

A NEW
HISTORY
OF
ENGLAND,
BY
QUESTION AND ANSWER.

(Price bound 3s. without Cuts, or 4s. with Cuts.)

A NEW
H I S T O R Y
O F
E N G L A N D,
B Y

QUESTION AND ANSWER,

Extracted from the

Most Celebrated *English* Historians,

PARTICULARLY

M. RAPIN DE THOYRAS,

F O R T H E

Instruction and Entertainment of our Youth of both Sexes.

By the AUTHOR of the ROMAN HISTORY
by QUESTION and ANSWER.

The TWENTY-SECOND EDITION Corrected, and
brought down to the present Time.

Adorned with Thirty-two Copper-Plates, representing the most remarkable Occurrences, and the Heads of all the KINGS and QUEENS.

• *Nilil majus, atque melius Reipublicæ facere possumus, quàm si juventutem erudimus atque docemus.*
CICERO.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. RIVINGTON and SONS; T. LONGMAN; B. LAW;
T. CADELL; G. ROBINSON and Co. C. DILLY; A. STRAHAN;
W. GOLDSMITH; SCATCHERD and WHITAKER; E. NEW-
BERRY; G. and T. WILKIE; F. POWER; R. BALDWIN;
W. LOWNDES. 1790.

TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
ARTHUR ONSLOW,

Speaker of the HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SIR,

I Should not have presumed to address these sheets to you, had not the indulgence of the Public given them some sort of merit, (owing, doubtless, to the importance of my subject) by the many editions * they have been pleased to encourage.

I here give a succinct account of the reigns of our several Monarchs, from the earliest times, extracted from authors of reputation; and have endeavoured to set the whole in such a light, as may inspire the readers with an ardent love for our pure religion, and its darling attendant, liberty; and, on the other hand, with a just abhorrence of popery, and its companion, slavery.

As the present performance is designed chiefly for the instruction of the rising generation; I thence hope that it will not be thought unworthy the patronage of a Gentleman, to whom men of Letters and Learning have the highest obligations, and to whose countenance and favour I myself am singularly indebted: of a Gentleman, whose actions speak how greatly he has the welfare of our envied islands at heart: of a Gentleman who has presided, during so
A 3 long

* This dedication was written for the Fourteenth edition.

long a course of years with the greatest dignity, in an August House, the Palladium of our happy constitution.

When I reflect on the long series of ages, during which ignorance and cruelty overspread the face of the earth; I cannot enough thank Providence for giving me existence in an enlightened period, when Arts and Sciences are carried to a high perfection; when our countrymen, though engaged in a fierce war, lighted up by an ambitious enemy, are nevertheless happy—when the conduct and intrepidity of our troops at *Quebec* and *Minden* recall the immortal battles of *Cressy* and *Agincourt*:—and when our navy not only awes the nations round, but triumphs in every part of the ocean.

May the reign of our new Sovereign, (whose most gracious Declaration on his ascending the Throne speaks him a second *TITUS*) be crowned with every felicity! And (SIR) may You live still many Years, to see the blissful effects of your national labours!

I am,

with all imaginable Respect,

S I R,

Your most humble,

most obedient,

most devoted servant,

London,
Oct. 26, 1760.

JOHN LOCKMAN.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE established reputation of *our* abridgment of the History of *England* makes it unnecessary to enlarge upon its known utility. But we cannot appear again as candidates for future favors without expressing our grateful acknowledgments for the patronage we have received from an indulgent public, through a long series of years. The constant support and recommendation we have particularly experienced from the most respectable conductors of academies and schools for the public education of youth, and from the most eminent private preceptors, likewise deserves our sincerest thanks, which are here tendered to all our friends in general.

The best return we can possibly make for the very great success that has attended this publication, is, to take all possible pains to render every new edition as complete as possible. And it is upon this principle, we beg leave to trouble the reader with the following brief state of the principal improvements made in the present edition.

