
*Critiques on the 1st Edition (three first Volumes) of
this Work.*

"CAPTAIN BEATSON is already known as the Author of the Political Index to the Histories of Great Britain and Ireland. The present publication is of a higher kind. We are now to regard him, as contributing, not only to the information, but to the amusement of the public; and since he has exerted his attention and diligence for so commendable a purpose, we cannot but wish him success.

"His Work bears the marks of veracity, and a constant attention to the authenticity of the materials which he has industriously collected. The narrative is frequently intermixed with observations and reflections, which indicate the man of virtue and of public spirit. As we have perused the volumes with satisfaction, we are led to conclude, that they will be acceptable, not merely to those who are intimately conversant with military and naval affairs, but also to the public at large.— We regret that the limits to which our work is confined, will not allow us to lay before our readers many interesting particulars, which might be easily selected from these volumes; but we hope that the few which we have extracted from this entertaining work, will not be unacceptable to our readers; and especially to the Gentlemen of the Navy."

Monthly Review, February and March, 1791.

"THE interesting nature of this Work has forced us to exceed our intended limits; but we hope that our extracts will prove neither uninteresting nor uninstruative.

"To the design and to the execution, we must give applause, as being, in no mean degree, useful and meritorious.

"IT is a work of utility and merit; and we shall be glad to see the remaining three volumes."

Critical Review, April and May, 1791.

NAVAL AND MILITARY
M E M O I R S
OF
GREAT BRITAIN,

FROM
1727 TO 1783.

BY
ROBERT BEATSON, Esq. L.L.D.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. I.



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TO
THE MOST NOBLE
GEORGE, MARQUIS OF HUNTLY,
MAJOR-GENERAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES,
AND
COLONEL OF THE NINETY-SECOND REGIMENT OF FOOT.

MY LORD,

IN condescending to grant me permission to dedicate my NAVAL and MILITARY MEMOIRS to your Lordship, you have increased the obligations under which you have already laid me ; and, what is peculiarly pleasing to my mind, have afforded me an opportunity of publicly expressing the grateful sentiments which I shall ever entertain for the memory of your uncle Lord Adam Gordon, by whose disinterested friendship I was placed in a situation which has obtained me the honour of your Lordship's acquaintance. The character which your Lordship has acquired, while it supersedes panegyric, also convinces me that its language would be offensive to your feelings. I trust, however, that you will forgive me, while I testify the warmest wishes of a grateful heart, that the distinguished reputation, which you have, at so early a period, acquired, may augment with your years ; that those excellent ta-

lents, and that unblemished integrity which have so justly endeared you to those who are proud to be reckoned among the number of your friends, may long be employed in the service of your country, in whose cause your Lordship has already bled ; and that, while the voice of applause attends your public career, the frankness and generosity of your disposition may confirm and extend that affection and attachment which are appropriated to the benevolent heart, and bear testimony to that private worth which is seldom recorded by fame.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient, and

Most devoted humble servant,

ROBERT BEATSON.

ABERDEEN, }
NOVEMBER, 1804. }

P R E F A C E.

THE following Work is intituled, NAVAL AND MILITARY MEMOIRS OF GREAT BRITAIN.—The Author does not assume the name of *History*; both because he is diffident of his own abilities, to give his Work the high polish and finishing which a well written History requires; and because his plan was to be more particular and minute respecting individual services, than general history will admit of. Upon a subject which he considers as of the highest importance to his country, he has been long assiduously employed in collecting materials; and he hopes now to be able to lay before the Public, that ample and particular information of Naval Transactions, which seemed to be so much wanted by the inhabitants of this island.

THE Military Transactions recorded in these Volumes, are such only as have a relation to Maritime affairs, or are connected with naval services, which form the primary and principal object of the present Work. In this view, he is of opinion, that many advantages may
re-

result from an accurate examination of such combined expeditions ; and he has, therefore, been minute in the detail of them.

THE Narration of Naval and Military Services, commences with the year 1727, where the celebrated Dr. Campbell, in his *Lives of the Admirals*, leaves off ; and it is meant to be continued to the year 1789. The volumes at present published proceed as far as 1788. The sequel is in great forwardness ; and if the Public shall approve of what is now laid before them, the rest, consisting of more recent and newer materials, will soon after follow.

WITH respect to Naval Transactions, his intention is to be full and complete ; giving a particular account, not only of the operations of fleets and squadrons, but noticing every action fought by single ships, and every instance of meritorious naval service. Such minuteness he deems essential to his plan : and he thinks it may prove highly beneficial to his country. It is not the magnitude of the object that makes courage or zeal more truly meritorious, though it may render it more apparent ; and the private Captain, in fighting even a sloop of war, may manifest that professional skill and ability, which shall hereafter point him out to his country, as qualified to be entrusted with her highest and most important commands.

UPON

UPON this occasion, he begs leave to return his sincere thanks to those Gentlemen who received his enquiries, respecting particular services, with so much civility, and answered them with so much politeness, and in a manner, in general, so satisfactory to him. He flatters himself, that none who considered his motives for making the request, could possibly be offended with the liberty he had taken.

THAT the narration might not be too much incumbered, he has, in the text, omitted the description of places, most of the public letters, capitulations, naval and military returns, lines of battle, &c. &c. But, as he holds such particulars to be essential, for the complete information of the reader, he has carefully collected them, and placed them chronologically, in a copious Appendix, to be referred to at pleasure.

SUCH is the plan of the Work. With regard to the style, the Author meant to be plain, and wished to be perspicuous. In the collection of materials, he has been assiduous, and, he hopes, successful. To Britain, no subject can be of equal importance with her Navy. Its history, from the æra at which these Memoirs commence, has hitherto been defective; principally from the want of information in those authors who have
at

attempted its continuation. To supply that information, is the great object of the present Work; and by so doing, to rouse the attention of Britain to her Navy, which must for ever be the bulwark of her strength, and the tower of her glory.

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