Fielding's Signatures in "The Champion," and the Date of His "Of Good-Nature"

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Source: *The Modern Language Review*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (Jan., 1912), pp. 97-98

Published by: [Modern Humanities Research Association](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3712843>

Accessed: 01-12-2015 19:41 UTC

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POPE'S 'WINDSOR FOREST,' 65, 66.

The fields are ravish'd from th' industrious swains,
From men their cities, and from Gods their fanes.

Pope's own note on the couplet is 'Translated from

Templa adimit divis, fora civibus, arva colonis,

an old monkish writer, I forget who.' This statement has been reprinted again and again, but editors generally appear to have accepted Pope's obliviousness with resignation. Joseph Warton, it is true, wrote 'In Camden's *Britannia* first edition, in the account of Somersetshire, it is said of Edgar,

Templa Deo, templis Monachos, Monachis dedit agros.'

But this line from the epitaph of King Edgar, which, by the way, does not occur in the *first* edition of the *Britannia*, merely shews a certain parallelism in form. Warton, however, came curiously near Pope's real source. In the *Britannia*, under 'Hantshire,' Camden quotes certain lines which he attributes to John White, bishop of Winchester (*ob.* 1560),

Templa adimit divis, fora civibus, arva colonis
Rufus, & instituit Beaulensi in rure forestam.
Rex cervum insequitur, Regem vindicta; Tirellus
Non bene provisum transfixit acumine ferri.

With regard to White's poems John Pits, *Relationum Historicarum de Rebus Anglicis Tomus Primus*, 1619, p. 763, says of 'Ioannes Vitus,' 'Scripta huius praeclari viri, ipso auctore in vinculis moriente, pene omnia simul perierunt, praeter quaedam carmina' and mentions, p. 764, in a list of his productions, 'Epigrammatum & aliorum Poëmatum Liber vnus. Nubat vt Hispano Regina,' adding 'Vidi aliquando Oxonii MS. exemplar.'

EDWARD BENSLEY.

ABERYSTWYTH.

FIELDING'S SIGNATURES IN 'THE CHAMPION,' AND THE DATE
OF HIS 'OF GOOD-NATURE.'

There seems still to remain some doubt that the papers signed *C* and *L* in *The Champion* of 1739—40 are by Henry Fielding. The following bit of evidence in the matter has, as far as I have been able to learn, not yet been noticed in print.

M. L. R. VII.

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The first signed paper of *The Champion*, according to the reprint of 1741, is that of November 24, 1739. The signature is the two stars commonly assigned to James Ralph. The next paper, that of November 27, 1739, bears the signature *C*. In it the writer says: 'I should be sorry to think there was in Mankind the Principle pointed at in the following Lines, which I have taken from a Poem not yet communicated to the Public.

*Nor in the Tyger's Cave, nor Lion's Den,
Dwells our Malignity. For selfish Men,
The Gift of Fame like that of Money deem;
And think they lose, whene'er they give Esteem.'*

The poem referred to is *Of Good-Nature, To his Grace the Duke of Richmond*, the second poem in Volume I of the 1743 edition of Fielding's *Miscellanies*. The next to last paragraph of this poem reads in that edition:

Dwells there a base Malignity in Men,
That 'scapes the Tiger's Cave, or Lion's Den?
Does our Fear dread, or does our Envy hate
To see another happy, good, or great?
Or does the Gift of Fame, like Money, seem?
Think we, we lose, whene'er we give Esteem?

This would indicate that Fielding wrote the first *C* paper. As the 'Advertisement' in the 1741 edition of the collected *Champions* of November 15, 1739—June 19, 1740, states that the essays signed *C* and *L* are the 'Work of one Hand,' we may conclude that this quotation in the first *C* paper goes far to show that Fielding *did* write the *C* and *L* papers.

Further, the quotation demonstrates that Fielding had written at least part of *Of Good-Nature* before November 17, 1739. The form of the quotation as compared with the 1743 text, shows that he revised at least the one paragraph of the poem after November 17, 1739, and before the appearance of the 1743 edition. These facts concerning the poem have not, I believe, as yet been noticed in print.

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ON CERTAIN POEMS OF THE HAWTHORNDEN MSS.

In my article 'Some Unpublished Poems of Drummond from the Hawthornden MSS.,' which appeared in the July number of the *Modern Language Review* (Vol. VI, p. 324), I stated that Drummond was so much in the habit of transcribing passages or entire poems from all kinds of