A copious new Introduction furnishes a more ample and satisfactory explanation of
the

the *British* constitution than had hitherto been given. And as the mode of raising and applying the public revenues of the state was a subject neither so well understood nor so interesting in the time of the late ingenious Mr. *Lockman*, as at present; a clear discussion of it will be found in the said Introduction, which likewise connects the chain of preceding events with the æra of the foundation of the *English* monarchy. A separation, and better arrangement of the different subjects of the history, has been made; and, where it could be done, without destroying the connexion, additional questions have been inserted, in order to prevent too long answers, which clog the memory, and disgust young pupils. The origin, progress, and present state of the liberal sciences; of commerce; and of the polite and useful arts in *Britain*, with an account of all public institutions, form distinct heads in this edition; and proper notice is taken of the most eminent men who have flourished in this country, in every age.

In a word, the present edition has the advantage of a complete and accurate chronology; and of an impartial history of the important transactions of the reign of our present most gracious Sovereign, down to the end of the year 1789, whereas the last closed with the domestic events of 1786.

T. M.
A NEW

A NEW
METHOD
FOR STUDYING THE
History of *ENGLAND*.

Q. WHAT country is it that you term *Great Britain*?
A. The island which comprehends the kingdoms of *England* and *Scotland*.

Q. How long hath it been called by that name?

A. From the time that the two kingdoms were united, by an act of parliament passed in the reign of Queen *Ann*, which received the royal assent on the 4th of *March*, 1707, and took place on the 1st of *May* following. By an article in this union, sixteen peers of *Scotland* are to be elected to represent the peers of *Scotland*, in the *English* house of lords, and forty-five members to represent the commons of *Scotland* in the *English* house of commons; and the parliament of *England* in future was to be styled the Parliament of *Great-Britain*. Accordingly, the first parliament that was called after the union took place, and which met on the 23d of *October*, 1707, was styled the first Parliament of *Great Britain*: and all public acts, records, and other state papers, ran in the same style, and have so continued ever since. The title of King of *Great-Britain* was indeed assumed by King *James I.* upon the union of the two crowns in his person, to avoid jealousy, in giving the precedence to *England* or *Scotland* in the regal title. But this extended no farther than the crown.

Q. What is the shape of *Great-Britain*?

B

Triangular;

A. Triangular; the angles whereof are the *Lizard Point* to the west; that of *Foreland*, or *Sandwich* near *Dover* on the east; and that of *Straitby-head* to the north.

Q. What are the seas that surround it?

A. The *English* channel to the south, which separates it from *France*; the *German* ocean to the east, lying between *England*, *Flanders*, *Germany*, and *Denmark*; the *Northern*, or *Caledonian* sea to the north; and *St. George's* channel, the *Irish* sea, and the *Atlantic* ocean to the west.

Q. Into how many parts is *Great-Britain* divided?

A. Two; viz. *England* and *Scotland*; the former, from its situation, being called *South-Britain*, and the latter *North-Britain*.

Q. What is the true extent of *Great-Britain*?

A. The western side of it, from the *Lizard-point* in *Cornwall* to *Caithness* in *Scotland*, reckoning the windings of the shores, is 812 miles; the eastern side 704; the south coast, which is the broadest, 320; and the circuit of the whole island is 1836 miles.

Q. When was the name of *Britain* changed into that of *England*?

A. In the year 585 or 586, a little after the founding of the seven kingdoms, with the unanimous consent of the seven kings.

Q. How is *England* bounded?

A. By the rivers *Tweed* and *Solway*; and the mountains of *Chirviot*, which divide it from *Scotland*; the rest of it is bounded by the ocean.

Q. Who were the ancient inhabitants thereof?

A. The *Britons*, supposed to have been descendants from the *Gauls* or *Celts*.

Q. What nations have had the sovereignty of it?

A. The *Britons*, the *Romans*, the *Saxons* or *Angles*, (from whom the country derived the name of *England*), the *Danes*, and the *Normans*.

