

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF  
WILLIAM BRAY, THE SURREY HISTORIAN,  
1756-1800.

*With a Foreword*

BY

F. E. BRAY.

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WILLIAM BRAY was born in 1736 and died on 21st December 1832. His principal work, the *History of Surrey*, had been begun by the Rev. Owen Manning. On Manning's death, Bray continued the work, the three volumes being published in 1804, 1809 and 1814. By the time he had finished his second edition of Evelyn's diary, he was 91, and the portrait in his 97th year, painted by Linnell, shows no sign of impaired faculties.

His works—including the Diary, which (with some omissions) is here reprinted from one of several copies privately printed in 1876—exhibit him as a recorder of facts. The personality of the writer is little in evidence; and it is perhaps significant that one of the comparatively few mistakes in the *History of Surrey* should be in his own pedigree. The table opposite page 522 of the first volume shows a descent from Mary, first wife of the second Sir Edward Bray; but the entry in the baptismal register at Shere on the 1st May 1555 shows that Reginald Bray, from whom the family is descended, was a son of Elizabeth, daughter of William Roper and granddaughter of Sir Thomas More, Henry VIII's Chancellor, recently canonized by the Pope.

William Bray succeeded to the family estates on the death of his eldest brother the Rev. George Bray in 1803. He did not, however, move to the old Manor House of Tower Hill



WILLIAM BRAY, 1832.  
From the painting by John Linnell.

at Gomshall, remaining at his house in Upper Street, Shere, a little below where the footbridge now crosses the road. This house, since divided into two cottages, still remains, and a room on the upper floor with an unusual oval window is pointed out as that in which the history was written.

Memorial inscriptions are not always reliable as estimates of character ; but the tablet in Shere Church has at any rate the merit of compressing a life of 96 years into a few neatly balanced phrases :

“ In extensive practice as a Solicitor and pursuing his antiquarian studies with a zeal and ability rarely excelled, he never forgot his duties to his God which were religiously performed throughout a life as useful and honourable as it was long.”

It appears from the documents quoted below that his duty to his neighbour, at least in so far as this might involve a determined resistance to any encroachment, was also conscientiously performed.

Nearly opposite the memorial to William Bray is another, recording the death of Edmund Shallett Lomax—“ affectionately regretted by his family and friends to whom his society was rendered delightful by his amiable temper, lively wit and cultivated mind.”

Lomax was also a considerable landowner and in about 1790 had built the house now known as Netley Park on a part of his property to which title was derived from a sale in 1643 by an ancestor of William Bray to William and Robert Heath. The deed, whilst reserving to the grantor the seignory and services of the Manor of Gomshall Netley, was expressed as including a grant of “ all the demesne lands . . . and wastes used with the said Manor.”

On the strength of these words Lomax claimed to be the owner of all the wastes of the Manor including a part of Netley Heath adjoining his property and part of the Hurt Wood on the south side of the Valley.

The claim emerges in the course of correspondence in which Lomax complains of some posts erected by Bray to prevent the acquisition of a carriage way. The claim was at once contested :

E. S. LOMAX, ESQ.,

23<sup>rd</sup> July 1804.

SIR,

It has always been my wish to live well with my neighbours, at least without contention and I am really sorry that you will not let me do so with respect to you. . . . I know of no occasion on which I have done you an unkindness. I wish I could say the same by you.

As to your claim on Netley Manor, if you are not satisfied with what you have got, I am ready to meet you on it. If you will order any of your tenants to cut turf and will let me know the day and place so that I may send a witness to prove it, I will bring an action.

I will only add that if we must have any legal disputes I shall be very sorry for it, but they will be conducted on my part in the manner becoming a gentleman.

Your most humble servant,  
W. BRAY.

An undated copy indicates the answer.

W. BRAY, ESQ.,

SIR,

If your wish has been always to live upon good terms with your neighbours you have always taken a very strange method of exemplifying that wish towards me; since, what have I ever attempted for the ornament or improvement of my estate that you have not studied to find out some plea to oppose? . . . As to the Wastes of Netley . . . if you think it just and upright to grasp at a property which your ancestors sold for valuable consideration and to which you therefore can have no honest claim, I must submit to meet you in a Court of Justice.

Lamenting that we cannot be better friends and neighbours  
I remain,

Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
EDMUND SHALLET LOMAX.

To the charge of opposing "improvements," Bray replies in detail:

"When you built your mill . . . when you turned the footpath out of your fields . . . when you began to put up pales . . . when you made a gate in your pales . . . when you made an entry on a meadow . . ." and so on.

Eventually Lomax thinks it "unnecessary to continue an altercation on subjects quite foreign to the matter in dispute" and the parties arrange a meeting on the Waste.

Lomax records the event:

"On the 19th October 1804 I ordered Wm. Purse, Fred Burchatt and Wm. Steer to go to that part of my Waste of Gomshall Netley that lies in the Churt or Hurt Wood, Mr William Bray having signified his

intention of putting up bound marks on that Waste under a pretence that it belonged to him.

At about 11 o'clock I went there myself and as we arrived we saw Mr Bray with Mr T. Woods, Henry Hooker and Skelton. Mr Bray alighted from his horse and taking a spade from the hand of Henry Hooker he dug a hole on the Waste of Netley at the same time saying that he did it as a Proof of his Right to those Wastes. Having so done, I ordered Wm. Purse to fill up the hole that Mr Bray had dug at the same time affirming that Mr Bray was asserting a claim to a property to which he could have no title, for that the Wastes of Netley belonged to me."

Bray thereupon commenced an action; but there was no trial in open Court, as the sons of the litigants, Edmund Lomax the younger and Edward Bray set to work to compose the differences. Letters from Edmund Lomax (himself a barrister) to his father throw some light on the negotiations :

"I did not mention yesterday that I had shewn your letter to Edward. Its conciliatory style appeared to convince him that you were really desirous of putting an end to the litigation and induced him to speak with the candour and frankness you have observed. . . . They have no deeds, Mrs Jenny Heath having thrown a large bundle into the fire in a passion and accused her husband of ruining the estate. They have letters of hers which mention a reconveyance. . . . We must now act with the candour of gentlemen instead of the honour of lawyers. . . . Edward will meet you or me, but we think it better that you and his father should not come in contact till all is settled."

The compromise arranged was that Lomax should actually get what he really wanted, Netley Heath freed from any claims by Bray as Lord of the Manor, and should give up all claims to any other Wastes. An arbitrator was to decide the legal rights of the parties and fix a sum to be paid by Lomax if Bray was right, and, in the other event, a sum to be paid by Bray.

As a result of the arbitration, it was Lomax who had to pay.

There is nothing in the bundle of documents from which we have quoted to show whether the parties were afterwards "better friends and neighbours"; but there is a hint of some further claim by Lomax thirty years later to part of the Waste in the Hurt Wood as belonging to the supposed Manor of Sutton. By this time William had been succeeded by his grandson, another Edward, who deals with the claim in a different style :

"I am not the Pope and consequently may be wrong—all I want is to settle the matter. I had sooner be beaten to a mummy than be in doubt, and shall be quite ready to celebrate your victory (when you have won it) at a dinner given by the Lord of the Manor of Sutton at Netley."

Lomax's claim was not pursued.

The documents quoted above were accidentally left behind when Netley Park was sold in 1927. They were found by the purchaser, a great-great-grandson of William Bray, and his wife, a great-great-granddaughter of Edmund Shallett Lomax.

## EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF WILLIAM BRAY, ESQ.

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### *Editor's Note.*

Most of the places referred to in the Diary can be located, but there are a few which cannot. It would be interesting to determine the position of the Artillery Ground, the Velvet Walk, Cross Lanes, the Bowling Green and Ganghill Common. Perhaps some of our readers can help us to identify these places. Also "the Western Bridge," the starting-point from which the Writer used to drive to Guildford from London.

What makes these extracts specially interesting is the glimpse they give of day to day life in Guildford in the eighteenth century. It is noteworthy that the Writer concerns himself almost exclusively with local and personal matters. There are hardly any references to world events. In matters of this kind his attitude seems to be as detached and aloof as that of characters in Jane Austen's novels.

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### 1756

*Jan. 1st.*—Called on Miss Stevens<sup>1</sup> this morning. With Mr. Boughton and Shotter to Mr. Shrubb's at Shalford, to spend the evening. We played at loo, came home a little after 11.

<sup>1</sup> Whom he afterwards married. She was the daughter of Mr. Stevens, of Perry Hill, Worplesdon, and lived with her aunt, Mrs. Norwood, at Guildford. She was two years older than Mr. Bray, who was then only two months past 19.

7th.—Drank tea at Mrs. Westbrook's. Mr. and Mrs. Fortery there: they played at quadrille. I went home for an hour, and went again, played and supped there. Home a little before 12.

9th.—Carried Mr. Haydon his appointment as a Trustee of the Turnpike; he gave me 5s. After the meeting the trustees went to Mr. P. Flutter's;<sup>1</sup> they sent for me about 8, to play at cards.<sup>2</sup> I played at whist with Mr. Flutter, Mr. J. Martyr, and Mrs. Flutter; won every game. Home about one; won 3s. 6d.

10th.—Mr. Duncumb<sup>3</sup> dined here. He and I went to Mrs. Wilpley's,<sup>4</sup> but she not being at home, we went to the "White Hart" and spent the evening, and supped there.

12th.—With Mr. Martyr in his postchaise to London, to Clare, and drank tea with him. To Drury Lane playhouse, but could not get in, so we went to the Robin Hood Society, and stayed till after 10. The question was, whether the increase of unmarried people was owing to the men's greater bashfulness, or women's greater coyness, than formerly.

13th.—Went to Drury Lane house; "Tancred and Sigismunda." Garrick, *Tancred*; Mrs. Cibber, *Sigismunda*.

14th.—To Covent Garden, "Orpheus and Euridice."

15th.—Drank tea at Mrs. Emily's;<sup>5</sup> played at cards. Home at 11.

16th.—Came home with Mr. Martyr in his new chaise by 6.

18th.—Dined at Mr. P. Flutter's; walked up Berry Field with Miss Flutter's, Miss Nancy Steere, and Miss Parson.

