Life and Character of Humphry Parsons
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May 2 1761
The Hon. and Worshipful Humphry Parsons, Esq. true Lord Mayor of London.
THE LIFE AND CHARACTER
Of the Right Honourable
Humphrey Parsons, Esq;
Who died Lord Mayor of London.
W I T H
Some MEMOIRS of his FAMILY,
Never publish'd before:
And the ACCOUNT of
The ELECTION, and CEREMONIES observed of Swearing in of a New LORD MAYOR, for the remaining Part of the Year.

By an Impartial Hand.

L O N D O N:
Printed for B. Cole, the Corner of King's Head Court, Holborn. 1741.
THE LIFE AND CHARACTER

Of the Right Honourable

Henry Pelham, Esq.

Who held Long, Mayor of London,

WITH

Some MEMOIRS of his PRAISE,

Never published: besides

And the ACCOUNT of

The Election and CEREMONIES attend

of Swearing in of a New LORD MAYOR,

for the Command of the City.

By an Impartial Hand.

LONDON,

Printed for H. Carter, the Corner of King's-Place, and

Sell'd, A.M.D.C.XXVII.

1727.
THE
LIFE
AND
CHARACTER
Of the Right Honourable
Humphrey Parsons, Esq;
Who died Lord Mayor of London.
WITH
Some MEMOIRS of his FAMILY,
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And the ACCOUNT of
'The Election, and Ceremonies observed
of Swearing in of a New Lord Mayor,
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By an Impartial Hand.

LONDON:
Printed for B. Cole, the Corner of King's Head
Court, Holborn. 1741.
(Price 6d.)
THE
LIFE
AND
CHARACTER
Of the Right Honourable
Henry Peter Carter, Esq.
Who held Lord Mayor of London
With
Some MEMOIRS of his Family,
Never before printed before.
And the ACCOUNT of
The Election and Confirmation of
the Swearing in of a New Lord Mayor,
for the remaining Part of the Year.

By an Impartial Hand.

LONDON,
Printed for R. Caro, the Comet of Agnes, Mill
Conduit, Holborn, 1750.
(Raise of.)
THE LIFE AND CHARACTER

Of the Right Honourable

Humphrey Parsons, Esq;

Who died Lord Mayor of London.

S it is the kindest Thing that the World can do by their Memo-
ries, to forget the Conduit of some Men, and say nothing a-
bout them when dead, who have made a Figure in Life, and acted
in high and honourable Stations among us; as doing this, we say, would be the greatest Favour

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we could shew to the Name and Posterity of those, who have left no Memorials behind them of their Behaviour in either publick or private Life, but what they ought to be cursed or abhorred for; so it would be injurious to the Deserving, and an unworthy Return for Benefits and Services done the Community by any valuable Member of it, not to record, when he himself is no more, the great or good Actions which gain'd him the Affection and Applause of his Country, when living.

This is a Debt we often owe, and therefore ought to pay; we owe it to such when deceas'd, who, when living, have purchased it at our Hands; we owe it to the surviving Offspring of such, as a grateful Acknowledgment which ought to be made to them of the Obligations we were laid under by those, who can no longer receive any Tribute of Praise from us themselves; but, by their Deaths, have transferred whatever of this Sort was their due, to the worthy Heirs of their Virtues and Fortunes; and this is a Debt we owe to ourselves; for if we would be just to our own Characters, and free from the heinous Charges of Ingratitude and Injustice, we ought, as far as it is in our Power, to hand down to Posterity, as deserving their Regard, and most worthy of their Imitation, a full and faithful Memorial of their Lives and Behaviour, who have made the Honour of their Country, and Prosperity of their Fellow-Subjects, the principal Motive of their
their Actions; who have devoted their Days to publick Good, and made every View and Interest of their own, subservient to the Interest of the general Welfare.

These, and these alone, are the irresistible Inducements to the following Publication; to attempt the doing Justice to an amiable Character; to rescue it from the Reproach of malicious Tongues, and become a Bar to licentious Pens; to paint in its proper Colours, and set in a true Light a just Pattern of Patriotism, and of a glorious publick Spirit; at once to do Justice to Desert, and pay a lasting Regard to the Memory of him, who, as far as 'twas within his Reach, was so much a general Friend and Benefactor to Mankind, that whoever could plead Merit or Necessity to him, was always sure of suitable Returns from him; these, and these alone, we say, are our chief Engagements for producing to the World, collected in Form, and at one View, the Transactions of a Series of Years, the Recital of which must do honour to him, who was greatly concerned in them; to him, who was highly valued when living, and is now as much lamented when dead.

