

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES  
OF THE  
BORDLEY FAMILY,  
OF MARYLAND,  
FOR THEIR DESCENDANTS.

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PART FIRST.

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BY  
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EDITED BY HER NIECE,  
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Their daughter, Ariana Jenings, married John Randolph, of Virginia; brother to the celebrated Peyton Randolph. They had one son, Edmund Randolph, some time Secretary of State, appointed by General Washington, when President; and two daughters, Ariana and Susan; one of whom married a Mr. Grimes, who took her to England; the other married a Mr. Wormeley, who took her, also, to England; the latter left a son, now Rear Admiral Wormeley, married and settled at Boston, 1826.\*

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### STEPHEN BORDLEY.

Stephen, eldest son of the Thomas and Rachel Bordley before mentioned, was born at Annapolis, Maryland, in 1709. He was early sent to England, for education, and soon after his father's death, he entered there on the study of the law, as his father, just before his death, advised him. In his letters to his step-mother, and other friends, on the subject of his profession, and his future course of life, he shows a strong mind, vigorous in reasoning; and equally docile and amiable in deference and respect to his experienced friends and guardians. This good sense early appeared; while yet a youth at school in England, he wrote to his great-uncle, the Rev. Wm. Bordley, clergyman, before mentioned, in a way which excited the old gentleman's surprise; and in one of his letters to Stephen's father, dated Westmoreland, 1725, speaking of his "young

\* Returned to England and in the Royal Navy.

kinsman," Stephen having lately written to him, he adds, "that letter contains these remarkable words, viz.: 'all my aim is to oblige my friends, which I can never better do than by doing the best for myself.' I've reason to congratulate you upon the number of your children, since 'tis scarce possible such parts, well employed, should ever want bread, in your world!'"\*

But although Stephen's spirited turn of mind thus early showed itself, nothing could be more affectionately respectful than his whole conduct towards his guardians and elder friends. His habit of keeping a letter-book, commenced immediately after his arrival in England, gives now an opportunity of catching various traits which mark his character—and his was a character that showed itself manfully, and did not leave itself to be discovered by chance or surmise—foibles and mistakes, *all* came to light! Its predominant tone, whilst he was in England, appears to have been an earnest and passionate attachment to his native country, and a correspondent eagerness to return to it. He remained in England ten years, first in going through various schools, afterwards in close study of the law for four years with an attorney; afterwards for several years in the Temple. He appears to have taken a moderate share of amusement; and not to have neglected any of his social duties. Among the latter, were attentions to several elderly aunts and cousins of the Bordley family, in

\* In the close of this old gentleman's letter there is the following sensible rule of conduct. He mentions that an "Ancient Seat" (with many advantages) is likely to be "sold soon for £9 or 10,000; but, *qua supra nos, nihil ad nos*. A sufficiency with contentment is both the satisfaction and delight of him . . . who subscribes himself your truly affectionate Uncle,

Yorkshire; in whose affairs he took an affectionate interest, remarkable in so young a man; he supported a steady intercourse with them whilst in England, and continued the correspondence by letter, after his return home.

For this event he was impatient, but he had resolved to reap the full harvest of instruction that he had entered upon, and to hasten the wished for period of return, he labored with a zeal proportioned to the steady ardor of his character. Speaking in one of his letters of his own country, he says: "I should be much troubled ever to see that country without being capable of serving it. It was for that purpose I was sent out here; and, therefore, to return without so doing would be adverse to the intention of my father." \* \* "Unless you give me so plentiful an education, that I may be able to serve others as well as myself, it will all be in vain, &c." "\* \* If you still propose that I sh<sup>d</sup> see you without learning some business, I cannot forbear saying it will be an action much like that of a countryman, who pulled his fruit before it was ripe, and thereby lost the profit of it. I should certainly be very willing to see you and my other friends, if I was qualified as fully as my father intended; but since it is not so, let me prevail with you to lay aside so much of that tenderness belonging to mothers (if such is the reason) as to allow me time to learn some business in London, for nowhere better can business be learnt. It was, a little before his operation, the opinion of my father, that I should be fittest for the law—it is also the opinion of Mr. Hunt; what I myself have the greatest inclination to, and what will be of most service to my country, &c." To Mr. Beale,

an excellent friend of the family, and the executor of his father's estate, he writes thus: "I heartily thank you for your kind advice; you need not doubt but I shall endeavor to follow it, considering that

'My Father's merit sets me up to view,  
And shews me in the fairest point of light  
To make my virtues or my faults conspicuous.\*'

As you are now the chief manager of our affairs, I beg you will take the trouble to advise mother concerning the future part of my life. I should be very willing to see her and my other friends, was I qualified to do them any service, but I have not yet been to learn any business, &c."

