

MEMORANDUM

BETWEEN THE 9TH JUNE 1826, AND
5TH JANUARY 1827.

[Concluded.]

On the morning of the 28th, his Royal Highness appeared very weak, and had some attacks of nervous faintness, which together with other unfavourable symptoms, satisfied the physicians that the danger was becoming more imminent. The Bishop of London came at twelve, and desired that three persons should assist at the holy ceremony, and proposed that Sir Henry Hallford and I should be added to the Princess Sophia, which was mentioned to his Royal Highness, who readily agreed. Upon this occasion he came publicly, and put on his robes, his Royal Highness was quite composed, and nothing could exceed his pious attention, and calm devotion throughout the solemn ceremony. He repeated the prayers, and made the responses in a firm voice. Part of the prayers for the sick were read, but the service was, at the suggestion of Sir H. Hallford, the short service. The Bishop was very much affected, particularly when pronouncing the concluding blessing. The Princess Sophia supported herself wonderfully throughout the trying scene, and the Duke was quite free from agitation. After the service was over, he kissed his sister, and shook hands most affectionately with the Bishop, Sir H. Hallford, and me, thanking us, and as if taking leave of all. His Royal Highness sent for me again in the afternoon, and went through some official business, to which he appeared quite equal. He expressed great satisfaction at having taken the Sacrament, and told me that the Princess Sophia had staid with him, and borne up to the last moment. He then asked me, whether his Physicians thought much worse of him; he really felt better. I replied they considered his situation as having become more doubtful than it had been, but that they had not at any time authorized me to say his case was hopeless. He observed that he thought it was wrong to abandon hope, or to despair, but, setting aside that feeling, he was resigned to GOD's will. He asked whether I had any more papers requiring consideration, as he felt quite as equal to business as he had been for two or three months past, and he wished none to be interrupted or superseded.

He afterwards saw Mr. Greville, who found him very cheerful.

He sent for me again between eight and nine, and I staid with him until ten. He appeared weak and uncomfortable, though not positively in pain. At ten, he said he should like to go to bed, but the usual hour had not arrived, and he would wait for Sir H. Hallford. I persuaded him to go to bed at once. This was the first night that he had anticipated the usual hour, and the medical attendants ascribed it to increasing weakness, against which he had hitherto contended. All agreed that he might linger on a few days, unless an attack of nervous faintness should carry him off suddenly.

On the following day, the 29th, his Royal Highness, after passing a tolerable night, appeared better. He had taken some nourishment, and his pulse was steady. He sent for me soon after ten, and spoke very seriously of his situation, but without alarm or agitation. He appeared very desirous of extracting very direct and unreserved answers; often fixed his eye upon me, as if to search my thoughts, and made me change my position, that he might see me better. I appeared not to notice this, but kept up the conversation for an hour and a half, on various subjects of business, &c. This succeeded, and he gradually became more at ease. He was quite equal to any exertion of mind. When Sir H. Hallford came, he announced to his Royal Highness the King's intention to pay him a visit on that day, and his Royal Highness dressed and shaved himself, which he had not been able to do on the preceding day.

The physicians told me that the state of the legs had become more unfavourable. His Royal Highness saw the Adjutant-General and Quarter-Master-General, and transacted business with them as usual.

His Majesty came at two, and staid an hour with his Royal Highness. His Majesty thought him looking better and stronger than on the 27th, but this was the last time he saw him, his Majesty's own indisposition having disappointed his anxious wish to have come again to him.

His Royal Highness sent for me at five, and went through his usual official business with me; after which he appeared tired and exhausted, and indeed he had previously retired to his bed-room.

He afterwards saw Colonel Stephenson, who found him in the same weak and exhausted state.

Towards nine he sent for me again, and I found him much oppressed, and breathing short, and in general unable to rouse himself. He dismissed me after a short time, wishing me good night, but between ten and eleven he sent for me again; I found him dozing, and when he roused himself he complained of inward pain, asked me how late I should stay in the house (he was not aware that I had slept in it for several nights), and again wished me good night; and also for Sir H. Hallford, Mr. Macgregor, and Mr. Simpson. Some time after, he again sent for Mr. Macgregor, who found him in one of his attacks of nervous faintness. Mr. Macgregor gave him some laudanum, and after some time he became more composed and fell asleep.

I learnt early in the morning of the 30th, from Mr. Macgregor, that his Royal Highness had had some sleep at intervals, but that he appeared much weaker, and that there were other indications of

increasing danger. His Royal Highness had determined not to quit his bed-room.

