

**THOUGHTS IN TIMES
PAST TESTED BY
SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

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Thoughts in Times past Tested by Subsequent Events by Duke of Newcastle

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DUKE OF NEWCASTLE

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IN TIMES PAST

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BY

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

LONDON:

T. AND W. BOONE, NEW BOND STREET.

1837.

659.

TO
JOHN
EARL OF ELDON,
SUCCESSIVELY
SOLICITOR AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL,
AND
LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR OF GREAT BRITAIN,
DURING THE EVENTFUL PERIOD FROM 1788 TO 1827.

Jan. 1, 1837.

MY DEAR LORD,

My Collection being printed, I thought the volume completed, until I observed that it wanted a Dedication. Aware of the deficiency, could I doubt how my want was best to be supplied?

To whom could I so aptly look to countenance such opinions as I have maintained throughout the following pages, as to the Earl of Eldon? the “*justam et tenacem propositi virum*”—who, “*intaminatis fulget honoribus: nec sumit aut ponit secures, arbitrio popularis auræ.*”

To you, without permission, I ventured to dedicate my first publication; with your permission, I now dedicate to you what may be my last.

If I look for sanction of the doctrines which I profess and would wish to inculcate, who has exemplified his approval of them so strenuously as he who would have exclaimed—

“ *Quid tristes querimonie,
Si non supplicio culpa reciditur?
Quid leges, sine moribus
Vanæ, proficiunt?* ”

When I revert to my notice of the acts of Mr. Pitt's administration, I do not forget that to the rectitude, the sagacity, the ability, and the firmness of Mr. Pitt's Attorney-General, was mainly owing much of the success which attended his memorable suppression of French revolutionary principles. The licence, not the liberty of the press, was vigilantly restrained within salutary bounds, to rebellion in any shape was justly awarded the punishment due to crime, nor was the sacred duty committed to his trusty charge ever otherwise than fearlessly and inviolably fulfilled by Sir John Scott.

In after times, when his own distinguished

merit pointed him out as the fittest man in the realm to fill the highest office in the state, we find him, as Lord Eldon, rendering his name illustrious, and his office dignified, by the consummate justice and judgment of his decrees, as well as by the profound legal knowledge which made him equally eminent as a practical Statesman, either in the Court, the Cabinet, or the Senate.

To you, then, my Lord, this great nation is most deeply indebted; if I mistake not, it gratefully acknowledges the debt. Its many worthies must ever revere your unshaken patriotism, your unblemished character, your love of justice and mercy, your pure impartiality, your undeviating integrity, your mind able to comprehend all within its grasp, with a soul too high to be unmindful of courtesy and the more amiable emotions of the heart. Thus, "taken for all in all, we may not look upon your like again."

I cannot be suspected of flattery—what could it avail me? "I worship not the rising sun, I sing the man whose race is run." Why then should I forego the gratification of laying even before your eyes, what I conceive to be

he truth, willing as I am to do homage to your character, and in so far as I may be able, to delineate a model worthy of regard and imitation for all future aspirants to official station.

History will amply reciprocate to you that justice which you yourself have so widely distributed to others, and will record your virtues and memorable qualities on a monument more lasting than brass, for "semper honos nomenque tuum, laudesque manebunt," in association with what has been termed God's noblest work, a good, great, and honest man,

To you, the venerated Defender of the Protestant Constitution in Church and State, I now gratefully inscribe this inadequate, though congenial tribute of my heartfelt respect and admiration. That a reflection upon the signal events of your past life may afford the surest hope and consolation for the present and the future, is the sincerest desire of,

My dear Lord,

Your ever obliged and faithful,

NEWCASTLE.

INTRODUCTION.

AT various periods I have published several small tracts, which, when they were written, were intended solely for the public utility; and were intruded upon public notice, not by choice, but from necessity, in obedience to what I considered to be a present and pressing duty. I yielded to the suggestions of duty and of conscience, not without very considerable reluctance, being well aware how little claim I had upon the confidence or attention of my countrymen; who, indeed, had conceived a very general, but most unjust, antipathy to my name and opinions. In venturing therefore to assert those opinions

before the face of a disapproving Nation, I risked the incurrence of still greater odium and increased malevolence, which under other circumstances, might have deterred me from a vain endeavour to stem the rising tide of national fatuity, then setting in to a very alarming degree. But "*non civium ardor prava jubentium*" was, or ought to be, a consideration when stern public duty required the interposition and assertion of known and heretofore acknowledged truths. In short, the trial was made, the experiment hazarded, and the result certainly exceeded my expectations. I do not presume to suppose that any thing falling from a writer so unpractised and so circumstanced, could produce the conviction of any one; but I am inclined to hope and to believe that, what was intended to recall erring minds, to correct mistaken opinions, and to rouse a more genuine and unsophisticated patriotism, was not altogether useless, or ineffectual.

The publications were favourably received, and credit given for sincerity, although my judgment or the correctness of my opinions