These were written before affairs at home were quite settled, and show the ardor and impatience of a youth of eighteen, who, to use his own words, considers "all his future happiness as hanging on the present moment!" To say truth, and we should not be worthy of our task if we did not, impatience seems to have been one of Stephen's foibles; but the candor and artlessness with which he betrays it, should disarm censure, especially when we find that it never impelled him to unjust conduct; nor ever prevented the magnanimity with which he often acknowledged himself mistaken.

About the same period he expressed himself thus in writing to his Reverend Uncle William: "You seemed pleased with the provision my father hath made for us; which indeed, were it but in England, would be a vast estate; but as it is, the best of that land is not worth above 20s. or 22s. pr. acre. But, however, I am content,

\* Addison's Cato.

and wonder how he could get so much; always having enemies and enviers, who endeavored to subvert his undertakings; which was without dispute, a great hinderance to him." Soon afterwards we find him writing to thank his step-mother for her generous acquiescence in his plans, and also to assure her that he shall "not credit anything to the dispraise of her marriage;" on the contrary, "I am confirmed in the belief of Mr. Jening's good-will to our family; and as to yours, I was long ago having experienced it."

For his step-mother, he appears to have had a truly filial affection, founded on admiration of her virtues. In a letter to one of his aunts in England, he mentions some conduct of hers with high approbation, and adds, "but she is a step-mother of the first rank." In writing to herself, he implores her "by the tenderness she has always shown him, &c." Her third marriage seems to startle him at first, and calls forth somewhat of his turn to satire, but he becomes quite reconciled to it. While yet but nineteen, he writes to her thus: "I perceive there are some who, since my father's death, have dared to exert themselves, and undertake what they never dared to do whilst he was living; which shows their meanness of spirit, and gives his successor an insight into their characters, and thereby an advantage in managing them. You may rely on it, I shall take all opportunities of improving myself, that I may be able in time to serve my friends, and especially yourself (if ever you sh<sup>d</sup> be so unhappy as to want it,) who hath put so good an opportunity of improvement into my hands." The latter part refers to her great generosity in taking on herself the expenses of his education.

His first attention to the law was with a respectable attorney in London, selected by his guardian, Mr. Hunt, a most estimable man. He engaged for a course of study of five years, for two hundred guineas; with the privilege of withdrawing at the end of four years, if he chose. At the same time his brother William is engaged by their guardian, Mr. Hunt, to a merchant for three hundred guineas.

It does not appear at what time exactly Stephen entered the Temple, perhaps on his return to England. With his teacher, the attorney, he seems well pleased, expressing himself thus to his reverend uncle, date 1729: "I am now at Mr. Page's, an attorney in Austin-fryers, near the Royal Exchange. I am articed for five years, to leave at four if I think fit—where, I thank God, nothing is wanting to render me as completely happy as this world can admit."

His undeviating attachment to home is feelingly and naturally displayed in his letters to his own family, both in America and England, and also to his boyish and youthful friends on this side of the Atlantic; amongst whom were two of his quondam schoolfellows, Edward and James Tilghman, of Maryland. This friendship, renewed when they entered on the busy stage of life together, was strengthened with each succeeding year of their lives; some of the gay and easy letters which passed between them still exist, and mark the genuine and gentlemanly frankness of their mutual regard.

His brother William, not liking the profession chosen for him, was recalled home, and left England in 1731.

Some extracts from Stephen's subsequent letters to him

will show both his affection for his brother, and the sound reflections he was, even so young, capable of forming.

LONDON, *Apl.* 5, 1731.

“DR WILL :

Since your departure, I have been under several disappointments; for having several times thought with myself that I had not seen you for a long time, I have, in order to go to see you at your school, frequently half dressed myself before I have discovered my mistake. By this you may see that I often think of you, &c.”