What has already been offered towards justifying our Conduct in laying before the Public the Memoirs contained in the subsequent Sheets, we doubt not will prevail, with the Town in general (at least with that part of it which wise and good Men would be most careful
careful to oblige) to approve of an Undertaking so consistent with Justice, Honour, and Truth, as that of laying open to general Inspection and Examination, the Behaviour of a Gentleman, whom to consider as a private Person, or in his judicial Capacity, either as a Man or a Magistrate, has set us a Pattern, by his past Management, which if adhered to, made the Measure of a future Conduct, and judiciously copied after, must render him, who will be so wise as to tread in his Steps, beloved and honoured; bless’d by the Poor, esteem’d by the Rich; valuable in private, and a Happiness to the Public; and instead of the Name of such a one’s being blotted out, or his Memory left to rot, as is the deserved Portion of the Worthy and Wicked, the Name and Memory of one thus truly good and great, shall be, as they ought to be, in everlasting Remembrance.

That we might contribute our utmost to render this the Cafe of a Gentleman, worthy the lasting and most distinguish’d Respect, which the Citizens of London could shew him whilst living, or pay to his Remains when dead, is the last Part of the Apology we have to make for our Researching of the Records of the Family of our late Lord Mayor, for the Review we have taken of his Life, and for laying the Discovery we have thereby made, fit for the Perusal of the Public, before the Public; we shall therefore without further Intro-
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Introduction, enter upon an historical Part, which we heartily wish, had Heaven thought fit, might have been a Part reserved, for a Hand, at least, yet in Infancy to have executed.

But that the Reader may be the better able to judge whether we wish in this Particular as we ought to do, we shall endeavour to present him with as impartial a History of the Life and Actions, and disinterestedly endeavour to draw as just a Character, of the worthy Magistrate, whose Death has given rise to this Narrative, as either of these is in our Power to produce.

The City of London was lately in Tears for the Loss of a valuable Magistrate, and a most useful Member of her Community; and she had not buried one Alderman so long, but that his Ashes were still far from being cold in his Grave, when, by another fatal Stroke, she is called upon to mourn a second Loss, great and poignant as the former; and rather more so, as less expected; and attended with some uncommon Circumstances, and such, as the Case of the other was wholly devoid of.

To mention at present no other, the first had been Lord Mayor of the Metropolis of the Kingdom, the latter was so, when he died: They came into the World, almost, together; and together, almost, went out of it; so that the Year 1675 produced, at least, two Persons who proved most serviceable Members of the Commonwealth; as upright Magistrates as
as ever the City of London could boast of; and who were as well beloved by the Citizens in general, and as well deserved the Affection and Regard shewn them, as any Gentlemen, acting in their Sphere, ever met with, or could ever desire to meet with.

The Year 1675, gave Birth to Mr. Alderman Barber, who died in January last; and to the late Right Hon. Humphrey Parsons, Esq; Lord Mayor of London, who on the 27th of last Month was carried to the Grave. His Lordship survived his Friend, and Brother Alderman, not time enough to get over his Concern for his Death, when he himself became a Prey to the inexorable Conqueror, who makes no Difference between Demerit and Desert, but lays the Worthy and the Worthless, equally in the Dust.

But to refer the mournful Subject to its more proper Place, let us view our late Lord Mayor entering upon Life, and follow him through it to the silent Tomb.

Humphrey Parsons, Esq; was born, as we have observed, in the Year 1675, and was the third Son of John Parsons, Esq; afterwards Sir John Parsons, being knighted by that unfortunate Prince King James the Second, for whom whilst living, and for whose Memory when dead, Sir John retained an Affection to his own dying Day.

In 1688, the Year that the Revolution, by means of the Prince of Orange, afterwards King

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King William the Third, took place, Sir John served Sheriff of London and Middlesex, along with the well known Sir Basil Firebras, and in 1704, he was elected Lord Mayor of London; and his Behaviour in each Station gave general Content.

Sir John, who had a great Number of Children, twenty or more, and all by one Lady, had two Sons elder than his Son Humphrey, they were John and Henry; but neither of these behaved in a Manner, at that time of Day, agreeable to his Expectations and Wishes: The Eldest died before his Father, but Henry survived him many Years, and lived to be the Father of many Children; to overcome all the Misfortunes he fell into in Sir John's Lifetime; and to get an Estate, which he left divided among his numerous Family.

