Journal
of
Mr. James Balchen
Berkshire
1747.

Set out from London this morning 5 o'clock, rode gently over the Stones like I came to Hyde Park corner met with Mr. & Mrs. Man yering into their Chaise plated with Horses and rode through the Park and came to Kensington, as you enter this Town on the right hand is a large gateway which leads to the present Majesty's favourite Palace.

This Town is very populous, while of Houses the main Street is long and at the upper end is a handsome building called Church Court \\

Joining to which is a good Charity School & at the end of this Town is a large Church called St. Mary's from where the Water stood. I was saluted here with "How do you? Where are you bound" by a Man well mounted but as I was at the front of the handsome Gentleman gave him a short answer & proceeded on to the next Town in the leading Road which is called Hammersmith. The Situation of the Town as well as the whole place for a forgotten aspect there is agai
number of 2 Houses were but most empty and running
to ruin the Town is on the back part of the Town (as you came
London) is on the right hand and
must be most pleasant and
close to the Water side & looks at
the beauty of that noble River
which winds by it I saw here
Astonished by that I saw hand
and with them proceeded on to
Furmnham Great. There is nothing
here very remarkable as you
leave Furmnham Great on the end
for the Town on the right hand
from London appears to view a very
handsome Ch Abelonging to one
Eggleston. There is also an
Ancient Seat on the left the gardens
runs along the side of the road
on my first entrance at Manchester
was saluted with a voice Murdah
but did not traffic with him.
I it is a large Town the beginning
of which is old Manchester it is
much better situated near the
River than Hammermansmith
There is likewise a great
Church in this Town it is
remarkable. For Benjamin
Bolts I would have brought
some at one of the Gatehouses
but the Turnpike Man told me
he had no one that was New.
The Red Lion at this place
is likewise noted, as our Mair
Munster's company a Jesuit's
June 15, 1872. That Royal
Temple is celebrated that Royal
Temple of a Publick where saga
in the Park. At this place which
is the Temple of the glory of old
Manchester at the end of the Town is a
handsome gardner's house,
with a large garden along
The road side & cooker a
Considerable way towards Kendal
Cherry Great in the garden
is a very grand Husse of Fire
On smallberry green stands
the Emous of a House which
has never been inhabited since
The owner of it was long a stranger. You coming from thence, I proceeded to Houndstow Town, where the houses are placed at such great distances. It consists chiefly of stone. For Travellers, there is a Market House near which the road turns. We made but little delay at the Town inn, refreshed our horses and proceeded on to Houndstow Heath, at the entrance of which the road turns to the left, for Staines, and the other for Colebrook, took the latter. The end of this Heath brought us to Tongford, a small Village, with nothing remarkable. From Tongford came to Colebrook, a large Town, even with the road in the middle of this Town is a large School-house, under which is a Market Place. The next Town to this is Datchet, it lies low & in long is very dirty, at the end of this place as you leave the Town young's done a large & handsome bridge. These bring you on the road for Windsor. On the right hand of this road is a Hill which encloses a Park. On the left is the River Thames. We entered Windsor about 12 o'clock. It is just up at the White Horse which was a Town and Beacon to get ready while we went to see the Castle, which is a Stone & castellated Building, surrounded with a moat. At the entrance on the left hand, as you enter the Royal Palace is a grand stair case, the bottom of which is a well.
curiously carved out the fit with his right leg over his left knee. Dr. Deadden
shot out of his boot.
The ceiling & top of the three case is a fine piece of painting which represents the gods of the Elenient. Within entered the guard room which is very grand & surrounded with implements of war. Over the chimney is George Prince of Denmark.
The ceiling represents Britis leading on the globe—the next room is called Queen Ann's, the ceiling piece is Queen Catherine, Charles the Second's Queen, surrounded with the Graces. The 3 room is called the Hall room. The ceiling is Hercules & Andromeda and over the room is the picture of Don Feldus who starved himself. to death by Neeading.
next the Queen's Smoking Room. Over the door is Lot & his two daughters
the other door Mark Antony & Cleopatra. 6. Queen's
Aged Chamber. Oner the
Chimney the Holy Family
Curiously described, over
the door Peirad's Curiosity
7. is a small room in which is fourteen pictures of King Charles' favorite beauties & the Queen's Dressing Room in which is the picture of Queen Anne, Mother. 9
is a long gallery hanging full of pictures the
most noted of which is
James the 7. & his Queen—
The Emperor of Germany.
An excellent piece of work represents Candle Light —
The Wire Drawers. As a piece of painting which represents two musicians over their money. When alive, their painting was made from a plaster, this turned out to be a very good picture of a good musician. A copy of the original, which represents the Battle of Spurs, it is so called from the French making good use of that instrument in a retreat.

