had a bad night, till one this morning, then was better, and continued so.

March 18. The Prince better, and sat up half an hour.

March 20. Went to Leicester House ; from thence to the House of Commons, and then to Hammersmith. I was told at Leicester House, at three o'clock, that the Prince was much better, and had slept eight hours in the night before, while, I suppose, the mortification was forming, for he died this evening a quarter before ten o'clock, as I found by a letter from Mr. Breton at six o'clock the following morning.

Thus, in one moment, were all Dodington's ambitious hopes, schemes, and prospects dashed to the ground. For whatever his rivals in the Prince's favour might have done, or might do, he was still a great force to be reckoned with, and he had wound his cords around the future King — as he was then deemed to be — so skilfully that his own position was assured. Dodington had been promised a Peerage ; he had been promised high office. Some splendid reward he was certain to have had, and he would probably have been in the entourage of the new sovereign. All now was lost. It was bitter ; it was disappointing ; it was disconcerting. What was Dodington to do now? His Diary reveals his distress of mind.

When this unfortunate event happened I had set on foot, by the means of the Earl of Shaftesbury, a project for an union between the independent Whigs and Tories, by a writing renouncing all tincture of Jacobitism, and affirming short, but constitutional and revolutionary principles. I had given his lordship the paper : his good heart and understanding made him indefatigable, and so far successful, that there were good grounds to hope for an happy issue. These parties, so united, were to lay this paper, containing these principles, before the Prince ; *offering to*

appear as his Party, now ; and upon those principles to undertake the administration, when he was King, in the subordination and rank among themselves, that he should please to appoint. Father of Mercy ! Thy hand, that wounds, alone can save !

There was rushing to and fro ; there were signals of distress. People came to Dodington to ask him what was to be done, *under this fatal change of situation*. Dodington, still assuming the statesman (how well he could do it !), said that it appeared to him that if the Pelham party did not drive out the Bedford interest, they must be driven out by that, though now the weakest party ; but that the Bedford party would become the strongest, having the King's favourite and now only son at their head, and at the head of the army : that he would by their interest and by the military interest force the regency, and then, where were the Pelhams? This necessity, Dodington urged, enforced the necessity of the projected union ; that being collected and publicly purged from Jacobitism they became a respectable body : that if they were applied to for assistance they might then give it upon such conditions, and for such share of power as they might think safe and honourable for themselves and their country.

And if, what was most to be dreaded, they were not applied to, and the Court should take either a dangerous turn, or should continue in the same consuming way as at present, that they would be ready to do what it was their duty to do — oppose to the utmost and declare that they mean to wrest the administration out of those hands, to take it into their own, and apply it to better purposes. Dodington's friends went away, "*much satisfied and determined to act accordingly*." The member for Bridgwater was beginning to recover a little from his grief. His convalescence was assuming shape. He was now able to do a little party wire-pulling.

March 22. I went to Leicester House. The Princess afflicted, but well. Went to council, at night, which was very full. The common prayer altered, but Prince George left, as he now stands. Ordered a Committee to settle the ceremonies of the funeral.

March 24. Went to the Duke of Dorset's — much talk. He thinks of the state of the nation and of the Pelhams, just as we do ; as also of the danger from the Duke of Cumberland. At the Speaker's : he also in the same way of thinking with us.

March 27. To council. Orders to the Lord Steward and Chamberlain to issue warrant for black cloth, wax lights, etc., for the rooms at Westminster, where the body is to be laid.

April 10. Went to Mr. Oswald's — from thence to the Earl of Westmoreland, with whom, and Earl Stanhope, I had a long conversation. I left them, persuaded of the necessity of forming a party united by constitutional principles, which should be reduced into writing and signed by all the party.

April 11 I had much talk with Mr. Oswald on the state of affairs, and I told him that I thought I owed it to our friendship to acquaint him that if this great plan could be effected, I must take my share in it. He approved the greatness and honesty of the design, and at the same time told me that Mr. Pelham had renewed his offers since the Prince's death, to which he had returned a very general, cool answer: he said that he hoped, from the renewing that offer, to find that Mr. Pelham would shew resolution enough to enter into engagements with some more of us.

April 13. Lord Limerick consulted with me about walking at the funeral. By the Earl Marshall's orders neither he, as an Irish Peer, nor I, as a Privy Councillor, could walk. He expressed a strong resolution to pay his last duty to his Royal friend, if practicable. I begged him to stay till I could get the ceremonial ; he did, and we then found, in a note, that we might walk.

At seven o'clock I went, according to the order, to the House of Lords. The many slights that the poor remains of a much-loved master and friend had met with, and who was now preparing the last trouble he could give his enemies, sunk me so low that for the first hour I was incapable of making any observation.

The procession began, and (except the Lords appointed to hold the pall and attend the chief mourner, and those of his own domestics) when the attendants were called in their ranks, there was not one English Lord, not one Bishop, and only one Irish Lord (Limerick), two sons of Dukes, one Baron's son, and two Privy Councillors (Sir John Rushout and myself) to make a show of duty to a Prince so great in rank and expectation. We went in at the S.E. door, and turned short into Henry VII's chapel. The service was performed without either anthem or organ. *Quern semper acerbum — semper honoratum..*

Thus ended the chance of George Bubb Dodington's greatest ambition, and for which he had staked well-nigh everything. Money, friends, personal likes and aims — all these had gone down before his absorbing desire to stand well with the future King, and to ingratiate himself into his affections and confidence. It was a bold, a magnificent venture. He played for high stakes ; he would — had his will been gratified, as it might have been if the Prince had come to the throne — have arranged Cabinets and given away offices and dispensed favours, even as he listed. But the unknown Force came in, and spoiled it all. The hand of Death was reckless even of Dodington's schemes.

Post equitem sedet atra cura. The member for Bridgwater had had a check ; he was sobered somewhat in his plans for attaining greatness. But, eleven more years of life yet remained to him ; what could he do now? He must be alert; he must lose no time. Within forty-eight hours of his master's funeral he was hard at work again, weaving anew the web of his somewhat delayed and shattered fortunes.



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* Leslie Stephen's *English Thought in the Eighteenth Century*, Vol II, pp. 195, 196.