'John the eldest Brother being dead, this his Son Henry, who was then the oldest living, was introduced to the World in a handsome Manner: He had served his Time to a Biscuit Baker, and his Father set him up for himself in Virginia Street, and giving him a sufficient Competency to begin, and go on with, he fell into a large Way of Dealing, and might, 'tis said, had he been but tolerably careful, have succeeded very well in it; but whether he was to be blamed or not, we shan't determine, perhaps we can't; this we are sure of, 'tis none of our Business to do it, if we could: However that Case might be, 'tis certain Mr. Henry Parsons
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Parsons failed, and was obliged to knock off his Biscuit baking Business, and make up his Matters as well as he could; this ill Success of his two Sons was a fore Affliction to Sir John, and he seemed to lay it very much to Heart; he had built a fine Bake-house, with suitable Conveniences, and all very handsomely finish'd, in Virginia-street, as we have observed, and to find all his Views disappointed, and himself so soon frustrated in all his Hopes, proved, as he used to say himself, the greatest Misfortune that ever befell him in his Life; and he lamented it to his dying Day; though, as has been hinted, Mr. Henry Parsons overcame all his Misfortunes, and, through the Favour of some Gentlemen of great Distinction in the present Administration, liv'd to get an Estate, which his Children are now in Possession of: By the Regards of those Gentlemen for him, he became Purveyor of Bread for Chelsea College and Greenwich Hospital; was many Years one of the Commissioners of the Victualling-Office, and Member of Parliament for Malden in Essex; as he was at the Time of his Death, which happened in his grand Climacterick, December 29, 1739.

But to return; the ill Success, or ill Management, (be it which it might, and perhaps not a little of both) of his two elder Sons, and especially of his Son Henry, who as his elder Brother was in his Grave, so he was dead, as it were to the World, determined Sir John to give
give his third Son the same Chance he had given his Brothers, of becoming the Head of the Family and his Favourite. Humphrey was now the Hopes of his Father, and Sir John turned his Eyes wholly towards him; having initiated him by degrees into the Knowledge and Management of his own Business, he was so well pleased and satisfied both with his Conduct and Capacity, that he very soon put him in sole Manager for him of his whole brewing Trade, which was then as it is still very large and extensive: This was a great Trust committed to him; though for young a Man he had the sole Charge and Care of a Brew-house, before which, for sixty Years together, had been looked upon to be the largest Brew-house in or about London, which had been supported by a single Bottom; but he proved equal to the Weight laid upon him, and his Father's Wifhes, soon made himself compleatly Master of the Business, and by his Integritv, unwearied Application and Diligence, not only gain'd the thorough Possession of his Father's Heart, but proved the Faithfullest and the best Steward for Sir John, that he could possibly have put the Management of his Affairs into the Hands of: He was true to, and tender of his Father. So that the old Gentleman had all the Profits, but what he was pleased to part with; but none of the Trouble of the Brew-house, fell to his Share, in his advance of Life, for many Years before he died; and now be-
The Life and Character of the

ing very aged, he was very desirous of seeing this his dutiful, most valuable Son, fully settled and firmly established in the World, before he died; and accordingly Sir John looks out for a young Lady for him of Merit, Family and Fortune, suitable to the Age, Descent, and Deserts of his own Son; and to his own Designs of doing for him; and finding one every way agreeable to his own, as well as his Son’s Wish, the Marriage was proposed, and the Proposal accepted of, and in proper Time the Ceremonial was completed, which was the Year after Sir John died.

This was in the Year 1719, when our late worthy Lord Mayor married his present disconsolate Widow: This Lady who is now in Sables and in Tears, mourning the irreparable Loss of one of the best of Husbands that ever lived, the Husband of her Youth, the Object of her first Affection, and to the last of her dearest constant Love, was at that Time in the Bloom of Youth and Beauty; and they were both of them happy in the Possession of their mutual Choice; the Lady Parsons was a Daughter of Sir Ambrose Crawley, who was dead when she married, but her Mother the Lady Crawley was living; she brought a Fortune of ten thousand Pounds at first, which has been greatly enhanced since, as is more particularly taken notice of, in a more proper Place.