“Inclosed is a letter from your Aunt —; you’ll there see that she recommends to you above all things a due observance of your duty to your great Creator—herein I also join with her, and make it also my request that you would do so; but since she hath not told you wherein that duty consists, for want of knowing which you may possibly fall into a very great, and I fear common, error in that point, I shall endeavor, in 2 or 3 words, to put it in your power to avoid it. The error is this: some men imagine they have done their duty to their Creator when they have gone to Church twice a day & muttered over a few prayers, and perhaps heard one or two sermons, without ever desiring what they seem to pray for, or designing to live up to the rules laid down in those sermons; but this is so far from being a due performance of one’s duty, or being anywise acceptable to the Supreme Being, that ’tis on the contrary a direct affront to him, as ’tis supposing him to be so stupid as to afford his blessings to any that ask them, tho’ in so slovenly a manner, as if they were indifferent whether they obtained what their words seem to request

of him, or no. This is an error the \* \* \* \* have most unhappily fallen into, & which you must as much as possible avoid. In short, go constantly to Church, and whether you pray or hear, let the one be done with the greatest desire of obtaining what you ask, and with a resolution of doing your endeavor to that end; and the other with the like resolution of living up to those rules there laid down to govern your actions. Observe this, dear Will, as you have a regard to the difference between a happy & a miserable eternity.

“A man is neither a better nor a worse man, nor will any one of common sense think him so, for any, even extraordinary virtues or flagrant vices, [& much less for any accidental circumstances in life,] which any of his family may have been noted for, for these things are wholly personal, and cannot extend to any but such as are the immediate possessors of them.

“Think on your present course of life. How will it enable you to serve your Country, your friends, or even to keep yourself from starving? ’Tis a matter well worth your consideration.”

In the spring of 1733, he quitted the attorney’s office, and instantly prepared for his voyage home, towards which his heart rebounds with the elasticity of a spring long repressed! In the June of that year, he dates a round of letters to his friends and relations in England, from Annapolis; informing them of his “safe arrival,” finding “all well,” his “reception being as agreeable as he could wish,” &c., &c., all in high spirits and his wonted jocose manner. At the same time, by the list of law books that he orders sent out to him, he proves himself much in

earnest in his law vocation. Before the expiration of a year, we find him engaged in a lawsuit with the Lord Baltimore, and in consequence of it, he returns back to England in the spring of 1734, in company with his step-father, Mr. Jenings, and his half-brother, Thomas Bordley, then about ten years old, who was taken for his education, and put to school without loss of time.

Then follow letters expressive of lively affection to his sister Elizabeth, his "dear Bett," with many gallant and complimentary allusions to the charming ladies of Annapolis; and some half-hid expressions, which look very much like a particular attachment—but to whom, is not told! His letters dated on board ship, mention Miss Carroll as being of their party; he closes most of them with assurances that "Mr. Jenings, Miss Carroll, and Tom are well," and to his step-mother, with his accustomed ease and affection, he says, "good company, good weather, plenty, & an easy ship, cannot but render our passage pleasant," &c.

While in England on this occasion, he took chambers in the Temple, with the view to advance and perfect himself in the law during his stay. While a young man, he showed himself remarkably alert and anxious to take advantage of time and opportunity, for further benefit; and not to sacrifice this judicious system, for mere idle gratification of the present moment: yet he enjoyed life—nobody more! He appears always happy and full of playful humor, but he made it a point in his own mind, not to permit the present to beguile him of the future; he sent his thoughts forward, more than is very common, even to well educated youth.

A few more extracts from his letters will show him more

completely than any other language. Writing to his aunts, who resided in a distant part of England, he has occasion to lament for them, some difficulties in their affairs, and adds: "I am in hopes this will not produce discontent; the possessions of this life are so precarious, and in themselves such trifles, that none but lunaticks or fools would suffer much uneasiness at parting with them; and as I have no reason to think you either one or the other, I persuade myself you bear your loss as you should do." In another letter, speaking of his step-mother's family in Annapolis, he says:

"There is scarce anything upon earth I more desire, than to be with that agreeable family: which desire, together with the difference between this most unwholesome, muggy climate, (London,) and that serene, wholesome air, may in all probability expedite my return thither."

To his step-mother he writes:

"Tommy, your first hope, has been some time settled at school, about 25 miles from this place, in a clear wholesome air, & in a family where nothing seems wanting to qualify him as fully to meet your wishes as a school can do. I heard lately from him, & design now & then to pay him a visit, & transmit to you such novelties concerning him as shall occur. This I know will not be disagreeable to that tenderness you express for him, and which I should believe sincere, even tho' I had no other motive than the conformity in your speech and conduct to your dutiful son S. B."