Q. How many Kings have swayed the *English* sceptre?

A. It is impossible to give the exact number of those who reigned before the year 820, when *Egbert* established the monarchy, the history whereof we are now writing.

Q. Was *England* divided into seven kingdoms before *Egbert*?

A. Yes; and it was called the *Saxon Heptarchy*: they were the kingdoms 1. of *Kent*; 2. of *South-Sex*, or of the *South-Saxons*; 3. *West-Sex*, or of the *West-Saxons*; 4. *East-Sex*, or of the *East-Saxons*; 5. the *Northumbers*; 6. *East-Angles*; 7. of *Mercia*.

Q. Have all the Kings from *Egbert* sprung from the same family?

A. No; the family that now sits upon the throne is the seventh.

Q. Pray give me the names of the families, and the number of Kings descended from them.

A. The first was that of the *Saxon* or *English* Kings, whereof there were seventeen; the second that of the *Danes*, of which there were only three Kings; the third, that of the *Normans*, produced four. The house of *Anjou*, (the fourth) or family of the *Plantagenets*, divided itself into three branches; *Plantagenet* the elder; *York*, and *Lancaster*, the younger. There were eight Kings of the first, and three of each of the two last. The *Tudors* (the fifth family) furnished three Kings and two Queens; the *Stuarts* (the sixth family) four Kings and two Queens; and our present most gracious Sovereign is the third King, descended from the illustrious house of *Brunswick*.

Of the ROYAL FAMILY, and the BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

Q. WHAT kind of government is that of *Great Britain*?

A. A Monarchy, the authority whereof is limited by the statute and common law of the land, which the King swears at his coronation to observe; and the coronation oath forms the civil compact between the King and his subjects.

Q. In what does the sovereign authority of the King of *Great-Britain* immediately consist?

A. He is invested with the sole power to declare peace or war; to make leagues and treaties; to receive or send out ambassadors; to coin money, but not to fix the current value of it, which is done by consent of parliament only; to allow or repeal grants or privileges; to dispose of the several governments in his dominions, and of all employments, both at sea and land. In a word, all commissions, whether for life, or a certain limited time, are absolutely in his disposal. And he can pardon criminals, except when an appeal is made, which prevents the pardon of a murderer.

Q. Does his power extend no farther?

A. He is heir, in the last resort; that is, all estates where no heir appears, revert or escheat to the lord of the manor; but if there is none, then to the King.

Q. Has the King of *Great-Britain* any authority over the Parliament?

A. He alone has the power of summoning, proroguing, and dissolving it; he may refuse to give the royal assent to bills, though they have passed through both houses, without being obliged to declare the reason of his refusal.

Q. Is justice administered in the King's name?

A. In all parts of *Great-Britain* he is the supreme judge, or lord chief-justice. He fills up all the offices of judicature; is supposed to preside personally in all tribunals; and may actually do it in all cases, that of high treason excepted, in which he himself is the real plaintiff.

Q. Has he no power in the church?

A. He is the supreme moderator and governor of the church of *England*, over all persons and in all causes which title was taken up by *Queen Elizabeth*, instead of the *supreme Head*, which was used by *Henry VIII.* and *Edward VI.* He nominates to bishoprics, and several other benefices. He claims tenths and annats; and by mandate to the archbishops assembles his clergy in convocation; they not having the power of sitting without such mandate.

Q. Does not the King of *Great-Britain* delegate part of his authority to other persons?

A. The

A. The whole executive power of the government being veſted in him, he is Captain General and Commander in chief of the army; High Admiral of *Great-Britain*; Chief Juſtice; Supreme Head of the Church; &c. &c. but as it is impoſſible for him to perform the duties of all theſe offices at once in perſon, he appoints perſons to execute moſt of them, who are called his miniſters or ſervants, and are reſponſible to the nation for their conduct.

Q. What is meant by ſaying, the King can do no wrong?

A. It is to be underſtood only in reſpect to his public capacity, in which he never acts without the advice of his privy-council and his miniſtry, who do the wrong, when any is done to the nation, by adviſing bad meaſures. But if the King commits a murder, he does wrong as much as any other man, and is equally liable to the ſentence of the law.