Sir John having contracted his Son, in Mar-

riage
riage thus greatly to his own Satisfaction, and persuaded he would be made happy in a Wife, contributed his Part to the Increase and Continuance of their Happiness when it should take place; he gave up the Business entirely to his Son, made him equal in Fortune to the carrying on of so grand and weighty a Concern, and even quitted his great House, adjoining to the Brewhouse, for the more agreeable Reception and Accommodation of the intended Bride: and took for himself a House in Wellclose-Square; here he lived about two Years, and having provided for his younger Children in his Will, he died in the Year 1718, leaving our late Lord Mayor sole Executor, and all his real and personal Estate, every Shilling and Shilling's worth, he had in the World, which he had not given away, or disposed of before, by the said Will.

Mr. Henry Parsons the elder Brother came in for the Lease of the four Markets, which Sir John held of the City of London; and Sir John thinking it a sufficient Provision for him, who had had so much of him before, did not think fit to encrease it by any additional Legacy.

Our late worthy Lord Mayor, thinking he could not shew too great a Regard for the Remains of so kind and good a Father, buried him in a most sumptuous Manner, and with great funeral Pomp and Solemnity deposited him
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him in the Family Vault in the Church at
Aldgate.

But before we have entirely done with Sir
John Parsons, we must tell one Story of him,
the Truth of which may be depended upon,
Tho’ we not remember to have seen it upon Re-
cord: When Sir John was Lord Mayor, which
as we have mentioned was in 1704, he fell in-
to the Hands of a Press Gang, and in the fol-
lowing Manner:—Sir John, tho’ Lord Mayor,
as his Custom had ever been to mind his
Brewery and visit his Customers, was deter-
mined still to do both, whenever, without in-
terfering with the Duty incumbent upon him
as chief Magistrate of the City, he had any Op-
portunities to do so, and upon all such Occa-
sions he was suitably dressed: Accordingly go-
ing early one Winter’s Morning by himself
with a Brewer’s Apron on, to speak to a Vic-
tualler, who lived in Ratcliff-Highway, a Press-
gang met him; one of which clapping hold
of him, bawls out—Ab, dear Jack, I am glad
to see you, my Boy; Sir John, at first did not
know what he meant, and began to think that
he really knew him, by having his Name so
pat, and that Tar-like he had a Mind to be
merry with him; but the Lieutenant coming
up soon explained the Matter; for Jack Tar,
says to him, Captain, here is an honest Mese-
mate of mine, I have been so happy as to meet
with this Morning, who is a brave honest Fel-
low;
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low, an excellent Sailor, and will do gloriously for us; and then swears by his Maker that he had been his Mess-mate abroad up the Mediterranean, for four Years together in King William's Reign; finding this to be the Case, Sir John was determined to punish this impudent Fellow, and therefore did not discover who, or what, he was; but seemed rather to be uneasy at being detained, and willing to get away.

The Lieutenant did not appear to like it much; he did not think all the Fellow swore was true, or that Sir John look'd much like a common Sailor, tho' in a common Dress; and therefore put it to the Fellow several Times, whether he was not mistaken; whether he was sure that was the Man he meant; upon which the Fellow redoubled his Oaths, and swore it over and over again that he had been his Mess-mate four Years, that he was not mistaken, that they had drank many a Cann of Flip together; and that he knew him as well as he knew his own Right-hand. Why then, says the Lieutenant at last, if the Case be so, you must go along with us, Friend; her Majesty wants Sailors, and this Man knows you to be a Sailor; therefore come along I can't help it; Sir John upon this, being determined that he and his Mess-mate should not part so, says to the Lieutenant, Mayn't we go in here and drink, 'tis a cold Morning, before we go any farther; pointing to the very House he was to have called at; Aye,
Aye, my Lad, says he to the Gang, let us drink here with all my Heart; so in they go, Sir John and all; and he took as much Care as he could that his Mefs-mate should not be very near the Door, to run away when he came to know who he was; for Sir John knew that the Landlord would call him my Lord, and discover him as soon as he saw him: And accordingly he did so.