22nd.—To Mr. Bullen's to dinner, played at quadrille. Came home about 1.

24th.—Between 6 and 7 with Mr. Duncumb and Mr. Wakeford, to the "Tuns" to drink a glass of wine. Mr. Punter, came in afterwards, Mr. Hallamby, Mr. Stovold and Harry Stovold. Home at 10.

29th.—To the Assembly, but there not being enough to dance,

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Flutter and his brother were Mayors of Guildford more than once, and the name of Flutter appears twice in the list of Mayors in the reign of Charles II.

<sup>2</sup> The writer was then a lad of nineteen.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Duncumb was Rector of Shere. His father had purchased the advowson from Mr. Edward Bray, and was a connection by marriage.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Wilpley was what was then called an Apothecary.

<sup>5</sup> Mr. Emily was his cousin, their grandfathers having married the daughters of Vincent Randyll, of Chilworth. Vincent Randyll married Ann, daughter of Sir Thomas Gould, Alderman of London. Vincent Randyll was the son and heir of Sir Edward Randyll. The latter acquired the manor of Chilworth through his wife, Ann, only daughter of Sir John Morgan, who was knighted by the Earl of Essex for his services in the expedition to Cadiz in 1596. Sir John, who died in 1621, was the son of William Morgan, who died in 1602 and whose tomb is in St. Martha's Church.

Miss Sally Flutter, Miss Parson, Mr. Ford and I sat down to loo, till between 11 and 12.

*31st.*—A man having taken a shop in Stoke, sometime ago, and selling goods vastly under the usual price, Mr. Haydon set up a shop against him, of whom I bought this morning four pair of gloves, at *7d.* a pair; riding gloves, *9d.*; and a pair of other gloves, *8d.*

*Feb. 6th.*—This day being appointed for a public Fast on account of the great earthquake at Lisbon, to Middle Church [St. Marys].

*9th.*—I was bled this morning for the first time. Mrs. Martyr being about to inoculate Master Jacky,<sup>1</sup> and I intended to be inoculated at the same time. Drank tea with Mrs. Wilpley, and read the new farce of "The Apprentice" to her. Gave Mr. Haydon for three pair of white silk stockings, *7s. 6d.* a pair, being *4s.* a pair cheaper than common.

*12th.*—Turnpike meeting. We all dined and spent the evening at Mr. Flutter's. Played at Pope Joan till 12.

*27th.*—This evening, I, Master Jacky, and the maid were inoculated<sup>2</sup> [for smallpox].

*March 5th.*—Master Jacky was taken with the symptoms, and did not come out of his chamber for a week.

*7th.*—I was quite easy this morning, when the smallpox began appearing; a restless night, a slight fever.

*12th.*—I was blind to-day, and continued so till the 16th.

*April 2nd.*—Master Jacky and I went for an airing round the Course, in the chaise, to-day.

*17th.*—To Bramley, breakfasted at the "Jolly Farmer," paid for breakfast, *6d.*

*21st.*—Walked with Miss Molly Flutter and Miss Parson, beyond Cross Lanes.

*29th.*—Drank tea at Mrs. Leeves', with Miss Lavant and Miss More. Walked with them and Miss Leeves up Warwick's Bench and part of Velvet Walk; then played at quadrille. Home 11.

*May 20th.*—Richard the man [servant] went for a week to the Peasemarsch to be aired; he caught the smallpox coming to us. Paid for a cheesecake for Jacky, *1d.*

*22nd.*—War with France<sup>3</sup> proclaimed at Guildford; the soldiers drawn up in arms, and with music went before the Mayor, etc. Went to see the wire-dancer; he tossed the straw very well, he laid a board on the wire and sat on it himself with three children and a dog in full swing; on the whole quite silly.

*23rd, Sunday.*—To Stoke Church, afterwards to the Bowling-

<sup>1</sup> Jacky was Mr. Martyr's son. He was called to the Bar, and lived at Guildford to an advanced age.

<sup>2</sup> The medical charge for the inoculation was *£4 4s.*

<sup>3</sup> This was the beginning of the Seven Years War in which England and Prussia were in alliance against France, Austria and Russia.

green, and had a syllabub<sup>1</sup> with Rawlins, Ford, Mellersh, Mersing, W. Parson, Hallomby, and Elkins. Walked up the Velvet Walk with them.

25th.—Sir Charles Howard reviewed his regiment in the Artillery Ground. With Parvish to the "White Hart," and gave him a bottle of wine, which I owed him for teaching me on the flute.

June 6th, Sunday.—To Lower Church (St. Nicholas); to the "White Hart," with Stares, Harbroe and Mellersh, had some cold tankard. Mellersh and I walked up Warwick Bench; and in the hop-ground at the bottom of Velvet Walk, met Rawlins and Ford, who went with us.

9th.—To the Assembly. Danced with Miss Fanny Yalden who dances very well. Paid Assembly 2s. 6d.; negus, 1s.

10th.—Lost at Bowls, 6d. Called on Miss Yalden, at Miss Roker's. Paid for a lobster for my supper, 3d.

21st.—Went a fishing, with Mr. Adderley and Mr. Mellersh; Miss Sally Flutter went with us; little sport. I got none out of the water.

26th.—Drank tea and supper at Mrs. Leeves'. Played at whist. I won every game.

28th.—To the Bowling-green. Played seven games. Paid for a scarlet waistcoat, £1 1s.

July 11th.—To Shalford Church. Afterwards a syllabub. Miss Flutter, Miss Gardner and I walked to Woodbridge.

Aug. 2nd.—After dinner, asked Miss Jeale and Miss Westbrooks to come and drink a syllabub with me (Mr. and Mrs. Martyr were gone to Chichester),<sup>2</sup> but afterwards Miss Jeale sent me word they could not come, and I must go thither; I did and played at quadrille.

15th, Sunday.—To the Lower Church. Afterwards walked with Mellersh and Ford, Miss Molly and Sally Flutter, and Miss Parson, up Catherine Hill, opposite Mr. Arnold's; then came back, went up town, Mr. Mersing met us, and walked with us as far as Ganghill Common.

Aug. 29th, Sunday.—To Middle Church (St. Mary's). Afterwards to Mr. Weston's, at West Horsley, to dinner. Gave Mr. Weston's servants, 2s.

<sup>1</sup> He was very fond of treating his friends to syllabub. This was a liquor made of wine or cider, mixed with milk and sweetened. Syllabub parties used to be held. The cow, with horns decorated with roses, would be milked in the presence of the company by a pretty milkmaid. The hot milk used to be poured into china bowls in which the wine or cider had already been placed.

<sup>2</sup> He had very little to do at Mr. Martyr's. In the summer he was often at the Bowling-green, and took long walks with his friends, male and female. It was not required that any married lady should join these walking parties. Chaperones were dispensed with.

*Sept. 3rd.*—Mr. Martyr set out at 8 this morning for London. Walked with Miss Molly Flutter and Miss Parson to Chilworth, and fished there. Mrs. Street made us a syllabub.

*22nd.*—To Mr. Street's at Chilworth, with Miss Molly and Sally Flutter to dinner. They finished their hopping to-day. About six we began dancing, two Miss Grenville's, Miss Betsy Smallpeice, Miss Hall, two Stovolds's, and young Hall, Mr. Street and us; there being one woman too many, we changed our partners, and one woman always sat down. We danced till 3 or 4. All lay there.

*23rd.*—Went to see the paper-mills. Dined at Mr. Flutter's. Between 3 and 4 to Mrs. Wilpley's; played at cards till 12.

*28th.*—A Turnpike meeting. Dined there with Mr. Edwards, Mr. Skrine, Mr. Fullerton, Mr. John Vincent, Mr. Henry Flutter and Mr. Pinkney.

*Oct. 8th.*—Miss Flutters, Miss Parson, Ford and Mellersh supped with me. Very merry till 11, had punch, Miss Molly brought rum.

*13th.*—Drank tea at Mr. Jeale's (the Rector), and Mr. and Mrs. Sibthorp there. Played at whist till 11.

*19th.*—Went to see Farnham Castle, which is very badly furnished, the Bishop never being there.

*22nd.*—At 7, went with Ford, Mellersh and H. Parson to the Mayor's (Savage's) to drink the King's health. We were too late for any place, but by the door. Paid 1s.

*29th.*—Walked, with Miss Sally and Fanny Whitehead, to Gang-hill Common.

*Nov. 21st.*—General Blakeney<sup>1</sup> landed yesterday at Portsmouth, and came this evening to the "White Hart." A bonfire and illuminations. The mayor and magistrates went to pay their respects to him. I went into the room with them, and had two glasses of claret. Afterwards sat in the next room with Mellersh, Harbroe, Shutter, Horsenell, Elkins, Clifton, H. Parson, and Buckle, to drink his health, from 8 to half-past 10. Paid reckoning, 1s. 6d. Bonfire, 1d.

*23rd.*—To London with Mr. Martyr. To Covent Garden Theatre; in the pit, paid 3s.

*24th.*—To Covent Garden Theatre: "Henry IV"—*Falstaff*, Mr. Shuter; *Hotspur*, Barry.

*26th.*—Set out at 6 in the Guildford Machine. Breakfasted at Cobham; in about 2. Breakfast, 1s. 1d. Gave the coachman, 6d.

*Dec. 22nd.*—Admiral Byng went through the town this morning

<sup>1</sup> General Blakeney was the hero of the hour. He had defended Fort St. Philip, Minorca, against the French, with great gallantry, and surrendered only when sickness and losses, combined with the exhaustion of his supplies, made further resistance impossible. He would have been able to hold out had Admiral Byng defeated the French fleet and landed the reinforcements and stores he was expecting.

on his way to Portsmouth to take his trial. They tolled the bell, and burnt his effigy on the churchyard-steps.

## 1757

*Jan. 27th.*—Rode the black horse to London. Covent Garden Theatre; "Richard the Third," Barry. Could not get in at Drury Lane.

*Feb. 11th.*—A Fast: no breakfast. To Middle Church.

*17th.*—Mr. Ford and Miss Sally Flutter were married this morning.