A picture of the Duke of Gloucester, and opposite to him is his father.

Another original picture of Henry the Eighth.

A fine cabinet, which was sent as a present by the king of Prussia to the late Queen.

Queen Ann's China Room. Over the chimney is Henry the Seventh's children. The King's Closet.

A fine piece of needlework done by the Queen of Scotch. The ceiling represents a shower of gold. 2nd. The King's bed chamber. The ceiling represents

King Charles surrounded with plenty.

3rd. The King's Drawing Room. Over the chimney is a fine picture of a Chinese who turned Christian. Ceiling. King Charles in his triumphal chariot.

Dining Room.

In this room is a picture which represents 3 different characters of John Lacy a noted player. Over the door is a very fine piece of painting of a Schoolmaster teaching his children to sing by candle light.

Ceiling represents the banquetting of the gods and goddesses.

Audience Chamber.

A fine picture of the 12 Apostles. Over the door a picture of Peter, James and John, very much esteemed.

Our Favoure Board.

The presence chamber. Over the door, Isaiah, Paul, the Penitent.

King's Guard Chamber, A large room surrounded with the Implements of War.
Over the chimney Charles the 1st King of Sweden.

From hence we came into a large and noble Hall. At the upper end of this hall appears to be a very fine piece of painting which represents some stone steps on the loft of which is painted an elbow chair in which is placed King Charles the 2nd. These steps are of such curious workmanship that strangers are often deceived by going up to the place with an intention to ascend them.

On the side of this hall is painted the Triumphs of Edward the Black Prince with the King of France and David King of Scotland, kneeling before him as present stands upon a hill, with a deep trench all round it. You ascend above a hundred steps before you come to the first floor, which is the guard room, and from here into several other apartments, which are all empty. We went out on the top of this Tower, which gives you a most beautiful prospect of all the country round.
in a year 13. to London.
Next to this we came on
the portrait of open land
which is called Bray Field
near Bray Town. on the
right hand as you ride
along you see two saline
British Deeds on an Island.
Which is called Duke's Hollo.
From the new come to Holy
Most open lands & very Glens
on the right hand is a forest
that belonging to the John
Worthy from here proceed
To a place called White Holton
Common & from there over
a small Bridge, we came
on Lawrence. (White Holton
there two Commons join
Together & are very Large &
extensive on this place great
numbers of Sheep are brought

In one of 12 the rooms of
this Tower Marshal Hillis
was kept Prisoner who was
taken in the Elector of Hanover's
Dominions & brought here
in the year 1715. We came
from this Tower on the
Terrace which is a large
& neat walk and from here
is an extensive & beautiful
Prospect. After seeing the
most remarkable things in
this Castle we went down.
Dine & Dined, after Dinner
Drank a Bottle of Port and
proceeded on our intended
Journey. We left Windson on
our right hand and came
to a Village called Cleworth,
nothing remarkable, from
there to Water Oakley, here
is a large Wheat which sends
a great many Barage of Finch.
We came to Flurst at a small Village, five miles this side Reading, where we arrived at five o'clock at Mr. Mann's, after we had put up our horses, we went into his house, Saluted our New Relations, sat down & drank tea, which being over, by consent of the whole Company, we all rose up and took a gentle walk round the Village, by this time, the people of the Town, being alarmed that some Company of Consequence was arrived, rang the Bells of the Church, & showed great Demonstration of Joy. After we had taken a pleasant walk, we returned home. Not down by the Ford, made a Trip of some...
persons we had promised; returning from church, this house is very pleasantly situated, and has belonging to it a large and handsome bowling green for the diversion of those gentlemen who please to play: being all assembled together, we sat down and smoked our pipes, and drank some wine in a very sociable manner; the afternoon being half spent, the land-lady of the house made her appearance; and in a very complaisant manner desired the company would be pleased to drink tea. Our ladies immediately accepted the offer, and I was the only person among our sex who withdrew with the license to keep them company; tea being over, I left my company, and took a little walk, to make my observations of the most remarkable things worthy notice, which are as follow:

The principal seat in this town is one of Lord Gower; it stands on a high hill, and makes a very fine appearance at a distance; and near the church is one Esquire Dobby's, who is lord of the manor.

Opposite the church are eight almshouses, the gift of Mr. Barker, for the maintenance of six poor people, at 6 sh. per day; he died the 25th of March 1606. Being desirous to see the church, I went to the clerk of the parish, who was very civil, and at my request let me in. This church is very ancient, and has the remains of the old Roman relics, as likewise an old cross on the top. At the communion-table is the monument of the above Mr. Barker, and likewise several very ancient ones.

There is a fine monument of Sir Richard Harrison, of Whiskey great Hurst, with his wife and son kneeling at prayers. He died the 23rd of August 1633. He reduced his fortune by raising troops for the service of King Charles.

Opposite to this is the monument of Lady Margaret Saville, who had 3 hus. lands; her first was George Gerrard, Esquire, whose father was Lord Mayor of London. Her second was John Smith, Esquire.
of Essex. When this was Sir Henry Lee, he was of great learning and letters, and was near 80 years of age. He died in the house of his son, Anne 1631, aged 73. The house likewise contains sixteen children surrounding her Monument, in a kneeling posture. First of these is a very ancient Monument of her own Ward, who died the 9th of April, 1574. The Church of this Church is very old, as it is believed to be the only remains of the original building, after this gave the Clerk a shilling for his trouble, for which he was very thankful; so we parted.
As I was 19 walking by myself down the Church street, I picked up a stone of one of the tombs, which was enameled for its whiteness; it was Dwela Read's. I put it in my pocket to bring to London, with an intention there to consecrate it into Earth Vickers. Having amused myself in this manner, I returned to my company, where, joined by the rest of our landlord's tenants, contented at staying together. I must not forget to acquaint my readers that all this is far from true. Our supper was set out on a very elegant manner; it consisted of a fine roast Chine, with cold legs of veal, and likewise a gallon of bacon, stuffed with bacon, and in so nice a manner, that I believe...
Stan's family would have approved of it besides all this we had plenty of good Apple & grocery Sorts. After all those Experiments we took a Mouthful of Cheese to prepare our Salads for the true flavor of E. J. Post having spent an hour in Myth & folly we in a very sober manner took leave of our Host & Hostess & proceeded home to Mr. Man's father's, where being pretty much tired we went to bed. We got up at five of the clock the next morning which was Monday Resuming on our intended journey for Doctor. At noon the stage dinner got our breakfast before we set out after which
took leave 21. of our friends, returning them thanks for all favours — I proceeded on by Wantage Hills to Brunner Heath where Reading Horse-Races are kept & from thence into the Bristol Road, to which I came to Reading; at the Entrance of the Town, on the Right hand, stands the Remains of an old Roman Abbey, grown over with Ivy on the top. On the Left hand is a Handsome Charity School founded by William Mathias, Citizen of London, it is a large & Populous Town. Other three large Churches with a Post-Market-Place, about the Middle of the Town is a large Stone Bridge, near which is a Grand Wharf, very Convenient...
for loading 22 of Horses to send to London; from here we came to a small Town about 2 Miles Distance, which is called Caversham, it is in Oxfordshire. Dated this Town you go over as large Stone Bridge near 250 Feet over & has nothing Remarkable except the Bridge— from thence came to Gallow Tree Common, which has a Wood, on each side, and so on across the Country which is very open, till we came to Menton a small Town about Two Miles this side Dorkheton as you leave.
This town I. on the left hand hands a small Church with a square wooden Steeple very small. Next to Menton we came to Dourcheater, a very Ancient and Handsome Town. We entered this town over an old Stone Bridge, at the foot of this Bridge stands a Pedestal which is raised from the ground with 16 Steps & a Rail on the top; it is very old and the Date is not the found. In the Middle of this Town stands a large Church which is likewise ancient. We came here about 11 o'clock and Breakfast at the Crown Inn. In this House is the Picture of an old Roman
An altar which was dug out of a field near the Town, as described as follows:

I: O: M

ETNMINB: AVG

MAR: SEVERVS

: B: C: S: A: C:

ARAM: CVM

CANCEHS.

