

THE
MONTHLY
MAGAZINE;

OR,
BRITISH REGISTER;

Including

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| MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS FROM CORRESPONDENTS, ON ALL SUBJECTS OF LITERATURE AND SCIENCE. | ACCOUNT OF ALL NEW PATENTS. |
| MEMOIRS OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS. | LIST OF NEW BOOKS AND IMPORTATIONS. |
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| REVIEW OF ENGLISH, GERMAN, AND FRENCH LITERATURE. | REPORT OF AGRICULTURE, &c. |
| | REPORT OF THE WEATHER. |

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To the Editor of the Monthly Magazine.

SIR,

IN your Magazine for March and June last, you have published letters from Mr. Browne Mostyn and J. W. on the subject of the Papers formerly in possession of the Scotch College, at Paris. What follows seems a proper sequel to these letters, as it tends to rectify some mistakes admitted through inadvertence or misinformation. The reader is desired to direct his attention, in the first place, to Mr. B. Mostyn's letter in your Magazine for March. What James II. deposited in the Scotch College, at Paris, was not entrusted to Principal Gordon, but to Principal Lewis Innes. Principal Gordon, born in 1711, was instituted Principal of the Scotch College in 1755, and could not therefore be the confidential agent of James II. who died in 1701; nor could he be the person entrusted, in the first instance, with the deposit.

This deposit consisted—first, Of James II.'s Memoirs, giving an account of all public and private transactions which came to his knowledge, or in which he, from the age of 15 to 1688, was personally concerned. These Memoirs make up four thin folio and six thin quarto volumes, in James' own hand writing, and in the form of a diary.

2dly. Of two thin quartos, containing some letters from Charles I. and his Queen, but principally from Charles II. to James, while Duke of York.

3dly. Of two Thick quartos, containing letters to James, while at Brussels and Edinburgh, from his friends in England. This was the whole of the deposit made by James II. and was only part of the collection sent from Paris to St. Omer's, in the beginning of 1793. This collection comprised besides—first, A thin folio of original letters from Mary, Queen of Scots, to Beatoun, archbishop of Glasgow, her ambassador at the court of France, with her last will, in six folio pages, in her own hand-writing.—2dly

Many charters granted by different Scottish kings, from David I. to James V, —3dly. Several old books, printed or manuscript, besides the two which Mr. B. Mostyn reserved for himself.—4thly. A thick manuscript folio, the Scotch College Register, from 1321, the year of its foundation, to 1730. The two immediately preceding articles were the property of the Scotch College, totally unconnected with James II.'s deposit.

This detail of the collection sent from Paris to St. Omer's is given, in order to remove a mistake which runs through the whole of Mr. B. Mostyn's letter. It seems there to be taken for granted, that every article of that collection was deposited by James II. in the Scotch College.

The motive for sending this collection from Paris to St. Omer's, was not an apprehension of danger to which it might be exposed in Paris, and from which it would be exempted in St. Omer's. It was sent to the latter place, with a view of conveying it thence to Great Britain. But granting that there removal was a proper measure, there was an unfortunate delay either at Paris or St. Omer's; for war broke out between Great Britain and France, before the conveyance of the collection—from St. Omer's to Great Britain was attempted.

The reader will now be pleased to cast his eye on J. W.'s letter, in your Magazine for June. The letter contains almost as many mistakes as words. Mr. Carte had not an allowance of a thousand, but of a hundred a year; not from noblemen and gentlemen, but from the University of Oxford, and for the purpose of writing the History of England, not of transcribing the papers in the Scotch College relating to English history. Mr. Carte, it is true, being a keen Jacobite and a staunch nonjuring clergyman, had leave to make extracts from James II.'s Memoirs. These extracts he left by his will to his widow, on whose decease they were to be de-

posited in the Bodleian library, or some library of the Oxford University.

From Carte's widow, or Mr. Jerningham, her second husband, Mr. Cadell, it is said, for 200l. procured Mr. Macpherson the use of these extracts, when composing his History. The whole, at least the most material parts of these extracts, are to be found printed in the appendix to that History; the original extracts, in Carte's hand-writing, are now at Oxford.

It is to be observed, that Carte made his extracts not in the words of James's Memoirs, but in his own; and that he often compressed in a few lines whole pages of the original. Hence his extracts are of much less value than they would have been, had they been presented to the reader literally, as expressed by James. In this last shape they would have supplied, in some degree, the loss of the original Memoirs.

London, June 18, 1804.

A TRIP