*18th.*—Mr. and Mrs. Ford dined here.

*24th.*—Dined at Mr. Ford's with all the Flutters.

*27th.*—To Middle Church. Mrs. Ford made her appearance.

*28th.*—To the Artillery Ground, to see the Hessians<sup>1</sup> exercise, and one of them run the gauntlet.

*May 7th.*—Some people got together at Petworth and thereabouts, and seized some corn belonging to engrossers.

*11th.*—Wheat £20 15s. a load.

*June 21st.*—Paid for half a pint of strawberries for Master Jacky and myself, 1½d.

*Aug. 6th.*—Wheat, under £10.

*Sept. 11th, Sunday.*—A brief<sup>2</sup> for the repair of the groins at Brighthelmstone; paid 6d.

*27th.*—Miss Molly Flutter married to Mr. Chandler.<sup>3</sup>

*Oct. 6th.*—Miss Jeale married to Mr. Maxhill.

*Nov. 7th.*—Paid earnest of coach,<sup>4</sup> 2s. 6d. Wine at the "White Hart," 6d.

*10th.*—Paid remainder for coach, 2s. 6d., coachman, 6d.; dinner at chop-house, 10d.; breakfast on the road, 9d.; coffee in the afternoon, 4d.

*12th.*—To Drury Lane Theatre: "King Lear," by Garrick. Agreed with the barber for shaving me at 6s. a quarter.

*14th.*—To the theatre: Garrick as *Don Felix*, in "The Wonder."

<sup>1</sup> A Hessian regiment was quartered at Guildford for some time. Its band was a great attraction. In running the gauntlet, a form of punishment inherited from the Lanznechts of the Renaissance period, the men were formed in two ranks, facing inwards, and the man to be punished had to run between them, from one end to the other, belaboured by the blows of his comrades using their belts and buckles.

<sup>2</sup> When money was required for any charitable or worthy object, it was customary for the authorities to issue briefs, authorizing collections to be made in churches.

<sup>3</sup> An attorney at Guildford. Grandfather of the Rev. John Chandler.

<sup>4</sup> Being of age and out of his articles to Mr. Martyr, he went to London, and took lodgings there. Mr. Adderley, of New Inn, received him in his chambers for instruction in his profession, but his attendance there was not regular.

23rd.—At 4 to Drury Lane; the King being there to-night, very much crowded. Miss Gunning and her two sisters<sup>1</sup> and a number of people of quality. “The Tempest,” and “Harlequin Ranger”; both very foolish to see. Home at 10.

28th.—I was sworn in to-day in the King’s Bench as an Attorney of that Court. Paid Judges’ clerk, when I went to be examined, 7s.; servant, 1s. Admission on stamp, £6 6s. At 8 with Jenkins and James<sup>2</sup> to the Robin Hood Society. Stayed there till past 9, then went into a room below and stayed till 11.

30th.—Paid 10s. 6d. for entering as a pupil of Mons. Prieur, a French master.<sup>3</sup>

Dec. 1st.—To Covent Garden Theatre. Paid for a fortnight’s board and lodging, £1 4s.; for a bushel of coals, 1s. 2d. Tea at Prosser’s coffee-house, 4d.; wine after dinner, 3d.; a pound of candles, 7d.

9th.—To chambers. Home to dinner. At 4 to Drury Lane Theatre: “The Careless Husband”—*Lord Chalkstone*, Mr. Garrick.

17th.—Jenkins and James came home with me at 7; played at draughts with Jenkins. Afterwards Boughton came and took us to his lodgings; at whist till 11.

21st.—With Boughton and James; mobbed it for the first row of the upper gallery at Drury Lane, which we got.

22nd.—To Drury Lane; an old play of Shirley’s, “The Gamesters,” revived.

25th.—To the Temple Chapel, at the Sacrament. In the afternoon with James and Boughton to the Romish Chapel in Lincoln’s Inn Fields; then to Mrs. Emily’s and drank tea. Home at 8.

27th.—With Boughton to St. Michael’s Church, Cornhill, and heard part of a sermon; afterwards to St. Mildred’s, and heard part of the prayers. At whist with Sibthorpe, Boughton, and Jenkins till near 11.

28th.—To an auction of books<sup>4</sup> at the “Robin Hood.”

## 1758

Jan. 2nd.—To chambers at 4 till past 7; then home; Boughton, Daniel, and Mersing came, and played at whist till 12.

<sup>1</sup> Miss Gunning was one of the three lovely Gunning sisters. Her elder sister Maria married George, Earl of Coventry. Her younger sister Elizabeth married James, Duke of Hamilton.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Jenkins was in Mr. Adderley’s office, and afterwards entered into partnership with Mr. Bray. Mr. James was also in the same office.

<sup>3</sup> He went to his French master for some months, an hour at a time; not regularly.

<sup>4</sup> About this time he bought many books, all at low prices, at stalls and auctions.

The following is written on a slip of paper :

"*Jan. 1st, 1758.*—In my pocket, £1 5s. 5d. ; purse, £17 9s. 6d. ; money laid out for my brother, etc., £2 7s. 7½d. ; due from my mother at Christmas, £2 2s. ; in my card purse,<sup>1</sup> 12s. 2d. ; Bank 3 per cent. Reduced Annuities, £100.

"Of wife and children, debts and taxes clear, £123 16s. 8½d."

*Jan. 29th, Sunday.*—Between 2 and 3 to the Speaker's to dinner ; sat an hour before dinner ; paid the servant, 2s.

*Feb. 19th, Sunday.*—To St. Dunstan's Church. After dinner called on Mr. Maxwell ; then to church at St. Andrew's, Holborn ; called on Mersing ; soon after 4 Sam Ford came in ; I stayed with him till past 7 ; then went home and got my fire lighted, and at 9 they came and stayed till 12.

*21st.*—Took a place in the Godalming Machine.

*22nd.*—To the "New Inn," Western Bridge, soon after 6 ; waited till 7 ; there being eight passengers, they sent a chaise in which I and a gentleman came ; stopped at Cobham ; arrived at Guildford<sup>2</sup> between 3 and 4. Paid coach, 5s. ; breakfast at Cobham, 1s. ; coachman, 1s.

*April 17th.*—At 6 set out in the coach for London. Dined at Kingston ; in about 5. With James and Jenkins to Mr. Boughton's ; at whist till 11. Paid coach and man, 5s. 6d. ; dinner, 2s.

*18th.*—To the play : "The Provoked Husband," Mr. Garrick.

*23rd, Sunday.*—To St. Dunstan's Church ; walked in Lincoln's Inn Gardens ; to Mr. Emily's to dinner ; to the chapel in Russell Court ; walked in the Park ; at Slaughter's Coffee House for half an hour ; at 8 called on Boughton.

*25th.*—To Don Saltero's at Chelsea ; paid for breakfast there, 13½d. ; to Marylebone, played at bowls there ; at 5, Ford came ; he stayed till 7 ; then I went to the "Crown and Rolls."

*May 1st.*—I caught a great cold yesterday ; James and I went home with Jenkins ; at cribbage till 11.

*8th.*—Dined in Butcher Row, 9d. ; went to hear Green, the Methodist, dispute in Fetter Lane—shameful. With Jenkins at cribbage till past 11.

*10th.*—Breakfasted with Mr. Street ; at 11 to the Bank, and sold £25 stock ;<sup>3</sup> at 4 dined with Mr. Adderley at the "White Lion," in Wych Street ; drank tea with Clare ; between 7 and 8 Gordon and I went to Covent Garden : "Miss in her teens," etc. *Fribble*, Mr. Shuter.

*18th.*—Breakfasted at home ; James dined here ; he fetched a pigeon pye ; afterwards to Prosser's, where Pitts came to me ;

<sup>1</sup> Playing at cards almost every night, and always for coin, he had a purse on purpose.

<sup>2</sup> Whilst at Guildford he lodged at Baptist's for 7s. a week. He dined at the "White Hart," for 10d.

<sup>3</sup> He sold this stock to pay £23 12s. 6d. for Viner's "Abridgment of the Law."

at 6 Emily came; we took boat at the Temple, landed at Lambeth, and walked to Vauxhall; supped there. Home about 12; very pleasant evening; paid for supper at Vauxhall, 2s.; going in, 1s.

19th.—Breakfasted at New Exchange Coffee House; dined at Betty's with Mr. Gordon; then to Drury Lane—"The Rehearsal," Bayes, Mr. Garrick; paid for breakfast, 6d.; a letter, 3d.; dinner and wine, 1s. 4d.

20th.—Jenkins, James, and I walked to Marylebone; at bowls till 8; then we went to the "Sugar Loaf" in Bell Yard; wine at Marylebone, 6d.; supper, 4½d.

29th.—James and I walked to Marylebone, bowls there; between 4 and 5 we went to see "Hamlet," by Mr. Garrick.

June 6th.—Got up between 4 and 5; Jenkins and James breakfasted with me at the "Angel"; at 6, set out in the coach for Guildford; stopped at Kingston; dined at Cobham; in about 4; to Miss Stevens'.

7th.—To the Bowling-green; to Miss Stevens'.<sup>1</sup>

9th.—Walked with Miss Stevens up Merrow Lane.

July 10th.—Miss Stevens and I drank tea at Mrs. Greenley's; sat in her pavilion.

Aug. 4th.—Dined with my uncle, Duncumb, at Shere; at 5 to Sir John Evelyn's, drank tea there; paid my uncle's servant, 1s.; Sir John's, 1s.

28th.—Dined with the Mayor at the "White Hart." A great many gentlemen from all parts of the country; there till 6; received of Mr. Fawkes, making his will, 3s. 6d.

Sept. 2nd.—Dined at the "Tuns," paid 9d.; drank tea and supped with Miss Stevens; Mrs. Ford came in, and afterwards Miss Adee<sup>2</sup> and Miss Patty.

7th.—Walked with Miss Stevens to Mr. Emily's at Clandon; dined there, cards in the evening.

12th.—To Sir John Evelyn's, to breakfast.

17th.—Between 4 and 5 to the Green; played three games, lost two; between 7 and 8 sat down to whist there with Mr. Englestoft, Mr. Mellersh, and Mr. Hunt. Home before 11.