D: S: P
Il som 

We went to Oxford, which is ten miles, & the chief part of the way is pleasant open land, with an extensive open forest 2 miles this side Oxford is a strałe Town called Shillingford, the Church is Ethel & built in the same manner as that at Bexton From here proceeded to Oxford & rode through the City without thinking you would have from Oxford to this place is seven miles to half I very pleasant feeling. I put up at the Bear in this Town /oodale Diurno which was a town of modern cut into Chops I while that was getting ready we proceed.
...the situation & Curiosities... You enter through a grand Gateway at the end of Woodstock Town. This brings you to a large & fine Park, in which there is a view that now Building of the Duke of Marlborough, called Blenheim. Before this House is a fine Reservoir, which forms itself into a grand Basin over which is built a fine Bridge of Stone. Structures the Arch of which is much longer than the Centre Arch of Westminster Bridge under this Bridge is a terrace on one of which is a Water Engine which works on Wheels.

27) "Takes up your... Condensation of the House. There is a fine Cascade of Water which falls near 3 feet before the Arch. It makes the Water run through with great twisting. As you go from this House, over the Bridge is a fine Pillar on the Top of which stands the Duke of Marlborough. Under is a description of this Pillar. After this we went into the House which is a Heavy Building & has this Wings to it. It is the Garden of a half H. We entered this House, up a number of grand Steps to the Hall which is very Fine. The Ceiling here represents the Gods of the Roman..."
Plan of the Battle of Blenheim. In the
room on your right hand
is some very fine,
satirizing which represents
the Battle of the Duke with
very curiously
it is the Battle of Blenheim,
which represents the Duke
with his Army encamped
and Count Talleau
before him prisoner. The Count
is dressed in blue, and comes before the Duke
with a disdainful countenance, putting
his hand to his head to take off his hat.
The second is Montes Hamaison: where
the Duke with his officers surrounding
him is giving orders to General Webb,
who is on horseback, leaning from his
horse towards the Duke seems to give
great attention.
3rd is Insula, which represents the Duke with his officers giving orders concerning a Spy who is brought before him. This Spy is most curiously done: he is dressed in a riding cloak with his whip in his hand, and the features of his face express great concern at his approaching fate. 4th Piece of Tapestry, is Bouchain, which represents the army marching with wagons and carriages very naturally described. 5th is Bouchain. This is a fine description of the army lying encamped, with a long and extensive view. In this room over the chimney is the Picture of the late Duke.

6th The Tapestry of this room are the battles of Alexander, and over the chimney is the Picture of Catharine de Medhurst, a fine Picture of Paul Rubens, the famous Painter with his Children.

7th The Tapestry, Alexander, and Darius taken prisoner. And on the other side Diogenes in his Tub. Over the door St. Peter very finely.
painted, as likewise Lord Strafford and his Secretary: and the Picture of the Holy Family. In the next room the Tapestry is: The Battles of Wyndael, Bouchain, Doneauwest. Over the chimney is Christ proving the Servant: the other Picture is the Slain ing of Lot and his Family out of Sodom. Our Saviour blessing the Children: Jesus of Mary leading their Son Jesus out of Jerusalem. These Pictures are all very finely painted. This being all the particular in the House except the long gallery, which we could not see it being locked up full of books. From the house we went to see the chapel which is plain and neat; in it is the Monument of the Duke & Duchess, and his two Sons. In their Memory, this Monument was erected in the year of our Lord 1733. Done by Reynolds. It is said to have cost 1500. After having seen all things remarkable here, we went back to our Inn, and dined, and then returned homewards for Oxford, where we arrived about eight o'clock.
it being too late to see any of the Colleges, put up at the Bear Inn, in the middle of the city, ordered supper which was poached eggs, after which drank some cool tankard sat about half an hour, and then went to bed. The next morning got up about seven o'clock and walked round the city.