He sent for me at half-past ten, and I remained with him for more than an hour, until Sir H. Hallford came. I was extremely shocked at the extraordinary change which had taken place in one night, or rather since the preceding morning at the same hour. He appeared extremely feeble and under great uneasiness from pain, but otherwise composed, and although suffering so much he uttered no complaint. He asked me when I had come, and I told him I had slept in the house. He did not seem surprised, or displeased but said he concluded he was considered much worse. For Mr. Macgregor had been three times to see him in the night. But that he felt quite equal to business. I therefore brought forward a few subjects, and received his very clear instructions, though his voice had become so feeble that I could with difficulty hear him.

His Royal Highness saw the Dukes of Clarence and Sussex, and Sir William Knighton, who was going to Windsor, and through whom he sent an affectionate message to the King. To the Dukes of Clarence and Sussex he spoke cheerfully on the state of Portugal and other matters of public interest. The Princess Sophia was also with him for a considerable time.

Between nine and ten he expressed a wish to see Colonel Stephenson and me, and we went to him, but he said little, and wished us good night.

He passed a restless night, and appeared much weaker on the following morning (the 31st December), but continued perfectly sensible, took nourishment when offered to him, but showed no inclination to speak, unless spoken to. His medical attendants apprehended from the increasing weakness, the rapid approach of dissolution. I went to him by desire of the physicians between one and two. He took my hand and received me most kindly. He said, "Here I am, I feel weaker but not worse, and I do not suffer pain." He moved his lips, occasionally but I could not distinguish what he said; he appeared quite sensible, very composed, and twice looked at me, the first time seriously, the second time with a placid, almost cheerful smile, and I came away perfectly satisfied that his mind was free from anxiety and uneasiness. The Princess Sophia came in, and the manner in which he received himself when she was announced was very striking. Her Royal Highness staid with him about twenty minutes. He continued very quiet throughout the rest of the day, and at half-past seven desired Sir A. Cooper who was going to Windsor, to give his affectionate duty to the King, and to tell him he was very comfortable.

On the 1st of January I learnt that his Royal Highness had passed a very quiet night, with four hours' good sleep, and that no material change had taken place in his state; that he continued perfectly sensible, took sufficient nourishment, and spoke whenever roused; nor were the legs in a worse state; on the contrary, their appearance had become more favourable.

Upon the whole, the Physicians thought he might linger on longer than they had expected, such was the extraordinary resistance which his constitution opposed to the progress of the disease. The Dukes of Clarence and Sussex again saw him, and he received them affectionately, but did not speak, and they left him immediately. The Princess Sophia then went to him; he kissed her and said—"GOD bless you, my dear love—to-morrow—to-morrow," and she left him. He continued in the same quiet and composed state throughout the day, and occasionally told his medical attendants that he felt no pain and was very comfortable. I did not see him.

The report on the following morning, the 2d January, was, that the night had been quiet, and that he continued free from pain, and perfectly sensible, though he seldom spoke. Soon after nine he had a shivering attack, which was very alarming, and his pulse was hardly perceptible, but he rallied. He had been moved nearer to the window, was quite himself, and asked whether the day was not a frost, which was the case. He became slightly delirious at 20 minutes past one, and other symptoms had become more alarming. Still he was quite sensible at intervals. The Princess Sophia was with him for a short time, and he knew her.

The Dukes of Clarence and Sussex, who came in the afternoon, did not see him. His Royal Highness continued nearly in the same state, except that his pulse had been gradually lowering, and his breathing becoming very short, and his situation appeared so critical, that I and other attendants in the house determined not to take off our clothes.

I heard at six on the following morning (the 3d), from Mr. Macgregor, that notwithstanding a restless and uncomfortable night, his Royal Highness had rallied, and appeared then stronger, more inclined to talk, and to take nourishment, than he had been on the preceding day, and that it was impossible to calculate when the crisis would arrive. His pulse had also become more steady. The other medical attendants confirmed this at a late hour, and observed that his Royal Highness's extraordinary powers of constitution and tenacity of life, defied all calculation. The Princess Sophia, being unwell, could not come this day; the Dukes of Clarence and Sussex came at twelve, and staid until six, but did not see their brother.

Sir William Knighton, having come from Windsor, and been named to his Royal Highness, he desired to see him, that he might inquire after the

King, and requested him to assure his Majesty of his affectionate duty.

Towards the evening his Royal Highness showed symptoms of returning strength, and the physicians reported to his Majesty, that he continued in the same state, without appearance of immediate dissolution, but without hope. Between ten and twelve he was very quiet and inclined to sleep.