18th.—To the Artillery Ground, to see a pony race; to Mrs. Wilpley's for half an hour; at 7 to the Bowling-green, Mellersh, Gorman, and Englestoft there; at whist till 11.

19th.—The Militia sworn in quietly; soldiers ready, but no occasion;<sup>3</sup> to Mr. Englestoft's, played at backgammon; then to

<sup>1</sup> He visited Miss Stevens almost every day, but he was not much less in other society than formerly, and he was seldom alone at any time of the day or evening.

<sup>2</sup> Daughters of Dr. Adee, a physician, who afterwards went to Oxford and practised there.

<sup>3</sup> There was fear of a French invasion at this time for which the country was very ill-prepared. Hence the calling out of the Militia.

Mrs. Wilpley's; fetched Miss Stevens at 4; at quadrille till near 8.

20th.—To Middle Church;<sup>1</sup> to Mr. Shrubbs; then home, at whist till near 1.

21st.—To Busbridge, Mr. Webb<sup>2</sup> not at home; sat an hour with Mrs. and young Mr. Webb; cards at Mr. Brewer's till past 9.

23rd.—Dined at the "White Lion," paid 1s.;<sup>3</sup> between 3 and 4 to Miss Stevens; Mrs. Wright came in; at quadrille till 9.

24th, Sunday.—To Middle Church. (He did not visit Miss Stevens this day.)

25th.—Walked to Mr. Emily's at Clandon; called on Mrs. Wilpley; between 7 and 8 to Miss Stevens.

26th.—To Mr. Brewer's, Mr. Thomas there; after tea at Pope Joan till 7; then to Miss Stevens.

27th.—Mr. Brewer came at 10 with a licence; Mr. Martyr bound with me to Mr. Burdett; walked to Mr. Stevens' at Worplesdon, he not at home, back between 5 and 6; called on Mr. Ralph Ford to bespeak his attendance to-morrow; between 7 and 8 to Mrs. Norwood's, Betsy Stevens there.

28th.—At 8 went to Mrs. Norwood's, Miss Adee and Betsy Stevens breakfasted there; they went down the backway to Mr. Brewer's; I went home and down town; was married;<sup>4</sup> sent Mr. Brewer's man for a chaise and came away directly; went afterwards to Mr. Brewer's and drank chocolate; dined at Epsom; to Mrs. C.'s<sup>5</sup> at 5; I walked to Hatton Garden and with Mr. Boughton to Lincoln's Inn Coffee House; then home; at quadrille before supper.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> He went to the morning service on Wednesdays in most weeks, usually to the Middle Church.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Webb was Solicitor to the Treasury. This appointment is now given to barristers.

<sup>3</sup> He only paid 10d. for his dinners (without wine) at the "White Hart" and the "Tuns," and 6s. a week for his lodgings in the town.

<sup>4</sup> Miss Adee and Betsy Stevens were the bridesmaids.

<sup>5</sup> Mrs. C.'s was the lodging Mr. Jenkins had taken for him in Lothbury.

<sup>6</sup> He left a particular account of his expenses on his marriage. The following are some of them:—

£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
Licence . . . . .	1	11	6	A pound and a half of salmon . . . . .	0	1	0
Pair of gloves . . . . .	0	1	0	Paid Jenkins for the ring . . . . .	0	6	6
Mr. Burdett's fee . . . . .	1	1	0	[Jenkins got the ring and sent it to him with a humorous letter.]			
The clerk . . . . .	0	10	6	Mr. Shrubbs for a tabby nightgown . . . . .	7	14	0
Mrs. Norwood's maid . . . . .	0	7	6	Ear-rings and necklace . . . . .	0	14	0
Middle Parish ringers . . . . .	1	1	0	Coffee with Boughton at the Lincoln's Inn Coffee House (on the afternoon of his wedding) . . . . .	0	0	5
Dinner at Epsom . . . . .	0	5	6				
Chaise from Epsom to London . . . . .	0	14	0				
Driver and hostler . . . . .	0	2	0				
Two bottles of Lisbon at the "White Hart" . . . . .	0	3	4				
For fifty Oysters . . . . .	0	0	7½				
A pound of cheese . . . . .	0	0	3½				

## 1758

*Sept. 30th.*—We went to New Bond Street to the milliner ; home to dinner. I drank tea with Mr. Potts, Clare, and Marshall, then home at 8.

*Oct. 4th.*—Bolton called ; with him to the Antigallican Coffee House till 10.

*5th.*—Set out in a chaise for Guildford at 1 ; arrived between 6 and 7.

*16th, Monday.*—Lady Martha and Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Spooner, Mrs. and Mr. Burdett drank tea with us.<sup>1</sup>

*Nov. 6th.*—Set out at 8 in the Godalming Machine ; dined at Esher ; in at 5. Called on Mersing ; Boughton there ; then to Jenkins', and played at whist till near 11. Coach and man, 5s. 6d. ; a glass of capillair, 3d.

*8th.*—Dined at Prosser's Coffee House ; between 4 and 5 to the play—"Zara," *Lusignan*, Mr. Garrick.

*15th.*—To the Bowling-green between 6 and 7 ; at whist there till 10 ;<sup>2</sup> then home. Won 4s. 6d. ; paid reckoning at the green, 1s.

*17th.*—To Mrs. Emily's to dinner ; played at quadrille before dinner ; home at 5 ; then went after my wife and Mrs. Norwood to Mr. Shrubbs's at Shalford ; then to the Bowling-green.

## 1759

*Feb. 21st.*—To Middle Church. My wife and I walked with Dr. and Mrs. Mitchell in their garden till past 1. At 6 Mr. Ford, Mr. Gorman, and Mr. Mellersh came ; at whist till 12.

*March 21st.*—On Stephens's horse to London ; met Mersing and Jenkins ; dined at Betty's. To Covent Garden—"The Busybody," *Marplot*, Shuter.<sup>3</sup> At 10 to the "Angel," where I lay. Mersing and Jenkins came ; we drank one bottle. They went a little after 12.

*April 9th.*—Having a cold, with a difficulty of breathing, I was bled this morning, and found benefit by night.

*May 7th.*—On Stephens's horse to London. To Mr. Adderley's ; at 5 with him to the "Feathers" Tavern, and dined. Away at 8 ; at 9 Jenkins, Mersing, and Boughton came to me at the "Angel" and stayed till past 12 ; paid for dinner and wine, 2s. 6d.

*9th.*—Walked about ; called on Adderley ; dined with Jenkins ;

<sup>1</sup> They received friends to tea every evening this week. They lived in a house with a garden, in which Mr. Bray planted fruit trees and shrubs, but where it was does not appear in the Diary.

<sup>2</sup> He went to the bowling-green to play at whist in the winter, and at bowls in the summer.

<sup>3</sup> He had seen the first performance of "Marplot" by Garrick.

home by Epsom; paid for breakfast at the "Angel," 8*d.*; two nights' lodging, 1*s.* 6*d.*; maid, 1*s.*; horse and hostler, 3*s.* 2*d.*; turnpike, 4½*d.*; horse hire, 6*s.*

*June 13th.*—On Stephens's horse to Chertsey; breakfasted with Ford, Heath, and wife; to Ascot Races.

*22nd.*—To the green, and thence with Mr. Russell to the "Tuns" to drink the King's health; paid drinking, 1*s.*

*23rd.*—To Sir John Evelyn, with him Colonel Evelyn and young Mr. Budgen.<sup>1</sup> To the "Hatch" to dinner; Mr. Evelyn, Mr. Godschall,<sup>2</sup> Mr. Bridges, Mr. Steere, Mr. Spence,<sup>3</sup> Mr. Courtenay, and Mr. Walsh there; left at 7; paid for dinner and wine, 4*s.* 6*d.*

*Aug. 6th.*—To Wotton Hatch to dinner. Mr. Evelyn, Mr. Bishopp, Mr. Godschall, Mr. Deane, Mr. Carr, Mr. Spence, Mr. Courtenay, Mr. Walsh, and Mr. Hull.<sup>4</sup>

*9th.*—To see the fireworks on the good news; Russians and French defeated.<sup>5</sup> The Judges came in the evening.

*14th.*—My wife brought to bed this morning, about five of a boy. Paid Mr. Burdett, 10*s.* 6*d.*; midwife and nurse, 10*s.*

*20th.*—To Wotton Hatch.<sup>6</sup> Mr. Talbot, Mr. Spooner, Mr. Bridges, Mr. Walsh, and Mr. Spence. Home about 8.

*Sept. 10th.*—My wife sat up for company.

*Oct. 1st.*—To Wotton Hatch: Mr. Budgen,<sup>7</sup> Mr. Godschall, Mr. Tucker,<sup>8</sup> Mr. Talbot, Mr. Dormer, Mr. Steere, Mr. Courtenay, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Spence, and Mr. Spooner.

*22nd.*—With Sir John Evelyn to Milton Court: held court there. Mr. Evelyn with us. To Wotton at 6; danced till past 10. Colonel Evelyn, Mr. Harcourt, the butler, Miss Mary Evelyn, Miss Clark, Miss Duncumb, and three maids. I danced with Miss C. and Miss D.

*28th.*—Paid for a thing to hang my wig on, 1*s.* 2*d.*; a hutch for the child, 8*s.*

<sup>1</sup> The son of the Member for the County.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Godschall, of Weston House, Albury. An accomplished gentleman, LL.D. of Oxford, cousin of Lady Palmerston, the mother of the late Lord Palmerston.

<sup>3</sup> Of Parkhurst, where Rousseau was his guest for some time.

<sup>4</sup> Who built the Leith Hill Tower, and was buried there.

<sup>5</sup> This refers to Frederick the Great's victory over the Russians at Zorndorf, near Frankfort on the Oder, and to the Duke of Brunswick's victory over the French at Minden with an army that was mainly British.

<sup>6</sup> It is remarkable that a young attorney of 22 should have been invited to the social meetings of elderly and middle-aged gentlemen of the highest position in the neighbourhood. His grandson, the late Mr. Edward Bray, inherited his companionable qualities, and was welcome in every house he visited.