At first the Lieutenant thought that he had called him my Lord, in joke, and he says to him, do you know this honest Fellow, Sir? Know him, says the Landlord, know who? why this Man, says he, whom you call my Lord; but before he could give an Answer to his last Question, Sir John interposed; bold, says Sir John, the Person you have pressed is the Lord Mayor of London; but I don't blame you, you have done but your Duty; and are to be commended rather than blamed; but that honest Mefs-mate of mine, who has sworn so many false Oaths upon the Occasion, I must reckon with, and therefore I charge you at your Peril not to let him escape: Upon which he was immediately secured; the Lieutenant and the rest of the Men heartily begg'd Pardon, which Sir John not only readily granted them, but treated them all very handsomely; as he did the impudent Fellow according to his Desert, for he sent for a Constable, and committed him to Bridewell for two Months, where he received the utmost Correction of the House.

And
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And thus having entirely done with the Father we come back to the Son: In the Year 1719, as above, our deceased Lord Mayor married his surviving Lady, and the Nuptials had not been many Months celebrated, but a Damp had like to have been put to their Joy, by a dreadful Fire at St. Catherine's, which consumed the Brewhouse, and several Storehouses with Malt and Beer, and other Things of Value, to the Amount of several thousand Pounds; but the Damage was repaired by the Goodness of the Lady Crawley, who, the very next Morning sent her Daughter a Present of ten thousand Pounds, towards making up the Loss; and came herself in the Afternoon to pay her a Visit, and know if that Sum was sufficient to do it.

This Addition to the Lady’s Fortune, and what Lady Crawley bequeathed farther to her, at her Death, made the whole amount, as ‘tis generally reported, to thirty thousand Pounds.

From his first setting out in the World our late Lord Mayor was beloved by his Fellow Citizens; he began, as he behaved to the last, by doing every thing in his Power to recommend himself to their general Acceptance, and deserve their Love; and the first Time that he trusted to their Affection for him, in any Affair, worth troubling the Publick with here, he carried his Point.

This was in the Year 1720-1, when he set up for Alderman of Portsoken Ward, and was chosen
chosen accordingly; and very much to the Satisfaction of the Ward then, and its Benefit afterwards; for he never forgot his Obligation to the Ward, or ever spared any Pains or Expense to shew that he did not.

Being Alderman he soon became much more popular than he was before; and gained ground every Day, by his open, free, and generous Behaviour with the Gentlemen of the Livery; who to try his Interest with them a second Time, he became a Candidate for the Sheriff of London and Middlesex, when he met with his former Success, and was elected accordingly, together with Sir Francis Child, in the Year 1723.

This Office he discharged with great Honour; with much Reputation to himself, and equally to the Satisfaction of the Liverymen and Citizens of London in general; and he could not be said to have gained more good Will in his own Ward, by his Money, Acts of Kindness and Benevolence done in that, than he lastingly secured to himself from the whole City, for his just and candid Discharge of his Duty in this new Station; so that he who was the Darling of a Part only, became now the Darling of the whole City; universally beloved, and huzza'd thro' the Streets, whenever he passed upon any publick Occasion.

But his Interest was not confined to London, nor the Affection of the People for him; and at the general Election of Members of Parliament...
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ment, for the second Parliament, of the late King George the First, he was returned for Harwich, and took his Seat in the House accordingly.

Coming back to London after this Election, he was met by a great many Coaches and Gentlemen on Horseback to congratulate him upon his Success, and conduct him to Town in State; and never was greater Joy shewn upon such an Occasion, in every Place he passed thro', when the People came to know who he was; but that which was most extraordinary was the Cavalcade form'd by the Watermen from the Tower, St. Catherine's and Places adjacent; a thousand almost of these, went as far as Stratford beyond Bow to meet him, with upwards of a hundred Boats or Wherries, carried upon their Shoulders, and dressed up with Streamers, Pennants, &c. in short both the Men and their Boats were in their Holiday Cloaths, and together they made a very gay and a pleasing Appearance; their Acclamations reached the Skies; and many thousands of People joining them as they came along, so filled the Road, that it was scarce passable to any but themselves; they attended the Alderman to his own House, where, according to his wonted Generosity, he treated them with Plenty of Liquor and other Refreshments, and dismissed them highly pleased with their Entertainment.