Having a letter of recommendation in my pocket from a friend of mine, to one W. Thomas of Exeter College, I went to him about 8 o'clock this morning and found him in his chambers at bed; I delivered him my letter, and after he had read it, he very kindly told me, he would wait on me and my Friend, with a great deal of pleasure, which offer I was glad to accept of, as we should not have been able to have seen the curiosities of this place without his introduction. I then thanked the gentleman and told him I would wait on him with my Friend in an hour's time, and returned to the inn, where I found Mr. Mr. Man ready for breakfast; we
Then sat down to breakfast, and after that was over, went to the gentleman's chambers before mentioned: he was then dressing, and desired us to sit down a short while and he would wait on us. This gentleman was very kind and showed us all the places he possibly could for the short time we staid in this place. In this city are 20 Colleges, the most principal of which we saw. — The Picture Gallery is very large, and consists chiefly of the pictures of the benefactors to this University. — The picture of Don Scotus is here, and is reckoned to be better done than that at Windsor.

Sir John Chardin
Chaucer the Poet
King Alfred
Lord Clarendon
Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the library
Dr. Batcliff
James the First
Charles the First, his Queen, and many others finely painted.

From here we went to the Theatre: it is a grand and noble building, and will
A fine prize of Paintings of the bust of our Saviour & likewise of King Charles the First from thence went to the Radcliffe new library which is a very grand building after that we walked round the grove the outside of the City which is a very pleasant place & to come to our Inn & Dined on Pegon & tapataxes Mr. Thomas who dined with us acquainted us that this day was one of their grand Festivals they had a Lamb Boaste
with his 35. Honsy Peuf
& an Orange in his
mouth, it is called the
Navel Samb. After
Dinners, we drank a
Bottle of Wine, with the
Gentlemen & returning
them Thanks for his Cottin
I proceeded for London,
at the end of this City
I parted with him & the
Man by three Chesse.
They having promised to
have been in Town
as this day, but it being
too much for a Chesse
I proceeded on Horseback
to acquaint their Friends to
The contrary. So rode on selves for London. The next village to Oxford is Wheatley, a small place; from thence proceeded to Thatworth, so on to Chalk-hill, which is very high and steep. From thence I came through a large and pleasant wood to West Wickham; this is a small town, and the most remarkable curiosity in this town is the church, which is built on a very high hill, and so steep that it is impossible for any carriage to go up it. A story goes among the inhabitants that this church was begun in the town, but what was built in the day was removed in the night time by some evil geniuses. The situation of this church has a good quality, and a bad one attending it. This first is, that it is healthful for the young and vigorous to ascend the hill to go to prayers; and the latter is, that it is impossible for the old to go to prayers at all, for they cannot walk up, neither can they be carried. From here I came to High Wickham, and met with some acquaintance with whom I stopt some time, and then proceeded through Uxbridge, and several small villages, which I could not observe the particulars of as I had not time, and arrived at London at twelve o'clock on Wednesday the 22nd April 1747. This is a true and faithful narrative of all my proceedings from my setting out to my arrival in Town.

James Balchen
in the reign of George 2d.

"It is quite certain the Writer of the foregoing Narrative, Mr James Balchen, was Nephew to Admiral Sir John Balchen, who was lost in his ship the Victory: Oct 4th 1744.

Since we learn from his Monument in Westminster Abbey an Account of which may be found in The Universal Magazine for the Year 1752 he left but one Son and one Daughter, the former of whom George Balchen survived him but a short time for being sent to the West Indies in 1745. Commander of his Majesty's Ship The Pembroke he died at Barbadoes in December the same year aged 28, having walked in the steps and imitated the virtues and bravery of his good but unfortunate Father his Sisters married Admiral Sir Charles Ogle who was a widower.
The interest of the Merchant and Manufacturer of Great Britain in the present contest with the Colonies stated and considered.

8th July, 1774.