

NOTES AND QUERIES:

A MEDIUM OF INTER-COMMUNICATION

FOR

LITERARY MEN, ARTISTS, ANTIQUARIES, GENEALOGISTS, ETC.

"When found, make a note of."—CAPTAIN CUTTLE.

No. 10.]

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TRAVELLING OF OLD IN ENGLAND.

I do not know any where a more distinct account of the commencement and progress of a journey in England, two centuries ago, than is given in Taylor's (the Water-poet) narrative, in prose and verse, of his travels from London to the Isle of Wight, while Charles I. was there. It is short, as well as clear, and the stages, and the time it took to perform them, are one after another pointed out. Moreover, he states that the journey was performed in a public coach drawn by four horses, and conducted by two coachmen. There were four passengers besides Taylor, and they started from the Rose, near Holborn Bridge, in the Southampton coach (which came weekly to that inn), on Thursday, 19th October, 1647, and arrived on the same evening, at 5 o'clock, at Staines. They remained all night at the Bush, and next morning proceeded by Bagshot to Alton, where they put up at the White Hart, and again slept. On Saturday they again set off early, and

by dint of "fiery speed" and "foaming bits," they reached the Dolphin at Southampton that day. The Rose, at the foot of Holborn Hill, which I can remember forty years ago, and from which the party set out, has disappeared; but the Bush, at Staines, and the Dolphin, at Southampton, still remain. A small part of Taylor's information is given in marginal notes, but his text, which, in fact, contains all that illustrates the point at issue, is the following:—

"We took one coach, two coachmen, and four horses, And merrily from London made our courses. We wheel'd the top of the heavy hill call'd Holborn, (Up which hath been full many a sinful soul borne,) And so along we jolted past St. Giles's, Which place from Brentford six, or near seven, miles is.

To Staines that night at five o'clock we coasted, Where, at the Bush, we had bak'd, boild, and roasted. Bright Sol's illustrious rays the day adorning, We past Bagshot and Bawwaw Friday morning, That night we lodg'd at the White Hart at Alton, And had good meat—a table with a salt on. Next morn we rose with blushing-cheek'd Aurora; The ways were fair, but not so fair as Flora, For Flora was a goddess and a woman, And, like the highways, to all men was common. Our horses, with the coach which we went into, Did hurry us amain, through thick and thin too, With fiery speed, the foaming bits they champ'd on, And brought us to the Dolphin at Southampton."

The tract from which I quote was printed in 1648 for the author, who was paid for it, as appears by his title-page, in the following manner:—

"When John Taylor hath been from London to the Isle of Wight and returned again, and at his return he do give, or cause to be given, to me a book or pamphlet of true news, and relations of passages, at the Island, and to and fro in his journey, I do promise to give him, or his assignes, the sum of what I please in lawful money of England, provided that the said sum be not under six pence."

This, as many are aware, was a usual mode with Taylor and some others to pay themselves for their expeditions: the Water-poet made many journeys of the kind, as may be seen by the list of his works in the folio of 1630, in which, of course, his *Travels from London to the Isle of Wight*, in 1647,

and various others subsequently printed, could not be included. There is no English author who gives us such minute and curious information respecting old customs, edifices, and peculiarities, as Taylor, the Water-poet, the contemporary and friend of Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, and of nearly all our poets and dramatists from the close of the reign of Elizabeth to the Restoration.

SARTORIUS.

As your correspondent G. G. seems fond of inquiring into the *modus itnerandi* of bygone days, and thinks a series of travelling hand-bills would be interesting, I send you two, copied from an original news-book almost two centuries old, and which I believe have never been reprinted. They are interesting, as showing not only the snail-like pace at which our ancestors were content to travel, but also how much they were willing to give for the tardy infliction.

G. M.

East Winch, 14th Dec. 1849.

"AN ADVERTISEMENT.

"From the 26th day of April, 1658, there will continue to go stage coaches from the George Inn without Aldersgate, London, unto the several cities and towns, for the rates, and at the times, hereafter mentioned and declared.

"Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

"To Salisbury in two days for xxs. To Blandford and Dorchester in two days and half for xxxs. To Burput in three days for xxxs. To Exmaster, Hunnington, and Exeter, in four days for xls. To Stamford in two days for xxs. To Newark in two days and a half for xxvs. To Bawtrety in three days for xxxs. To Doncaster and Ferribridge for xxxvs. To York in four days for xls.

"Mondays and Wednesdays to Ockinton and Plimouth for ls. Every Monday to Helperby and Northallerton for xlv. To Darneeton Ferryhil for ls. To Durham for lvs. To Newcastle for iul. Once every fortnight to Edinburgh for iul. a pece, Mondays. Every Friday to Wakefield in four days for xls.

"All persons who desire to travel unto the cities, towns, and roads, herein hereafter mentioned and expressed, namely, to Coventry, Litchfield, Stone, Namptwich, Chester, Warrington, Wigan, Chorley, Preston, Gastang, Lancaster, and Kendal; and also to Stamford, Grantham, Newark, Tuxford, Bawtrety, Doncaster, Ferribridge, York, Helperby, Northallerton, Darneeton, Ferryhill, Durham, and Newcastle, Wakefield, Leeds, and Hallifax; and also to Salisbury, Blandford, Dorchester, Barput, Exmaster, Hunnington and Exeter, Ockinton, Plimouth and Cornwall; let them repair to the George Inn at Holborn Bridge, London, and thence they shall be in good coaches with good horses, upon every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at and for reasonable rates."—From *Mercurius Politicus* for Thursday, April 8th, 1658.

"The post-masters on Chester road petitioning, have received orders, and do accordingly publish the following Advertisement:—

"All gentlemen, merchants, and others, who have occasion to travel between London and Westchester, Manchester and Warrington, or any other town upon the road, for the accommodation of trade, despatch of business, and ease of purse, upon every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning, between six and ten of the clock at the house of Mr. Christopher Charteris, at the sign of the Harts Horns in West Smithfield, and post-master there, and at the post-master of Chester, at the post-master of Manchester, and at the post-master of Warrington, may have a good and able single horse or more, furnished, at threepence the mile, without charge of a guide; and so likewise at the house of Mr. Thomas Challenor, post-master at Stone in Staffordshire upon every Tuesday, and Thursday, and Saturday mornings to go into London; and so likewise at all the several post-masters upon the road, who will have all such set days so many horses with furniture in readiness to furnish the riders without any stay, to carry them to or from any the places aforesaid in four days, as well to London, as from thence, and to places nearer in less time, according as their occasions shall require, they engaging at first stage where they take horse, for the safe delivery of the same to the next intermediate stage, and not to ride that horse any further, without consent of the post-master by whom he rides, and so from stage to stage on their journey's end.

"All those who intend to ride this way, are desired to give a little notice beforehand, if conveniently they can, to the several post-masters where they first take horse, whereby they may be furnished with so many horses as the riders shall require with expedition.

"This undertaking began the 28th of June, 1658, at all the places abovesaid, and so continues by the several post-masters."—From *Mercurius Politicus* for Thursday, 24th June, 1658.

SONG IN FLETCHER'S PLAY OF "THE NICE VALOUR"
—THE EX-ALE-TATION OF ALE, A POEM ATTRIBUTED TO BEAUMONT.

Many of your readers will remember the beautiful song in Fletcher's play of *The Nice Valour*, act iii. scene 3., beginning—

"Hence, all you vain delights,
As short as are the nights
Wherein you spend your folly!
There's nought in this life sweet,
If man were wise to see 't,
But only melancholy,
Oh, sweetest melancholy!"

Milton was indebted to it for the idea of his *Il Penseroso*; and Hazlitt calls it "the perfection of this kind of writing."

My object in now calling your attention to it, is to point out a copy, hitherto, I believe, unnoticed, among Malone's MSS. in the Bodleian Library. It is entitled, *A Song in ye praise of Melancholy*, and has appended to it, in the handwriting of Malone, the following note:—

"Dr. Strode, the author of this beautiful little piece, part of which has been ascribed unjustly to Fletcher,