His Behaviour in Parliament was perfectly agreeable to his Electors at Harwich, and whilst
whilst he was acting for their Interest in particular, he endeavoured to shew himself in the true Interest of his Country in general, a real Friend to Liberty, to the Rights and Privileges of his Fellow Citizens, and Fellow Subjects, to Monarchy, and, in a Word, to our happy Constitution in Church and State; and so happy was he in conducting himself agreeable to the Sentiments of wise and honest Men, at home as well as at a more remote Distance, that he never had any Occasion after his having served in this one Parliament for Harwich, of going to that, or applying to any other Corporation, for a Seat in the House: His Interest was now sufficiently strong and established in the Metropolis of the Kingdom; his Neighbours had been Witnesses to his Behaviour, both within Doors and without, and they highly approved of both; too well indeed to allow any other Place to deprive them of so faithful and valuable a Trustee, and were resolved to commit the Care of their own Affairs in Parliament to him, in Partnership with his Friends; pursuant to which Resolution, at the General Election of Members for the next Parliament, which was the seventeenth Parliament of Great Britain, which was in the first Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, he was elected a Representative for the City of London; and as such he continued to the Day of his Death, as in all Probability he would have done, if we may be allowed to judge
Rt. Hon. Humphrey Parsons, Esq; judge by the great and general Affection of the worthy Liverymen of London for him, as long as he could have been able to have been serviceable to his Country in that honourable Station.

The latest Testimony they have given of this, was at their General Meeting, some Months ago, at Vintners-Hall, when by their unanimous Consent he was nominated a Candidate for a Representative of the City at the next General Election, which is now at hand; and of his missing of becoming such, had he survived the Time of Election, there is not the least Probability.

Having been Alderman and Sheriff, according to the usual Rotation, at that Time in Vogue, it came to his Turn in the Year 1731, when he was chosen for the first Time Lord Mayor of London. In this high Office of Magistracy he acted with the same Uprightness and Candour; that he had done in every Office he had passed thro' before; and preserved his Character, for a just and an impartial Discharge of his Duty; he filled his Post with Honour; and quitted it with an Encrease of Reputation.

All this Time, as he did to his last Hour, he carried on the Brewing Trade, and dealt very largely; and much beyond what his Father Sir John Parsons had done before, both by Sea and Land; he sent a great Quantity of Drink to France, where he was exceedingly valued, and had great Regards paid to himself,
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to his Lady, and to his Family, by the King, and the whole French Court; the late Lord Mayor often went there himself; and his Majesty was very fond of him; he often hunted, and was very familiar with the King; and his Majesty encouraged the vending of the Alderman’s Beer in France, highly to his Satisfaction and Advantage.

But no Man who was acquainted with the late Lord Mayor envied him any of his Acquisitions, or extraordinary Gains; if he got a great deal, he spent a great deal; and gave much away; the Poor shared in all his good Success; and if Losses attended him, as in Trade ’tis impossible but that there must be Losses, and, in so extended a Trade as his, sometimes very great ones, yet their Portion was still the same; they found no withholdings, but his open handed Bounty still extended Relief to their Necessities; the Poor were always sure to find a Friend in him; and he was most their Friend, when they wanted him most; a remarkable Instance of which, there are many living Witnesses to attest the Truth of, and many more who enjoyed the Benefit of his Goodness and Compassion.

During the severe hard Frost, in 1739, besides his usual Charities, and above the ample Relief given every Week, as usual, to the suffering Poor, he gave Five hundred Pounds in less than three Months time to distress’d House-keepers only, whom the Frost kept
Rt. Hon. Humphrey Parsons, Esq.; kept from being able to get any Work; and who must have perished with their helpless Children, had they not been so preserved, through the tenderness and generous Humanity of the late Lord Mayor.