In writing again to his aunts, his father's sisters, he congratulates them on bearing "their late loss" with "such a frame of mind as will enable the person blessed with it

to make the most of the happiness this world affords, by despising what others would call misfortunes. I own for my part, that altho' I have not lived quite so long in the world as yourself, I have yet lived long enough to know, that there is nothing here worth giving myself one moment's uneasiness about. I therefore doubt not that your greater experience will induce you to think so too."

These relations having some time afterwards applied to their nephew Stephen, for pecuniary aid, which the state of his own affairs at that time made it impossible for him to render, he writes in their behalf to his rev. great-uncle, who was also their uncle, to entreat him to transfer an offer of kindness made previously to himself, to these, their mutual relations. This well written and interesting appeal, we find was eventually successful; but with his usual impatience, not being satisfied with the slow movements of his rev. uncle, he makes use of a mutual friend to send him his "duty and hearty thanks," to be accompanied by this remark, "that he who bestows in time, bestows twice"—words worth remembering! as are also those with which he closes his farewell letter to his aunts, viz.: "That health and happiness (the latter of which is still and always in your own power) may attend you both, is the hearty prayer of," &c.

In a long letter on politics to his Uncle Hynson, date London, 1734, he adds: "But since methinks I see you smile to hear a young man talk of what he is utterly unacquainted with, I shall conclude this matter with saying, that unless a young man discovers his ignorance to those who are able to inform him, 'tis unlikely he should ever know anything."

It appears openly at last, that the beautiful Miss Peggy Shippen was the object of his admiration! Whilst in London he receives the account of her being engaged, and afterwards of her being married to a gentleman of Boston. He expresses the most earnest wishes for her happiness, and endeavors to show some magnanimity towards the object of her choice, which is, however, accompanied by some of his satirical touches—perhaps those who have ever been deeply in love, may be able to excuse him!

His rev. great-uncle having expressed a desire to understand the state of his affairs with the Lord Baltimore, he writes him a long letter of explanation, from which we will give some extracts:

"'Tis a dispute between the Ld. Baltimore and myself arising upon an endeavor of his to vacate his own grant given to my Father and another person for the quantity of 230 acres of land, each of which is worth at least £100 sterlg."—"My father has by his Will, among other things, divided his share thereof amongst us his children: there is in such part as comes to me a very beautiful hill\* (and it is mentioned in his Will): With this spot his Lordship during the time of his being in Maryland professed to be greatly enamoured, & at last determined to do his utmost towards getting the same into his possession, under pretence of building a Governor's house thereon."

"And as the metropolis of that province is built only on the said 230 acres, if his Ldship can by this method vacate that grant, he has besides the forementioned advantages, the fee-simple of the whole town in himself, and will

\* The hill in the center of the city, on which the State-house was afterwards built.

then either oblige the respective inhabitants to re-purchase at a full value, or else to pay a very considerable annual rent—a very considerable improvement of his revenue, and another, indeed a main reason for his present conduct ; for the hope of gaining more is always the main spring of action to an avaricious disposition.

“ You’ll naturally reflect how likely his Ldship’s Province is to flourish under his Ldship’s oppression !

“ . . . since this is a matter not only of greatest importance to myself but likewise to all the private proprietors of the Province, I know not whether I shall not come over again (to England) with it myself—for could I, tho’ with the ruin of my whole fortune, baulk his avaricious maw of this morsel of land, and the dangerous precedent, I should glory in the action.” “ I have many reasons to think that his Ldship has not laid aside his old animosity to *our family*, on account of the many oppositions it has given him in his former endeavors to oppress the people—and least I should follow so good an example as my worthy Father lately left me, of a humane and publick spirit, and knowing that

Haud facillè emergent quod virtutibus obstat  
Res augusta domi . . . .

he is determined to crush me (in our Court language) and put it out of my power to give them any future opposition.” . . . .

