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THE

LIFE

AND

CHARACTER

Of the Right Honourable

Humphrey Parsons, Esq;

Who died Lord Mayor of *London*.

WITH

Some MEMOIRS of his FAMILY,

Never publish'd before:

And the ACCOUNT of

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By an Impartial Hand.

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AS it is the kindeſt Thing that the World can do by their Memories, to forget the Conduct of ſome Men, and ſay nothing about 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

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 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 irreſiſtable 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 Worthleſs and Wicked, the Name and Memory of one thus truely good and great, ſhall be, as they ought to be, in everlaſting Remembrance.

That we might contribute our utmoſt to render this the Caſe 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-

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 poinant 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*,[1] 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

1. See for Father of Sir John, and for his Sister, wife of Wm Hudson of London, Coll. Arms, MS. 6D14, 57.

King *William* the Third, took place, Sir *John* ſerved Sheriff of *London* and *Middleſex*, along with the well known Sir *Bazil Firebraſs*, 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 Life-time; 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 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 ſore 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 befel 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 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 ſo 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 Wiſhes, ſoon made himſelf compleatly Maſter of the Buſineſs, and by his Integrity, 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 being

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 compleated, 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 inhanced since, as is more particularly taken notice of, in a more proper Place.

Sir *John* having contracted his Son in Marriage

riage thus greatly to his own Satisfaction, and perſuaded he would be made happy in a Wife, contributed his Part to the Encreaſe 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

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 Record: When Sir *John* was Lord Mayor, which as we have mentioned was in 1704, he fell into the Hands of a Preſs Gang, and in the following Manner:---Sir *John*, tho' Lord Mayor, as his Cuſtom had ever been to mind his Brewery and viſit his Cuſtomers, was determined ſtill to do both, whenever, without interfering with the Duty incumbent upon him as chief Magiſtrate of the City, he had any Opportunities to do ſo, and upon all ſuch Occaſions he was ſuitably dreſſed: Accordingly going early one Winter's Morning by himſelf with a Brewer's Apron on, to ſpeak to a Victualler, who lived in *Ratcliff-Highway*, a Preſs-gang met him; one of which clapping hold of him, bawls out---*Ah, 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 Meſsmate of mine, I have been ſo happy as to meet with this Morning, who is a brave honeſt Fellow,*

low, an excellent Sailor, and will do glorioufly 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 Mess-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; *hold*, 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 Mess-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

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 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 Expence 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 laſting 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 Parlia-

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 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 ſeventh 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

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,

to

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 with-holdings, 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

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 a tender Huſband and Parent, and a kind Maſter:

ſter: He ſpoke but little in Publick, 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 biaſs'd 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 adminiſtred 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 21*ſt* 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 Solemnity, 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, duely 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.

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 chuſe Lord Mayor for the remaining Part of the Year: And when choſen, he muſt be approved by the Lord High Chancellor; ſworn in at *Guild-hall*; 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, *&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 Parsons' Family.
'Notes and Queries.' 3 S. xi. 440.

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