<sup>7</sup> The Member for the County.

<sup>8</sup> Of Betchworth Castle. The author of *The Light of Nature*.

*Nov. 29th.*—Home in the Portsmouth fly. Thanksgiving for taking Quebec.<sup>1</sup>

*Dec. 1st.*—Illumination for Sir Edward Hawke beating Conflans.<sup>2</sup>

*13th.*—Ford, Mellersh, and Vincent the clergyman sent for me to the "White Hart" to play at whist.

## 1760

*Jan. 15th.*—Lord Onslow sent for me to dinner; home at 8. Paid Mr. Wilpley bleeding my wife, 2s. 6d.

*Feb. 11th.*—On Upperton's mare to London; dined with Adderley at the "Feathers." At 5 to Covent Garden, "Comus," singing by Miss Brent. To Clare's for half an hour; then to the "Angel"; Jenkins came at 10, stayed till 12.

*April 13th.*—Paid a man going beyond Ripley to get some leeches to bleed the child. A labourer in the garden one day, 1s. 3d.

*July 28th.*—Mrs. Norwood and my wife drank tea with Mrs. Hole. I went to the Green till past 8. Englestoft came after; played backgammon till near 11.

*Nov. 14th.*—Between 6 and 7 to the "White Lion" by invitation from the Mayor on the King of Prussia's success.<sup>3</sup> Stayed till past 11.

*19th.*—In a coach to the Speaker's; dined at Dr. Adee's; drank tea with Clare, then to the "Angel." Jenkins came and stayed till 12.

*Dec. 15th.*—Mr. Robert Austen<sup>4</sup> drank tea here, and at 6 went with me to the "Red Lion"; Mr. Russell, Mr. Ford, Captain and Mr. C., and Mr. Webb; cards; home at 11.<sup>5</sup>

## 1761

*June 8th.*—Mr. Lane<sup>6</sup> and Mr. Godschall made a cricket match to-day at Albury Heath. Mrs. Skurray and my wife went in a

<sup>1</sup> This followed on the battle of the Heights of Abraham, in which Wolfe and his opponent Montcalm were both mortally wounded.

<sup>2</sup> This was the battle of Quiberon.

<sup>3</sup> These successes were the victories gained by Frederick the Great at Lignitz and Torgau over the Austrians.

<sup>4</sup> The father of the late Sir Henry Austen. He had been articled, as well as Mr. Bray, to Mr. Martyr. He afterwards purchased a Clerkship in the Six Clerks' Office in Chancery.

<sup>5</sup> Mr. Bray's marriage made little difference in his habits this year. He was almost every night with his friends at cards or backgammon; in the summer evenings at bowls; frequently at the morning services on week days at the Middle Church. He had very little to do at this time in his profession.

<sup>6</sup> Mr. Lane, of East Horsley Park.

postchaise, and dined with my mother, and then went to see it. I walked. We drank tea in Mr. Godschall's tent, Mr. Lane, Mr. King, Mr. Vincent, Mr. Dickinson, Lord Ossory, etc.

*July 27th.*—To Wotton Hatch Club. Paid, 5s. 6d.

*Sept. 22nd.*—The Coronation (George III). To the Green, played four games. At 7 to the "Red Lion," to drink the King's health. To the Mayor at the "Tuns." Home at 12.

*Oct. 2nd.*—To London, to talk with Mr. Evelyn;<sup>1</sup> called on Jenkins.

*27th.*—To London, with Mr. Evelyn to the Board of Green Cloth. There till 3; dined at Clifton's Chop House. Paid for dinner, 1s.

*28th.*—Breakfasted at Dr. Adee's. The Miss Adee's walked with me to look for a house. Mr. Jenkins supped with me.

*29th.*—To the Green Cloth at 11; at 3 to the "Angel," and dined there. To Covent Garden Theatre, but could not get in. Drank tea at Adderley's; quadrille. Paid for dinner, 1s. 6d.; rum, 1s. 2d.; orange chips, 3d.; cakes, 2d.

## 1762

*Jan. 18th.*—Queen's Birth-day. We all dined at St. James's. At 11 home in a chaise; paid for chaise, 1s. 6d.

*March 12th.*—The General Fast. My wife brought to bed of a boy.<sup>2</sup>

*April 26th.*—Mr. Stephenson and I, with Mr. Selwyn, at 2, to the Exhibition. Paid for catalogue, 6d.

*27th.*—At home this morning, taking Jessop's water. In the afternoon drank tea with Jenkins. Home at 8.

*Aug. 21st.*—To St. James's with Mrs. Norwood, and three Miss Adee's to drink caudle.<sup>3</sup> Went into Kensington Gardens; gave the boy who let us in, 2d.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Evelyn, afterwards Sir John, then M.P. for Helstone, had offered him an appointment at the Board of Green Cloth, which he at first, by the wish of his wife, declined to accept; but a few days afterwards, being better advised, he was glad to find that he could still have it. The following note was among the Memoranda which he left of his early life: "Nothing could be pleasanter than our situation at the Board of Green Cloth. The Principals were all members of the House of Commons. We sat in the same room, at the same green cloth table, with them, by whom we were treated rather as associates than as clerks." Mr. Bray was at first only an assistant, together with Mr. Selwyn, a barrister, afterwards in large practice; Mr. Blenman, also of the Bar, and Mr. Fanshawe, but they rose to be chief clerks. His usual attendance was from 11 to 3. He took a house in Holles Street, and settled there December 14th, but in the following year he moved to Great Russell Street.

<sup>2</sup> This child died in July.

<sup>3</sup> After a Royal birth caudle was given to the Clerks of the Green Cloth and others in office at St. James's.

*Sept. 1st.*—To Mr. Walters,<sup>1</sup> called on Mr. Malthus;<sup>2</sup> dined at Mr. Evelyn's. Home at 6.

*Oct. 2nd.*—Dined and lay at Lord Midleton's; at quadrille, from 4 in the afternoon. Paid servants in the house, 5s.

*Nov. 5th.*—In the Guildford coach to Guildford. Went to the "Tuns" to drink the King's health. Home at 12; paid at the "Tuns," 1s.; coach and man, 6s.

## 1766

*Sept. 6th.*—Paid for a horse, bought of a Welchman, £6 6s. od.; saddle, bridle, and cloth, £1 17s. 6d.

*Oct. 4th.*—With Mrs. N. and Miss Kerr to Drury Lane; "Romeo and Juliet."

*5th.*—Sunday to Church. To the Coffee-house for half an hour. Paid for wine, 6d.

*10th.*—With Mrs. Kerr to Drury Lane: "Provoked Husband" and "Devil to Pay"; Mr. Garrick.

## 1767

*March 18th.*—It pleased God to release my child William from his sufferings, when half a year old he was seized with convulsions which never left him.

*June 9th.*—With Mr. Hollingworth to the Downs Guildford Races. Sir John Evelyn being taken ill, went off the Downs to Wotton.

*19th.*—Jack was taken with the smallpox, and on the 28th the dear soul died. Polly was taken on the 1st of July, I sent for Mr. Kerr who gave her Sutton's powders, and she recovered.

*Dec. 22nd.*—With Mr. Waddington to Drury Lane; "Suspicious Husband," Mr. Garrick.

## 1768

*Jan. 30th.*—My wife brought to bed of a boy.<sup>3</sup>

*Feb. 24th.*—Dined at Penneck's, Mr. Astle, Col. Webb, Dr. Solander, etc.

<sup>1</sup> Of Bury Hill, now Mr. Barclay's.

<sup>2</sup> Of the Rookery, now Mr. Fuller's. His son, Thomas Robert Malthus, was the great writer on Population. His youngest daughter married Mr. Bray's son Edward.

<sup>3</sup> His son Edward, who married Miss Malthus, and left a large family. His other sons died in childhood. Mr. Bray had no collateral relations of his name after the death of his uncle and brothers within many generations. His ancestor, Sir Edward Bray, was the heir male

*March 1st.*—Mr. Penneck, Dr. Solander and Col. Webb dined here.<sup>1</sup>

*31st.*—To Captain Brodrick's,<sup>2</sup> and dined; Lady Midleton and Sir Francis Vincent there.

*Sept. 9th.*—To Neville Court, and had the nerve in both ears cut for the toothache, and received relief in an hour.

*Oct. 11th.*—To New Inn<sup>3</sup> till dinner; at 4 again till 6.

*22nd.*—Sir Joseph Ayloffe, Dr. Ducarrell, and Mr. Astle dined here.

## 1769

*March 7th.*—To the House of Commons till 3.

*May 15th.*—Dined at Lord Onslow's; to the race.<sup>4</sup> I paid his servants, 4s.

*16th.*—With Mr. Powell, curate of Abinger, to the race.

*July 30th, Sunday.*—Mr. Woods came to tell me that Mr. Sturt<sup>5</sup> died yesterday. To Dorking to Mr. Budgen, Mr. Talbot, and Mr. Scawen.

*Aug. 28th.*—Meeting of Mr. Smith's trustees. I was appointed clerk and treasurer, in the place of Mr. Sturt.

*Oct. 16th.*—In a chaise with Mr. Jenkins to Reading.<sup>6</sup>

of Edmund, Lord Bray, and succeeded to the family estates; but the title descended to Lord Bray's daughters, and was in abeyance until obtained by the late Baroness Bray. Mr. Bray was one of the few descendants then living of Sir Thomas More, whose granddaughter, the daughter of Margaret Roper, married Sir Edward Bray. His two daughters, Mary and Catherine, were not married.

<sup>1</sup> He was now getting into the society of literary and scientific men. Dr. Solander was a Swede and a celebrated botanist. He familiarized English botanists with the Linnean system. He was appointed in 1760 assistant librarian at the British Museum, to catalogue its natural history collections. In 1768 he accompanied Sir Joseph Banks and Captain Cook in the voyage of the *Endeavour* to Tahiti, round the Horn, returning to England in 1771. In 1773 he was made keeper of printed books at the British Museum.

<sup>2</sup> Afterwards General Brodrick.

<sup>3</sup> He had entered into partnership with his friend Mr. Jenkins, whose chambers were in New Inn.