In April, 1735, he again leaves England—and his subsequent letters to his friends there, show him anxiously supporting his cause against his powerful adversary. He is astonished, on returning to Maryland, to find the progress things have made in the province, during the short

interval of a year, “ towards an absolute and despotick government ;” and although his interest in that affair is the interest of the whole people, he fears they are become so “ mean and subservient to the Court party” that they will “ rather see him utterly ruined in this spirited attempt, than help him to success by their timely aid.”

Notwithstanding his close attention to business, of various descriptions, he never omits writing to his absent friends, both in England and America ; and knowing the fact of his having an immense run of business as a lawyer, besides his fondness for social life, we might be surprised at his voluntarily accomplishing these epistolary tasks, did we not reflect on the power and beauty of order, system, and punctuality, which have the effect of creating time for all things, and developing new resources.

To his brother Tom, left at school in England, he writes long and very interesting letters, conveying information and advice suitable to his age, and which, being pleasingly adapted to his capacity and situation, could hardly fail to produce good effects on his mind—or indeed on that of any one who peruses them thoughtfully.

To Mr. Harris, Speaker of the House of Assembly, who was connected with the family both by birth and marriage, he writes long familiar letters, sometimes on politics, paper currency, &c. To give some idea of his drollery and humor we will extract a passage from one of these, where, after having written five closely-filled pages on the above subjects, he abruptly says : “ But hang politicks ! and since I am somewhat ashamed of breaking off before my letter be run to a moderate length, let us return to our jocose conversation. If my particular friend’s vehicle had but



four wheels, tho' it were as little as a wheelbarrow, methinks I could look very big in it, but I cannot endure the thoughts of riding in a sledge, like one going to the gallows;—I will therefore choose to wait till she procures herself a Coach, & I doubt not but my patience will be well repaid by the satisfaction I shall have in reflecting on the two pretty figures we shall make in it," &c.

His half-sister, Miss Frisby, having informed him of some ill-natured remark which had been made against him, he replies with that sportive indifference and composure which marks true self-respect on these occasions, and recommending her to be quite easy, he adds: "I do not find that it (the report) at all infringes on my liberty & gaiety; for it is with me now, as it used to be, every day is holiday with me."

Yet, notwithstanding his fine animal spirits, his energy of character, and his firm standing in society, we find, in a letter to an intimate friend in England, dated Annapolis, September, 1736, the following confession: "I am still in an unsettled condition; as not being certain whether I shall ever be able to speak in public; having several times attempted it with the utmost agony and confusion to myself; and what is worst of all, without any signs of its becoming more easy and familiar to me. I am determined once more to make tryal, and if I fail of success, I think I must of necessity give it over:—how I may dispose of myself afterwards, I am not yet determined." This occurred several years after he had been admitted to practice, and should be remembered by all those young lawyers who may chance to have similar difficulties in their own feelings; for Mr. Bordley not only overcame them by per-

severing endeavors, but he soon afterwards became a distinguished lawyer, was thronged with great practice, and maintained his professional standing to the close of his life.

As to his suit with Lord Baltimore, it was decreed against him in the Maryland Courts, and he transferred it by appeal to England. At one time it seemed to prosper, but some difficulty afterwards occurred that appears to have delayed the settlement of it to a later period.

In the mean while, he was very comfortably settled at Annapolis, in the rising practice of his profession, and in the easy and truly social enjoyment of good society, for which he had a decided propensity; and perhaps few old bachelors so well understood doing the honors of his own house—for his leading principle was, an open-hearted hospitality to those he believed deserving. He had invited his only sister to keep house for him; and in their mutual affection and respect, their sensible and moderate views of life, and the respectful regard of their numerous connections and acquaintances, they appear to have possessed, and to have been sensible of the possession, as much happiness as usually falls to the lot of mortals. The following family sketch, from a letter to his aunts, Mary and Elizabeth Bordley, in England, will show his warm affections as a brother, and also his predilection for a rural life, which we believe to have been sincere, notwithstanding the evidence of his conduct to the contrary. Many are those mortals, thronging together in a city, whose career exhibits this apparent inconsistency, but in fact their beautiful consistency in the course of duty. Nature gives to all her children this fondness for the scenes of her

domain—education and circumstances enable them often to act on some principle of duty opposed to it.