But 'tis Time to draw on to his general Character: Our late worthy and much lamented Lord Mayor, was sincere and undisguised in Heart and Behaviour; he detested a base Action, and was incapable of a mean one; he hated nothing so much as Fraud and Chicanery; he was a Man of great Integrity, and bore a Universal Benevolence towards Mankind; a true English Gentleman; steady to the Interest of his Country in general, but particularly devoted, as he looked upon it his Duty to be, to promote the Trade, Honour and Prosperity; and to maintain the Rights, Liberties, and Privileges of the Citizens of London: He was a true Patriot, and a most eminent Pattern of a glorious Publick Spirit. He was beloved by Persons of all Denominations, in publick and private Life; and no Man ever seemed more to deserve the being so than himself: He was a stranger to Pride; happy in a sweet Disposition of Mind; one of the best tempered Men alive; most ready to forgive Injuries; who never arrested but one Man in his Life, and 'twas most detestable, dishonest Usage of him, which engaged him to Arrest that one: He was a good Magistrate, an indulgent and tender Husband and Parent, and a kind Master:
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After: He spoke but little in Public, but what he did say, though short, was strong and much to the Purpose; and both in Parliament, and in the Court of Aldermen, he never would be biased by Party, or vote inconsistent with his Judgment, and the full Persuasion of his own Mind; so that sometimes he has differed from his Friends in both Places.
As a Magistrate he was strictly just; and never would allow of any private Applications in any Affair which was to come before him in his Judicial Capacity; he administered Justice to all Sides, with Impartiality; and very few ever went away dissatisfied with his Determinations.
Being elected to the high and honourable Office of Lord Mayor, a second time, in 1740, he entered upon it, determined to support the Honour with a Dignity suitable to the being a second time in the chief Magistracy of the City of London; and as he began in a sumptuous, grand Manner, so it was his Resolution to go on in the same, that he might be as Beneficial as possible, in a time of great Deadness of Trade, Scarcity and Want, to his Fellow Subjects; but Providence was pleased to put a most melancholy End to all his great and good Intentions, by striking a Blow, which is not only the City's, but a National Loss.
He caught Cold by coming by Water after hard Riding, which threw him into a Fever, in which Condition he languished for about fourteen
fourteen Days, and then died. He quitted this mortal State for a better, about Seven o'Clock in the Evening, on Saturday the 21st of March, 1740-1, at Grocers Hall, where he kept his Mayoralty, to the inexpressible Loss and Concern of his Family and Friends; and has since been interred, after lying in State, with great funeral Pomp and Solomnity, at Ryegate in Surrey, the Parish his Country Seat stands in.

His Lordship has left a Lady, as we have mentioned, and one Son, and two Daughters, to whom he has disposed of his great Estate, as we are very credibly informed, in the following Manner: The Lady her Jointure; Ten thousand Pounds apiece to his two Daughters; and the Trade, with the Remainder of his Estate and Effects, to his only Son, who is about sixteen Years of Age, and bids fair for inheriting the Virtues, as well as the Fortune, of his most valued Father.

In Conformity to what we engaged for, at setting out, we would give a Summary of the whole Ceremony, and Proceedings of the City of London, upon the Death of a Lord Mayor who happens to die during his Mayoralty, till the chief Magistracy of the City is conferred upon a new Lord Mayor, duly elected, or sworn into the Office; or the Government of the City settled upon the oldest Alderman, or the Father of the City, as he is commonly call'd, for the remaining Part of the Year.
26 The Life and Character of the

Upon the Demise of the Lord Mayor, the Government of the City devolves upon the senior Alderman, who is obliged to summon a Court of Aldermen to meet next Day; even on Sunday, if he pleases, or as soon after as conveniently may be, for the Election of a new Lord Mayor; or to determine whether the senior Alderman, shall continue to govern the City for the ensuing Part of the Year; and according as 'tis carried, by a Majority of Votes, in the Court of Aldermen, the Matter receives an absolute Decision.

The Mace, upon such a melancholy Occasion, as we have lately been witness to, is carried before the Father of the City into Court, but not the City Sword: If the Determination goes in Favour of the Father of the City, little or no Ceremony attends the Matter; he is sworn to a right and faithful Discharge of his Duty, and that's all; but if 'tis resolved to come to a new Election, the Liverymen of London, assembled in Common-Hall, nominate and return two Aldermen, duly qualified, to the Court of Aldermen, one of which, that Court is obliged to choose Lord Mayor for the remaining Part of the Year: And when chosen, he must be approved by the Lord High Chancellor, sworn in at Guildhall; and before the Barons of the Exchequer in the Exchequer Court at Westminster, if Term Time; attended in form by the several Companies, and the Trained Bands, City Barges,
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Barges, &c. as is usual upon a Lord Mayor's Day; but if out of Term, as lately happened, the latter Part of the Ceremony is altered; and the Lord Mayor elect, attended by the twelve Companies only, goes in State to Tower-hill, where, under a Canopy, upon a Stage, erected before the Tower Gate, for that purpose, he is sworn before the Constable of the Tower, an Attorney of the Court of Exchequer attending; and the Militia belonging to the Tower Hamlets being under Arms all the Time: This Ceremony over, the Lord Mayor becomes duly qualified; and enters immediately upon the Execution of his Office: His Lordship returns, in the same State in which he went, to the Place where a sumptuous Entertainment is, at his Expence, prepared for the Company; and the Evening, as usual, concludes with a Ball.

FINIS.
See note on origin of Primos' Family "Notes and Queries," 3 S. xi. 440.