<sup>4</sup> The Guildford Races were then in May.

<sup>5</sup> Mr. Sturt was a barrister, and a relation of Mr. Bray's. Mr. Budgen, Mr. Talbot, and Mr. Scawen, were trustees of the charity.

<sup>6</sup> A tour with Mr. Jenkins to Oxford, Bath, Gloucester, Salisbury, Blenheim, Fonthill, Longleat, Chepstow, etc. They hired a carriage and horses for the journey; and, in a rhyming letter to his wife, he writes:

“ We hired from friend Bryant a very good chaise,  
Intending thus travelling quite at our ease.  
James was mounted behind on a fine prancing steed,  
To take care of the baggage and help us if need.”

Mr. Bray wrote a particular description of Fonthill, Stourton, and other houses visited.

## 1770

*July 27th.*—Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Adderley, and Mr. Pacey dined with me. To the Percy Coffee House for an hour; 'won 15s.<sup>1</sup>

*Aug. 4th.*—We set out at 6 with Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Adderley to Shere; dined at Cobham; saw Claremont and Painshill.

*5th, Sunday.*—To Church; afterwards by Lonesome<sup>2</sup> to Leith Hill.

*6th.*—To Lord Aylesford's house and garden (Albury Park).

*Sept. 6th.*—Lord Talbot, at the request of Mr. Gray and Mr. Sacker, gave me the place of Clerk of the Verge. I was sworn in this day.

*Nov. 19th.*—To New Inn; to Mundy's Coffee House; <sup>3</sup> reckoning, 3s.

*20th.*—At 6 with Ford to the Turk's Head Coffee House; whist; home at 2; reckoning, 6s.; won 10s.

## 1771

*Jan. 1st.*—At Shere; <sup>4</sup> drank tea and supped at Mr. Botham's.

*3rd.*—Dined at Mr. Godschall's.

*6th.*—Walked to Sir Frederick Evelyn's, and dined.

*April 12th.*—To Wood Street to see a horse; rode the horse to Islington; paid for it, £25 4s.<sup>5</sup>

## 1772

*Jan. 23rd.*—Paid admission fee at the Antiquary Society, £5 5s.

*Feb. 28th.*—Dined at Mr. Penneck's: <sup>6</sup> Sir Joshua Reynolds, Dr.

<sup>1</sup> Some of his intimate friends dined with him every week. The dinner was over at 5 or 6, and he often went afterwards to a coffee-house. He also went frequently to the theatres, and sometimes in the summer to Vauxhall. His mornings were spent at the Board of Green Cloth or in New Inn.

<sup>2</sup> The house which Mr. Jacobson built, called "Lonesome," has been pulled down.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Bray went to many different coffee-houses, but most frequently to the Percy and Mundy's. On Sundays he went for an hour to the Buffalo.

<sup>4</sup> He had a house at Shere, which his mother lived in, and made a home for him during his frequent visits, and at little expense, for riding round in the neighbourhood he got his dinner at one house and tea at another. To general information he could now add the gossip of St. James's, and he was welcome wherever he went.

<sup>5</sup> He kept what he called a chaise or whisky, and two horses.

<sup>6</sup> Mr. Penneck was Keeper of the Reading-room at the British Museum and Rector of Abinger.

Stebbing, Mr. Lort, and Mr. Astle. At half-past 5, with Mr. Adderley, to Drury Lane: "Much Ado about Nothing," Mr. Garrick.

*April 6th.*—With Jenkins to the meeting of the Laudable Society; dined there; dinner, 5s.

*Aug. 24th.*—Set out with Mr. Jenkins in a postchaise for Wales.

*27th.*—Being the races at Hereford, could get no chaise, but got horses, and rode to Monmouth.

*31st.*—To Llandilo, an excellent inn, and dined; and Mr. Pennoyre Watkins telling us the ford at Llandovery was dangerous, lay there. Whist with him; won 12s.

## 1773

*July 24th.*—Rode to the Downs; saw part of a great cricket match.

*26th.*—Dined at Mr. Godschall's: General and Mrs. Evelyn and Colonel Molyneux there; drank tea with Mr. Berwick.

*Oct. 31st, Sunday.*—To Church; to Mr. Talbot (of Chart Park), and dined; drank tea at Mr. Tucker's;<sup>1</sup> lay at Mr. Kerr's.

*Nov. 13th.*—With Jenkins to Covent Garden: Macklin played *Macbeth*.

## 1774

*June 10th.*—Rode with Dr. Osborn to Dr. Price,<sup>2</sup> Newington Green.

*24th.*—Rode with Mr. Penneck and Mr. Austen to Mr. Walpole's, Strawberry Hill; saw that;<sup>3</sup> dined at the "Toy" Hampton.

*Dec. 7th.*—Dr. Solander and Omiah, the native of Otaheite, Mr. Penneck, and Mr. Planta<sup>4</sup> dined and drank tea here.

*8th.*—To Drury Lane; "The Country Girl."

## 1775

*Sept. 28th.*—To the "King's Head" at Derby,<sup>5</sup> and lay.

<sup>1</sup> Betchworth Castle.

<sup>2</sup> He had become acquainted with Dr. Osborn and Dr. Price on the institution of the Equitable Assurance Office, of which he was a director. He frequently rode with his friends, sometimes a party of six.

<sup>3</sup> He wrote a most particular description of it.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Planta, Principal Librarian at the British Museum.

<sup>5</sup> This was the tour that he published an account of. He rode on horseback, 1,800 miles this year.

## 1776

*April 3rd.*—Paid subscription to the Laudable Society, £2 12s. 6d.<sup>1</sup>

*May 3rd.*—Paid for a grey horse, five years old, 15 guineas.

*27th.*—Paid labourers planting firs in the Hurtwood, £1 12s. 3d.; stakes, etc., for fencing, £2 17s. 3d.<sup>2</sup>

## 1777

*Oct. 30th.*—To Loseley to breakfast; to East Horsley, and dined at Mr. Fox's; supped at Mr. Duncumb's.

*Nov. 19th.*—Paid Mr. Chaubert, for monument in Shere Church, 6 guineas.<sup>3</sup>

*Dec. 21st.*—Paid Mr. Lomax, for half an acre of land, £7.<sup>4</sup>

## 1778

*Jan. 16th.*—To Leicester; dined with Mr. Parr,<sup>5</sup> and supped; whist; lost 3s.

*Feb. 26th.*—To the play with Miss Catherine Adee and Kitty: "School for Scandal" and "The Quaker."

*March 19th.*—Antiquary Society; supped at the "White Hart," with Mr. Gough, Mr. Lort, Mr. Grose, and Mr. Topham.<sup>6</sup>

*April 25th.*—Lord Midleton came; rode with him to Pitland Street; he and Mr. Lomax dined.

*June 8th.*—Mr. Jenkins and Mr. J. Martyr<sup>7</sup> dined.

*9th.*—To Guildford; dined at Mr. Martyr's; Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Hawes there; to the horse race.

*July 19th, Sunday.*—To Church; walked in the Museum Gardens with Mr. Austen.

*26th, Sunday.*—To Church at Shere; dined at Mr. Duncumb's; drank tea at Mr. Godschall's: Lord and Lady Onslow and Mr. and Mrs. Onslow there.

<sup>1</sup> This was a society which met at St. Paul's Coffee House. The subscription was five guineas a year.

<sup>2</sup> This plantation sowed all the fir trees between the Windmill and Peaslake. Another plantation adjoining to the West Churt, sowed the ground west of the road to Cranleigh.

<sup>3</sup> This was for his father.

<sup>4</sup> For a piece of land at the top of the plantation of beeches above Picket's Hole.

<sup>5</sup> Dr. Parr.

<sup>6</sup> Distinguished Antiquaries. Grose was also an artist and Richmond Herald. Topham was also a Bencher of Gray's Inn, Deputy Keeper of the State Papers and Librarian to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

<sup>7</sup> Formerly Jacky.

## 1780

*Jan. 16th.*—In a chaise to the Speaker at Wonersh, and dined ; to Loseley in the evening.

*27th.*—Antiquary Society, supped with Mr. Waddilove at Mundy's Coffee House in Maiden Lane ; paid 1s.

*Feb. 8th.*—To Drury Lane, with Mrs. Gardiner and Polly, " Plain Dealer " and " Fortunatus."

*March 28th.*—To General Evelyn's, and breakfasted ; to Turnpike meeting at Guildford ; dined at the " White Hart," with Mr. Page and Captain Onslow ; to Loseley and lay.

*April 15th.*—Breakfasted at Mr. Lomax's ; rode with him to the Hurtwood.

*June 6th.*—Lord Mansfield's house burnt,<sup>1</sup> up all night.

## 1781

*Jan. 8th.*—Edward went to the Guildford Ball.

*11th.*—To the first meeting of the Antiquary Society in Somerset House ; supped at Coffee House, with Mr. Gough, Mr. Topham, etc.

*March 22nd.*—To Kingston Assizes ; dined with the Grand Jury ; Mr. Budgen's cause tried.

*June 16th.*—To Sir Edward Evelyn in Piccadilly, and with him in his phaeton to Leatherhead.

*July 2nd.*—With Dr. Osborne in his coach to Mr. Rice at Tooting, and dined.

*Aug. 16th.*—Mr. Manning supped and lay here.

*17th.*—With Mr. Manning<sup>2</sup> to Ansted Camp ; he dined and lay here.

*18th.*—Dined at Mr. Pollen's ; drank tea at Mr. Polhill's (Albury).

*24th.*—To Colonel Clarke at Stanestreet, and breakfasted ; dined and supped at Mr. Duncumb's.

*25th.*—To Loseley, and breakfasted ; dined at the " White Hart " with the Club.

*Sept. 14th.*—To Mr. Page<sup>3</sup> at Cobham to breakfast ; to Shere to dinner.

*15th.*—General Evelyn, Mr. and Mrs. Lomax, and Mr. Duncumb dined with us.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This was one of the many lawless acts committed by the mob in the " No-Popery " riots stirred up by Lord George Gordon.

<sup>2</sup> The Rev. Mr. Manning, who began the *History of Surrey*.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Page had bought the Manor of Cobham, and lived at Pointers.