“In compliance with your request, I must inform you of the situation of our family: I have two own Brothers & one Sister; the eldest is my brother Will, who has now been of age some time & is very capable of doing for himself in that kind of life which in my opinion is by far the most happy; I mean that of a Planter;\* it affording a good income, & being destitute of the noise & bustle & stir which attends those who are obliged to lead their lives amongst great numbers of people; and whose livelihood of course depends upon the smiles of those who, from the nature of their employment, are often inclined to frown; whilst the honest peaceable labour & industry of the other, procures him a sweet & pleasant & independent repose, affording him not only a certain means of living, but likewise of living well. My Brother Johnny is now about 16 & still at school here, intending for the same kind of employment with his Brother Will.—My sister Bett is between 19 & 20—and is one for whose sake alone I could choose to live, and should have but little inclination to continue here after the happening of anything to deprive me of her; or to lessen that affection which I now bear her; and which I think I ought, so long as she continues to do nothing whereby she may forfeit it. She is still single, and in my opinion, since she has a fortune independent of any one, she will be best off while she continues so; tho' I would not be understood as if I was against her marrying if she were so inclined; but only to

\* “Planter” was then synonymous with husbandman, or one who lived by cultivating his estate, and living on it.

let you see that I think there are so few men who may be trusted with the happiness of a woman of education or delicacy, that the hazard is not worth running; and of this she is herself sensible; indeed there are very few to whom I could trust her's. I am likewise still single; and at present continue so as well to avoid the noise and uneasiness of a large family & the continual labour and fatigue of providing fortunes to be left them at my death, as the lessening my power of doing for my dear Bett anything that may contribute towards making her happy. I have also three half Brothers, Thomas, Matthias, and Beale; the eldest of whom is now in England, under Mr. Saml. Hyde's care, Merchant in London—to whom any letters may be sent; the other two are at school here. Since my Father's death, his wife has married again, and they have had three sons and one daughter; the eldest and the youngest were both boys and are both dead. Before she married my Father, she had three girls by a former husband, all now living, the eldest and the youngest married off. So when we are all together, we can almost make enough to carry a Borough Election, allowing us all votes. Annapolis, Sept., 1737.”

His correspondence with young Mr. M. Harris, of some years' standing, is quite voluminous, including a variety of topics, discussed between them in an interesting way: religion, government, literature, friendship, courtship, manners, &c., each take their turn; and though treated in that frank and ingenuous way that is so becoming in a familiar correspondence, they nevertheless convey many solid and valuable reflections and opinions, without either ostentation or bigotry. The young friend seeks, by means

of inquiry, to be enlightened by the other's experience and knowledge; the senior meets these researches with the overflowing abundance of his own good humor and mental wealth; and when we consider the superior acquired advantages of his mind, as well as its native acuteness and sagacity, we cannot but congratulate that young gentleman on having obtained the willing assistance of such a friend.

"The friend thou hast, and his adoption tried,  
Grapple him to thy soul with hooks of steel."

But we are grieved to be obliged to acknowledge that the blessing was not sufficiently estimated. Pride, alas! false pride, stepped in between the young man and his best interests! Perhaps he was afraid, being the younger, of acknowledging himself inferior; that fear, which proves the existence of real inferiority! Perhaps he thought, as unhappily too many do, that putting on a bold aspect would conceal the truth—not reflecting that Truth, the sacred emanation from the light of Heaven, can never be concealed.

The youth appears to have fought hard to reject the improvement within his reach, by caviling at trifles, playing off flashes of false wit and unmeaning repartee, and at last venturing, with equal ingratitude and folly, to assail the motives of his enlightened friend.

Then it is, that Stephen's amiable character shines forth. For a long while, and letter after letter, he gently parries the other's unkind thrusts, takes the trouble to point out his misapprehensions, and by alternate drollery and remonstrance to set the other right respecting his friendship—which was in fact the only motive that could actuate him

in a private correspondence with a young person, residing far from him, and possessing neither the power to promote or to interfere with his interests in any way whatever. At last, finding it impossible to make a blind man see, he determines to stop the correspondence; he withholds an answer, already written, (seven pages of kind and forcible explanation,) and confines himself to sending a few lines on some pretended business, without noticing the other's impertinence. The ultimate consequence was, that the tyro received no more improving speculations—he was not reproached—he was not quite deserted—the generosity of his friend still endured, and smiled at his weakness—but he had checked its gay and genial flow; that first fine glow of the heart, which, once chilled, can never beam again with the same warmth!