Q. What is the difference between Queen-conſort and Queen-regent?

A. The Queen-regent is jointly proclaimed and crowned as Sovereign with the King her huſband. She exerciſes ſovereign authority in his abſence from his dominions; ſucceeds to the throne in caſe of his demife; and enjoys many other privileges which do not appertain to the Queen-conſort. *Mary II.* the wife of *William III.* was Queen-regent.

Q. Who is the ſecond perſon in the kingdom?

A. The Queen-conſort.

Q. Does ſhe enjoy any peculiar privileges?

A. She may make whatever purchaſes ſhe thinks proper in the kingdom, and diſpoſe of them without an act of parliament for her naturalization. She may remove her cauſes to whatever court ſhe pleaſes; and if, when a widow, ſhe ſhould marry again, ſhe would have all honours paid her as a Queen, though ſhe ſhould marry a private gentleman.

Q. What title is given to the eldeſt ſon of the King of *Great-Britain*?

A. He is ſtyled Prince of *Wales*; is always heir apparent to the crown; and when he has attained the age of

eighteen years, he is enabled by law to succeed to the crown, without being under the government of a regency. But during the life of his father he does not take his seat in Parliament, or come properly of age, till the age of twenty-one.

Q. Is it many years since the King's eldest son has enjoyed this title?

A. *Edward I.* won this principality in 1284, from *Llewellyn*, the last prince of *Wales*; and he wholly abolished the authority of these princes, by taking prisoner *David*, *Llewellyn's* brother, whom he beheaded in 1283.

Q. Which of the Kings of *England's* sons first had the title of Prince of *Wales*?

A. *Edward II.* who was born at *Caernarvon Castle*, in that principality; the King having obliged his consort to go and lie-in there, that they might be the better pleased with the prince he was going to set over them.

Q. Has the King's eldest son any other title?

A. Yes; he is born duke of *Cornwall*; in respect to which he is of age at the very day of his birth, so as to claim livery and seisin of the said dukedom.

Q. By whom was this honour first settled on the King's eldest son?

A. By *Edward III.* and it is to be observed, that it does not descend by virtue of that Monarch's grant to the heir of the crown of *England* in general, but to the son, and him the first begotten son of the King. Thus, *Richard de Bourdeaux*, son to the Black Prince, who died without coming to the crown, was not duke of *Cornwall* by birth, but was created so by charter. Nor was *Henry VIII.* (after the death of his brother prince *Arthur*) duke of *Cornwall*, because he was not the eldest son.

Q. Has the prince of *Wales* any settled revenue?

A. He has about twenty thousand pounds sterling a year, arising from the mines in the duchy of *Cornwall*. But while he is a minor, he is maintained by the King, as part of his family; and when of age he has a separate household, and an annual revenue provided by act of parliament.

Q. Is the crown hereditary?

A. Most

A. Most assuredly no; for there are incapacities by law, which would set aside the heir apparent; such as the prince of *Wales's* turning *Roman Catholic*, &c. Besides, the *British* history has proved that it is elective: but generally no incapacitation arising, the right of succession by primogeniture has been allowed, and the female line succeeds in default of male heirs.

Q. Have the rest of the King's children any titles appropriated to them?

A. No; the King, who is the fountain of all honour throughout his dominions, bestows on them, as on any other of his subjects, whatever titles and dignities he thinks proper. We are only to observe, that the title of *Royal Highness* is given them; and that whoever kisses their hands must do it kneeling; the same respect being paid to the Kings and Queens, who were formerly served at table, and waited upon in this humble posture; a custom long since abolished.