<sup>4</sup> When he was in the country he seldom dined at home unless he had friends with him.

## 1782

*Feb. 10th.*—Walked to Hampstead; dined at Mr. Jenkins's; thence walked home with him.<sup>1</sup>

*March 31st.*—My brother and I drank tea at Capt. Finch's (Albury Park).

*Sept. 15th.*—Breakfasted at Lord Grantley's; dined at Mr. Shurlock's; drank tea with my brother; to Wotton, and lay at Sir Frederick's.

## 1783

*June 7th.*—Set out at 7 for Shere; breakfasted at Epsom; dined at the "White Horse," Dorking;<sup>2</sup> paid for breakfast, 1s.; barber, 6d.; horses, 10d.; at Dorking, dinner and wine, 3s. 8d.; horses, 1s.

*July 3rd.*—To Harrow speeches;<sup>3</sup> breakfasted at the "King's Head"; dined with Dr. Heath.

## 1784

*March 11th.*—To the Antiquary Society; supped at Holylands Coffee House, with Mr. Gough,<sup>4</sup> Mr. Ord, Mr. Turner, Dr. Hamilton, Mr. Grose, Dr. Nash, and others.

*22nd.*—To Bath by coach; set out at 4, arrived at 8.

*July 24th.*—Rode with Mr. Topham<sup>5</sup> to Tunbridge Wells; Mr. Gough, Mr. Ord, and Mr. Brooke, in a chaise; we all saw Knowle, and dined at the "White Hart," Sevenoaks.

*Aug. 19th.*—Dined at the Club at Dorking; Duke of Norfolk, Sir Wm. Gray, etc.

*Dec. 26th.*—At home; physick.<sup>6</sup>

## 1785

*Jan. 3rd.*—Mr. and Mrs. Polhill and nephew, Mr. and Mrs. Duncumb and John Duncumb dined here.

*4th.*—Edward and I rode to Sir Fredk. Evelyn's; dined at Mr. Godschall's.

<sup>1</sup> His partnership with Mr. Jenkins was dissolved in 1774, but without any interruption of their friendship.

<sup>2</sup> To near the end of his life he would often stop to dine, and sometimes to sleep, at the inn at Dorking, or Guildford, instead of going home to Shere.

<sup>3</sup> His only surviving son Edward was at Harrow.

<sup>4</sup> These were all eminent antiquaries.

<sup>5</sup> He was one of the Trustees of the British Museum.

<sup>6</sup> He was subject all his life to inflammatory disorder and frequently took physic.

7th.—Edward and I dined at Captn. Finch's; Lady Aylesford and two daughters, Captn. Edward Finch, and Mr. Morden there.

Feb. 19th.—To Drury Lane; "Macbeth," Mrs. Siddons.

June 26th, Sunday.—Edward and I walked to Albury Church; dined at Mr. Polhill's; with him in his chaise to Shere Church;<sup>1</sup> went to Captn. Pitts;<sup>2</sup> drank tea at Sir Frederick's.

July 13th.—Attended the Sessions; dined with the Justices at the "White Hart"; lay at Loseley.

## 1786

Jan. 7th.—Edward and I rode to Guildford, and then in a chaise to Pepperharrow, and lay there. To Church at Pepperharrow. Chaise came. I dined at Mr. Webb's; drank tea at Mr. Manning's, and lay at the "White Hart," Guildford; Mr. Mellersh supped with me.

June 6th.—Guildford races. Very unwell; did not go up to the Downs.

July 14th.—To Tooting, and held a court; dined and drank tea at Mr. Rice's.<sup>3</sup>

Aug. 2nd.—To Eaton Bray.<sup>4</sup>

Dec. 28th.—Dined and lay at Mrs. Tucker's, Sir Henry, and Lady St. John;<sup>5</sup> whist, won 9s.

## 1787

Jan. 10th.—To Quarter Sessions in Borough; dined with the Justices; whist, Sir Joseph Mawbey,<sup>6</sup> Pardon, Lawson, and others, till 10, won 10s. 6d.

Aug. 28th.—Dined at home. Miss Malthus, and Miss Menzies, Mr. R. Malthus,<sup>7</sup> and Mr. John Duncumb, drank tea.

30th.—Dined at the Club at Dorking, Sir Fredk. Evelyn, etc.; paid for dinner, 4s. 6d.

<sup>1</sup> He went to Church every Sunday, but he did not think it wrong to use his carriage and horses, or to travel on that day. Mr. Polhill, the Rector of Albury, used to go to church in his carriage.

<sup>2</sup> Abinger Hall. Afterwards Lady Donegal's.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Rice was lord of the Manor of Tooting.

<sup>4</sup> The Eaton Bray estate was inherited by Mr. Bray's ancestor, Sir Edward Bray, as heir male of Lord Bray, and sold by him.

<sup>5</sup> They became clients, and the family have remained among the best clients of Mr. Bray's firm.

<sup>6</sup> Sir Joseph Mawbey was member for Surrey; made a fortune by a distillery. Mr. Briscoe derived the manor of Epsom from his daughter.

<sup>7</sup> Mr. Malthus had left the Rookery, and was living at Albury, in the house afterwards Colonel Clive's.

*Oct. 26th.*—Dined at Mr. Godschall's, between 8 and 9; received by express Mrs. Oglethorpe's death; sent for a chaise from Dorking; set out at 2, got to Russell Street past 7,<sup>1</sup> breakfasted; to Mr. Sharp,<sup>2</sup> with him to Cranham.

## 1788

*June 9th.*—Drank tea at Mr. Rudings.<sup>3</sup>

*10th.*—With Miss Adees, Mary and Caroline, to Vauxhall; home at 12.

*Aug. 30th.*—To Reigate, and lay at the "White Hart."

*31st.*—Dined with Mr. Barnes; to Mr. Fanshawe,<sup>4</sup> and lay.

*Oct. 24th.*—We all dined and supped at Mrs. Malthus's; whist, won 3s. 6d.

## 1789

*Feb. 10th.*—Council at the Society of Antiquaries;<sup>5</sup> to the House of Commons.

*June 18th.*—Dined with the Duke of Norfolk;<sup>6</sup> home at 8.

*July 3rd.*—Called at Mr. Eckersall's;<sup>7</sup> drank tea at Dorking.

*Aug. 10th.*—To Hazlegrove; lay there (Sir Hy. St. John Mildmay's).

*Dec. 25th.*—My dear daughter Caroline died this morning, after a fever of a few days.<sup>8</sup>

## 1790

*July 26th.*—Dined at Mr. Duncumb's.

*27th.*—Mr. R. Malthus and the Misses dined here, with Cath. and Mr. and Mrs. Polhill, and Mr. S. Godschall.

*30th.*—Mr. Duncumb and Mr. Thos. and Robt. Duncumb supped here.

*31st.*—Drank tea at Mr. Malthus's.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> An instance of Mr. Bray's activity.

<sup>2</sup> Granville Sharp. General Oglethorpe lived for some years at Westbrook, Godalming.

<sup>3</sup> The author of *The Coinage of Great Britain*.

<sup>4</sup> Of Shabden, father of the Miss Fanshawes.

<sup>5</sup> He had been chosen one of the Council.

<sup>6</sup> The dinner-hour in London was getting later.

<sup>7</sup> Of Burford Bridge.

<sup>8</sup> For the following nine days there is no entry but "At home."

<sup>9</sup> Eight consecutive days were spent in society. When in London he dined every week at the "Crown and Anchor" with his antiquary friends, and often received them to dinner. He played at whist still, but not so often.

*Sept. 3rd.*—Took up Mr. Clutton, at Walworth, and went with him to Sir Peter Burrell's,<sup>1</sup> at Beckenham.

## 1791

*June 9th.*—Dined at Sir Charles Goulds' with the directors of the Equitable Society. Supped at the Coffee House, Brand, Turner, and others.

*Sept. 29th.*—Dined at Sir Wm. Hillman's, Lord Say and Sele, Mr. Jenkinson, Mr. Fanshawe, sen. ; drank tea at Mrs. Molyneux's.

*30th.*—Sir William Hillman, Mr. Willis, Mr. Jenkinson, and Mr. Saml. Dyson, dined here.

## 1792

*Jan. 2nd.*—Set out ground to widen Sherborne Lane. In the evening rode to Capt. Onslow's, at Ripley, and lay there.

*Feb. 8th.*—Dined at Edward's, with Mr. Malthus and family ; child christened ; Whist, won 3s. ; paid nurse, etc., £3 3s.

*18th.*—To Lord Sydney, and with him to Frogmal, and lay there.

*March 1st.*—Mr. Willis dined here ; with him to the Antiquary Society ; supped at the Coffee House, Lord Leicester, etc., there.

*April 12th.*—To Mr. Strode, at Loseley, and dined ; to Mr. Webb, at Milford, and lay.

## 1796

*Dec. 14th.*—My wife died about 5 in the afternoon ; the most affectionate of wives, tenderest of parents, and most sincere of Christians ; to her great prudence and discretion I owe the prosperity with which God has blessed me.

*24th.*—Very hard frost.<sup>2</sup>

## 1797

*Feb. 25th.*—Dined at Edward's, Mr. Godschall, senior, etc. ; Reginald christened ; paid Edward Duncumb for a drawing of Combe Bottom, £2 2s. ; frame and glass, 10s. 6d.

*March 21st.*—Dined at the "Crown and Anchor" (Antiquaries' Club), Dr. Hamilton, Sir Wm. Musgrave, Mr. Charles Townshend, Mr. Weston, Seward, Brand, Ord, Lysons ; tea at the Coffee House (Holyland's) ; paid, for dinner, 2s. ; tea, 11d.

*Aug. 14th.*—In Southampton long coach to town at 6 ; break-

<sup>1</sup> Sir Peter Burrell married the Baroness Willoughby of Eresby, and was made Lord Gwydir. He and his descendants were among the best clients of Mr. Bray's office.

<sup>2</sup> The thermometer fell one and a half degrees below zero.

fasted at Alton; dined at "Catherine Wheel," at Egham; drank tea at Hatchett's.