Alas! how common are such mistakes in young people—and also, in some who never come to years of wisdom! Too many of us, of all ages, avoid looking to the consequences of our own conduct. It requires a good player, either at chess, or in the game of life, to see several moves ahead! Yet He, who gives us the noble faculty of reason, also requires us to use it—and, let us never forget, that He will also require us to give an account of it to Him!

In 1750, Mr. Bordley gives the following little family views to one of his relations in the north of England:

"We live well, and cheerfully, with the enjoyment of all the necessaries and many of the little comforts of life. I wish we could, without inconvenience to yourselves, have your whole family, big & little, by our fireside the ensuing Christmas." \* \* \* \* "We are all still single; a strange family! perhaps you'll say; but Beale is now in

pursuit of a Dove, and I am apt to believe will soon break the enchantment."

"My next Brother is William, who lives on his own land, which is of the best sort amongst us, & as good as any in England; and is one whom you would call a Gentleman-farmer. The next is John, a trader—these are our own Brothers. The following are by a different mother: Matthias, who has a genteel and beneficial place under Government; and Beale, who now and for several years past has lived with me, is a trader."\* "Amidst a great plenty of everything, we enjoy as fine and serene an air as any in the world—our winter is generally sharp, but dry; and our summer warm, but healthy."

In the manner of life already slightly described, Stephen Bordley continued to pass his years in uninterrupted quiet and satisfaction; enjoying a goodly portion of the comforts and luxuries that he best liked; and sharing them largely and liberally with his relations, friends, and acquaintances. His house was headquarters to his kindred of every degree; and he appears to have been dissatisfied with his brothers' visits, if they did not bring their wives and children with them—and shows in his family letters an amiable interest in all their little concerns.

His intimates were the Tilghmans, as before mentioned; the Dulanys, Carrolls, &c., including all the first society of Annapolis, amongst whom he was a great favorite—and no wonder! for he delighted to promote gayety amongst the young, and was seconded by his sister in giving them frequent entertainments; and particularly in keeping a

\* This was written at the time that Beale had renounced the law to try commerce, which, not liking, he afterwards resumed the law.

good table, every day hospitably ready. If there was one article in which he was more luxurious than another, it was in wines: these he prided himself in having of the best, and in abundance. In his orders to the celebrated house of Hill & Co., for a pipe of Madeira, he says: "A pipe of your best Madeira wine, cost what it will; as I do not stint you in price, I hope you will not slight me in the wine." We find in his orders, bills, &c. repeated items of this kind: "A Cask of Champagne, and two of Burgundy," addressed to his regular French merchants. In his familiar letter, is now and then a hint to some particular friend, that he reserves a "few dozen of Burgundy for him;" as for instance, to his favorite, James Tilghman, he says: "My Burgundy is almost out; but I shall keep some of that as well as of Champagne till the Provincial Court, when I hope we shall share it together." In all this, there was a gentlemanly liberality without extravagance; for no one could be more exact in regulating his expenses according to his means, and squaring his inclination by his ability. The remarkable and neat regularity of his accounts, exemplary even now to behold! prove the justice of this remark—and he says himself, when recommending this habit of keeping exact accounts, to an intimate friend: "I know by this method every article coming in and going out; and particularly I find that my house-keeping costs me in 1750 \*\*\*\*\*, which gives me a plain hint to live more frugally. This method takes some time, but is fully compensated by knowing every article of charge, and at the year's end what one is worth to a farthing!"

He was a man who delighted to be liberal and generous, and to promote others' comforts was his joy; but he would

never be imposed on. Nature had provided him with a weapon of defense as powerful when well managed, as any other; and this was a satirical humor, and a pointed wit, that evidently kept his enemies in awe. He used it most freely in the course of some political conflicts in which he was engaged; and there is a pamphlet now by us, which strongly marks his talent in wielding it. To his friends, who were numerous, it was playful and harmless humor, and proved that the fancy which used it was completely under the control of the possessor. This worthy old bachelor, for such he remained, was a great favorite amongst the ladies of the first circle of Annapolis, where his society and conversation were much sought after—they smiled at his primitive and precise politeness, but justly admired his wit, good sense, and good humor. His satirical vein was felt only by his assailants, but woe to those who induced him to draw an arrow in self-defense!