Q. Has the King any fixed revenue?

A. Formerly, great inconveniences arose from confounding the royal with the public revenue of the kingdom. Wherefore, upon the restoration of *Charles II.* in 1660, the Parliament, in a fit of joy, voted 1,200,000 *l.* for the King's yearly revenue, to be raised out of certain branches of the public revenue, for the maintenance of his household and the dignity of the Crown. But as those branches of the public revenue on which the royal income was charged, sometimes produced more, and sometimes less than the sum fixed for the royal income, this gave an opportunity to encroach on the public revenue in this and the following reign.

Q. How was this remedied?

A. Upon the accession of *William and Mary*, one great point, amongst many others gained by the revolution in favour of the people, was that of settling a certain sum upon the King and Queen for life, 800,000 *l. per ann.* and passing an act to subject the revenues of the kingdom, after payment of this sum, to the disposal of Parliament.

Q. Was the royal revenue still raised from branches of the public revenue?

A. Yes; and as they consisted of the duties of *tonnage* and *poundage*, the hereditary excise, and other articles, when they fell short, the royal income was deficient, and when they increased, it exceeded the nominal sum fixed by Parliament.

Q. What did his present majesty do upon this subject?

A. He agreed to accept the nett sum of 800,000 *l.* *per annum* for life, to be paid quarterly out of the receipt of the Exchequer, in lieu of the fluctuating, uncertain income, arising from the funds, formerly appropriated to the payment of the royal revenue.

Q. Has this sum been since augmented?

A. The Parliament, in consideration of his Majesty's numerous family, voted 100,000 *l.* additional annual revenue, in the year 1777; also the sum of 618,340 *l.* to pay off the arrears of the civil list, due on the 1st of *January* in that year.

Q. What articles of expence are comprehended in the civil list?

A. The maintenance of the royal family; the salaries of the officers and servants of the household; of the great officers of state; of ambassadors, ministers, and consuls in foreign parts; pensions, &c. &c.

Of the PARLIAMENT.

Q. WHAT is the Parliament of *Great-Britain*?

A. The general assembly (when the King is present) of the three estates of the kingdom.

Q. By whom was it instituted?

A. In a large sense, it is as old as the *Saxon* government in this kingdom. And though the Commons were undoubtedly always represented in it, yet the manner how they were represented is not certain; there being no summons of them upon record before 49 *Henry III.* when they first began to be distinct houses, much in the same manner as they are now.

Q. Whence was it originally derived?

A. From the general assemblies, or diets of the northern nations, whence the *Anglo-Saxons* came. It was
not

not indeed held so frequently under the first *Saxon* Kings, as under the *Plantagenets*, when it began to make itself formidable.

Q. When was this assembly first called a Parliament?

A. In the reign of *William I.* the term being *Norman*, and signifying *to speak one's mind*. The *Saxons* called their assemblies *Wittenagemots*, the meeting of wise men.

Q. By what steps has it risen to that height of power it has sometimes assumed?

A. It was owing to the avarice of some Kings, the prodigality of others, and the wars of ambitious princes.

Q. In what manner did the avarice or profusion, of the Kings give authority to the Parliament?

A. As the yearly revenues of the state fell short of its expences, the Kings were obliged to impose taxes; and the monies arising from thence not having been employed to the public service, but lavished on favourites, expended on parade and luxuries, or hoarded up, the people saw the necessity of not permitting their Sovereigns to levy money upon them, but by the consent of their representatives.

Q. How did the ambition of their Kings encroach upon the property of their subjects?

A. They engaged in rash, unjust, and fruitless enterprises; but after the Parliament had established the right of taxing themselves, the Sovereigns were more cautious how they engaged in wars, as the aids for carrying them on could only be obtained from the representatives of the people.

Q. When did the Parliament assume this authority?

A. Under the reign of King *John*; and they confirmed it to themselves by *Magna Charta*, or the great charter of liberties, in the reign of his son, *Henry III.*

Q. Of whom does the Parliament consist?

A. The constitution of *Great-Britain* is composed of three forms of government, the Regal, the Aristocratical, and the Democratical; so wisely blended and united, that the inconveniencies of each, separately taken, are carefully avoided.

Q. What do you mean by the three estates of the realm?