24th.—Rode with Edward to Mr. Jenkins's, at Putney, dined and drank tea. Home at 8.

Oct. 14th.—Dined at the "White Hart," Guildford; drank tea at Mr. Polhill's (Albury).

22nd.—To Mr. Currie at East Horsley; dined and lay there.

Nov. 3rd.—To Mr. Austen's; he died about 9.

11th.—With Mr. Halsey and Dr. Benamore at 1; from Mr. Austen's house<sup>1</sup> with the funeral; dined at Kingston; lay at the "White Lion," Cobham.

12th.—Mr. Coussmaker and Mr. Martyr met us at the "Green Man"; got to Shalford by 1.

16th.—With Master Austen to Harrow.

Dec. 16th.—To Guildford; dined at the Club; whist; paid 5s.; won 3s.

20th.—With Edward in coach to Lord Grantley's, in Sloane Street, and dined; paid coach and turnpike, 4s. 2d.

### 1798

Jan. 19th.—To Lord Grenville, the Duke of Portland,<sup>2</sup> etc. dined at Mr. Harrison's.

23rd.—Dined at the "Crown and Anchor" with the Antiquaries' Club, Dr. Hamilton, Sir Wm. Musgrave, Dr. Halifax, Topham, Brand, Lysons, Charles Townshend, etc.

Feb. 18th.—Inflammation in the eye; paid for golden ointment, 1s. 9d.

March 4th, Sunday.—To Church; Mr. Bayley<sup>3</sup> and Mr. Baxendale called.

### 1799

Jan. 14th.—Supped at Mr. Baxendale's; Whist.

16th.—Mr. Hogarth and Mr. and Mrs. Harrison dined here.

17th.—Dined at General Rainsford's, Sir George Osborn, Colonel Sloane, and Mr. Rose Fuller.

<sup>1</sup> Shalford House. Mr. R. Austen had inherited a moiety of the Austen estate on the death of his aunt, and the remainder on the death of his brother Henry.

<sup>2</sup> As one of the Clerks at the Board of Green Cloth he had to collect the land tax from the Officers of State. He received £520 from Lord Grenville for four quarters' land tax, at 4s. in the pound; from the Duke of Portland, £923; Mr. Pitt, two quarters, £456 15s.; Lord Thurlow, do., £1,425 17s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

<sup>3</sup> Afterwards a Judge and a Baronet. He was a very frequent Sunday visitor, as well as Mr. Baxendale.

*Feb. 19th.*—Dined at the “Crown and Anchor,” Sir Joseph Banks, Lysons, etc.

*July 2nd.*—Mr. Waddilove<sup>1</sup> and Salter dined here.

*3rd.*—Mr. Peach, Dealtry,<sup>2</sup> Brand, and Mrs. Davis dined here.

*4th.*—Drank tea at Mrs. Austen’s (Shalford).

*6th.*—To Mr. Ruding’s (at Maldon), and breakfasted; dined at Mr. Filewood’s; drank tea at Dr. Taylor’s.

*13th.*—Breakfasted with Mr. Currie; dined and lay at Sir John Frederick’s.

*14th, Sunday.*—After breakfast to Peto,<sup>3</sup> at Stoke D’Abernon, and to Church there; dined and drank tea at Mr. Cooke’s.

*31st.*—Drank tea at Mr. Malthus’s; walked through his copices, Miss Dalton there.

*Sept. 19th.*—To Lord Sydney (in Grosvenor Square), and dined; drank tea at Mr. Andrewes’s.<sup>4</sup>

*Nov. 17th, Sunday.*—To Church; Dr. Willis and Serjeant Bayley called.

*21st.*—Major Molyneux, Captain Vincent, Mr. Fanshawe, Mr. Willis, Mr. Andrewes, and Mr. Ruding dined here.

*22nd.*—Mr. and Mrs. Godschall dined here; paid for lottery tickets, £8 4s.

*Dec. 22nd.*—Not well.<sup>5</sup>

## 1806

*Nov. 15th.*—This day, I completed my 70th year, without having ever met with any accident of consequence and with very little interruption to my health, except in January last, when I had a very serious attack by an inflammation in my lungs, but from which I am perfectly recovered. My eyesight is so good that I can and generally do use my eyes in reading or writing from the time of getting up in the morning till 10 at night. My hearing is

<sup>1</sup> Afterwards Dean of Ripon.

<sup>2</sup> Rector of Clapham.

<sup>3</sup> Father of the great builder.

<sup>4</sup> Afterwards Dean of Canterbury.

<sup>5</sup> He was confined to the house for more than a week by a bad cold, which was followed by inflammation in one of his eyes. The inflammation was subdued with difficulty by the great oculist Mr. Phipps, afterwards Sir Watken Waller. The eye affected became gradually weaker, and the sight of it was entirely gone for some years before his death, although exactly when he did not notice. At the beginning of the nineteenth century he was 64; and his son’s attention to the business of the office in Great Russell Street enabled him to live more at Shere, but when in London his habits were little changed. He dined with the Antiquaries’ Club almost every week during the season until he was 90. He did not so frequently take his meals at the houses of his friends, but at his own table they were always welcome, and many came.

in no way impaired. I have not lost one front tooth and very few others. I am able to walk or ride 4 or 5 hours together, but I do not ride fast. My memory is perhaps not so good as it has been. On the whole I seem to be in a perfect good state of health, thanks be to God.

## 1808

*Nov. 15th.*—This day I completed my 72nd year; and thanks to God's mercies I find myself in as perfect health as I ever enjoyed in my life, and the only perceivable difference in any of my senses that I am aware of is a little degree of deafness in my right ear, but as the other is perfect, I do pretty well. My left eye I think has not perfectly recovered the severe inflammation which I had two or three years ago, but the other being sound, I read and write as well and as much as ever. My teeth remain perfect in front and without any additional loss to those which decayed some years ago.

## 1810

*April 5th.*—I quitted the Board of Green Cloth, after having had a place there for 49 years and a half. I was put on the superannuation list at my request, the Lord Steward having kindly procured leave for it. He also, unsolicited, gave me leave to resign my place of Clerk of the Verge to my son.

*Nov. 14th.*—After dinner, I found a giddiness in my head making me unable to walk, and a kind of dumb confusion in my head. I wrote to Mr. Heaviside to come, which he did and ordered immediate cupping.<sup>1</sup> The next morning my complaint was gone.

## 1814

*May 30.*—Received from Mr. Sydenham Malthus the melancholy news of my son's death at Exmouth, from the rupture of a blood-vessel in the lungs.

## 1817

*Feb. 15th.*—My grandson Henry died this morning.

<sup>1</sup> He was frequently bled according to the usual practice in those days. He was bled the last time when he was 84.

## 1826

*June 16th.*—In chaise to Guildford, the County election, voted for Mr. Sumner and Mr. Denison.<sup>1</sup>

*Sept. 19th.*—With Mary and Miss Davis, in a chaise, by Horsham and Henfold to the "Albion" at Brighton. Dined and lay there; walked on the Chain Pier.

*20th.*—To Seaford, Eastbourne. Dined and lay at the "Hope" in the Sea-houses.

*21st.*—To the Castle Hotel, Hastings; through Winchelsea to Rye; New Romney, dined and lay there.

*22nd.*—To Hythe, through Folkestone to Dover; saw the harbour; returned to Hythe, the "Sun," dined there. To Ashford, and lay there.

*23rd.*—To Lenham "Star" at Maidstone; Wrotham Heath; Sevenoaks; Godstone to Reigate; called on Mr. Glover; Dorking; Shere before 7.<sup>2</sup>

## 1828

*Dec. 24th.*—Such has been the decay in my eyesight the whole of this year that I have not been able to read either print or MS., though I have continued to write letters, as I am writing on this 24th of December. I cannot read it when written. I have also lost my hearing in one ear in a great degree; subject to this, my bodily health has been what may be called good. I have been obliged to pay more than £1,000 by the treachery of a clerk, and the malice of one who had been long attempting, and at last effected a loss of long friendship with Mrs. Wigzell.<sup>3</sup>

## 1832

*July 5th.*—Mr. Linnell, a portrait painter, was sent by my grandson Reginald to paint a portrait of me [reproduced with these extracts]. I had five sittings.

*Oct. 18th.*—I sent my curious MS. of the Bishops' estates seized

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Bray cared very little for politics, but he was not a Tory, and would not have voted for Mr. Sumner if he had not represented the county for many years and been much respected.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Bray was within a few weeks of 90. He took no servant with him.

<sup>3</sup> After this shameful affair, neither Mr. Taylor his clerk, nor Mr. Wigzell had any communications with Mr. Bray or his partners; but as a mark of repentance Mrs. Wigzell left Mr. Bray's grandson a legacy of £100, and Mr. Taylor left £100 to the firm of Bray and Warren.

and sold by Cromwell to Mr. Ellis,<sup>1</sup> to be presented to the Trustees of the British Museum.

*Dec. 17th.*—A little rain; at home. Paid Higgins<sup>2</sup> 8s. 3d.  
[This is the last entry in the diary.]

<sup>1</sup> Principal Librarian at the British Museum; afterwards Sir Henry Ellis. He was Mr. Bray's oldest friend then living. He died in 1868 at a very advanced age, having during his long life rendered most valuable services to the public, and particularly by his contributions to English history.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Higgins was employed by Mr. Bray in writing for him. His last guest at Shere was his old friend Mr. Carlisle, one of the Secretaries of the Antiquary Society, who came to Shere on Saturday, the 28th of October, and remained till Monday. His grandson Reginald was with him for a day or two every week, and played at piquette with him three days before his death, which took place on the 21st.

### *Note.*

Mr. Bray was a great traveller. He never visited the Continent or Ireland, but his archæological tours between 1769 and 1799 took him all over England and Wales. His first excursion, after his tour in Wales in 1769, was in 1774, into Leicestershire and the adjoining counties, when he visited the Field of Bosworth, where it is said that Sir Reginald Bray picked up King Richard's crown and gave it to Lord Stanley, who presented it to the Earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry VII. Mr. Bray left notes of his travels. These were bound together, making a large book. Most of the houses he saw are fully described.