He resided in the old family house, on taking possession of which, he sent to England for complete suits of household furniture, plate, &c. Its noblest furniture, however, was an extensive law and miscellaneous library, amply stocked with the best editions of well-selected works, in various languages, to which he was constantly adding, and, reading as he added—his opinions, showing a good critical taste of the different authors and subjects of the day, are largely expressed in some of his familiar letters; he seems always to have read to good purpose; and neither law nor politics could conquer his favorite pursuit of general knowledge.

As a lawyer, he stood high; and though surrounded in that day by able competitors, his practice was very exten-

sive. His close application, steadiness, order, and punctuality, were proverbially marked and admired. He was for some time high in influence in the General Assembly of Maryland, and held several valuable offices under the Provincial Government. Coming, at twenty-one, into possession of a considerable patrimonial estate, successful in law practice, and holding various lucrative appointments, he amassed a handsome property; with which he lived liberally to the extent of his income, and contributed largely to the enjoyment of others, without squandering his means. There seemed nothing wanting to his happiness but a wife! Like many of his brotherhood, he was an admirer of the fair sex, and fond of being rallied for his admiration of handsome individuals amongst them—though we believe he was only once in sober earnest on this subject. He acquired some quaint old bachelor peculiarities; amongst them was the virtue of neatness carried rather to an extreme precision, in everything under his direction, from the arrangement of his books and papers down to the minutest attentions of the toilette. To this day this neatness is evident in his voluminous files of papers, and in his many and exact account books, copies of orders to his distant merchants,\* letter books, files of letters, &c.

He delighted in manly sports. There is a letter from him to a young friend, accompanying the present of a valuable bow and arrows, made of the yew-tree, in which he gives directions with characteristic minuteness and precision, both for the manner of using it, and of keeping it when out of use. He seems, indeed, to have been never

\* In these are some now curious articles, as "Two black wigs," "Two pieces of the finest Holland linen," "Three ditto of the best Cambric," &c.

happier than when contributing to the amusement or instruction of young persons.

He enjoyed a robust constitution and general health till within a short time of his death, which took place Dec. 6, 1764, at his own house, in Annapolis. We cannot give a better account of this event than from the pen of his brother Beale, in a letter to a relation and friend, viz.:

“The flattering hopes we had of my Brother’s being relieved of his Palsy, vanished very suddenly—but a week before his death, which was on the 6<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> he thought himself so well as to wish to follow me up to Baltimore—yet for the most part he had for many months before been assured within himself that he could not recover, of which he often told me, and seemed rather desirous of death than otherwise. No one ever died more composed and even cheerfully resigned—he was placid from the moment he quitted the thoughts of all business, which was about two months before the fatal moment—he gradually wasted away, (the effects of the Palsy,) and died in my arms on his Couch, without a groan, being sensible of the approach, and of every thing about him, two minutes before. I had got to him about three hours before. Near the beginning of his Will, he blesses God for the many mercies vouchsafed to him thro’ the course of this mortal life, and for the prospect of a happy Eternity thro’ the sufferings, death and resurrection of our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ; and towards the end he concludes—‘In witness whereof (with the highest sense of gratitude and most fervent thanks to Almighty God for his many undeserved blessings), &c.’ He was always unaffectedly religious, and his many notes and readings on the subject shew it, even from the time

he was at school—but he always modestly disapproved of the trappings and outside, taking the greatest pains to improve and elevate his mind with a reverence and respect for the Deity—He did not doubt of the truths of the Christian Religion. But I cannot omit mentioning a text which he wrote in large letters at the beginning of one of his note-books on this subject—‘Where mystery begins, there Religion ends.’ For my part I have always looked on it that Religion, (the Christian Religion,) so far as at this time is necessary for us to know, is simple, pure, and uncompounded.”

He bequeathed his library with his whole estate to his only remaining brother, Beale; subject to an annuity, with the use of his house, furniture, &c., to his sister—and leaving several legacies of (£1000) one thousand pounds each to some other relations.

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### WILLIAM BORDLEY

Was the second son of Thomas and Rachel Bordley. He was born at Annapolis in 1716. He was educated in England as before mentioned, with his brother Stephen, and intended for a mercantile profession, but after a short trial of this business he relinquished it and returned home, where on coming of age, he settled on a farm in Cecil County, Maryland. There he held several profitable offices, and maintained a respectable plain character. He resided principally on his estate until his death, which took place in 1762. He married a Miss Pearce, and left a son and daughter, who both died in infancy.