The assemblage of people in Arlington-street was the same as on the preceding day, there was the same propriety of conduct, the same manifestation of affectionate interest, free from curiosity.

His Royal Highness passed a very restless night, with occasional attacks of faintness and spasm. His breathing had become more difficult, his pulse more feeble and irregular, but yet there were no symptoms of rapidly approaching dissolution, Sir Astley Cooper had sat up with him to relieve Mr. Macgregor, and when the latter went to his Royal Highness, he desired him to thank him, and say he was very kind.

Shortly after he saw some one near him, and Mr. Macgregor told him it was Mr. Simpson, and his Royal Highness said Mr. Simpson is a good man. He took some slight nourishment occasionally, and towards ten o'clock he had a serious attack of faintness, during which his pulse was hardly perceptible, but he rallied again. Sir William Knighton saw his Royal Highness, but he did not speak to him.

Between one and two, Mr. Macgregor came to tell me that his Royal Highness had named me frequently, and at last made them understand that he wished to see me. I immediately went to him. I found him dreadfully changed, very feeble, much oppressed, and evidently unable to distinguish objects clearly. Bachelor named me to him, and I sat down close by his right side. He looked at me with a kind smile, took me by the hand, and I told him I had not left the house since I had last seen him. He asked me with difficulty, and in a faint, though steady voice, whether Colonel Stephenson was in the house. I said he was, and asked whether he wished to see him; he nodded assent, and I immediately sent for him. Colonel Stephenson went to his left side; but as his Royal Highness could not see him, I beckoned to him to come to the right side, and I moved back, so as to enable him to come close up, while I supported his Royal Highness, by placing my hand against the pillow behind his back. He then gave his hand to Col. Stephenson. After some interval, during which his Royal Highness breathed with great difficulty, and was very faint, and during which, Bachelor bathed his temples with Cologne water; he collected his strength, and said in a steady, firm tone of voice, but so low as to be hardly audible, to Colonel Stephenson, whose head was further removed than mine, "I am now dying." After this, he dropped his head, and his lips moved for about a minute, as if in prayer. He then looked at us again, and appeared to wish to speak, but an attack of faintness came on, and his respiration was so difficult, and he seemed so weak and exhausted, that I thought he was dying, and expressed that apprehension to Colonel Stephenson, who partook of it. Bachelor bathed his temples again, and he rallied, after which he again took Colonel Stephenson's hand and nodded to Bachelor, who told us he meant we should leave him.

The scene was most affecting and trying, but yet in some respects satisfactory, as it showed that he was perfectly aware of his situation, and we concluded that he had been us together, as being his executors, and meant to take leave of us. I heard afterwards that he had appeared much exhausted by the effort, but subsequently took some chicken broth and became composed, without having any return of faintness. Towards the evening, he rallied again, had some sound and comfortable sleep, and his attendants separated under the impression that his Royal Highness's life would be prolonged at least another night.

In the course of that night he had so serious an attack of faintness that Mr. Macgregor thought he would not have recovered from it; but he rallied again towards the morning of the 5th, and had taken some nourishment.

The breathing had, however, become extremely difficult. About 11 Mr. Simpson came to me to say that the symptoms of approaching death had come on, and that the medical attendants wished me to be in the room adjoining to that in which his Royal Highness lay. I brought in the Dukes of Clarence and Sussex, and Colonel Stephenson, and we continued in the room, expecting every moment to be called in by the medical attendants (who were all with his Royal Highness) to witness his death. Sir Henry Hallford came to us occasionally and stated that his Royal Highness's pulse was hardly perceptible, his extremities were cold; he was speechless, and had with difficulty swallowed a little milk and rum, but never-

theless appeared to retain his senses. On this, indeed, he gave proof at twelve, for Mr. Macgregor came in to say that his Royal Highness had insisted on having his legs dressed (which they naturally wished to avoid at such a period) for he had looked at him several times, and pointed at the clock when at his legs, and had pushed off the covering, thus showing his determination, to go through all that was required to the last moment. When he found that he was understood, and that Mr. Macgregor was preparing for the dressing, he smiled, and thanks to him with a kind smile, threw back his head, and hardly noticed anything afterwards.

The pulse became more feeble, the attacks of faintness more frequent, but his Royal Highness struggled on, and between eight and nine this state appeared so likely to last for some hours, the Duke of Clarence was persuaded to go home, and I returned to the room to answer some inquiries. At twenty minutes past nine, Col. Stephenson called me out, and told me that he was in the last agonies. I hastened down, but my master had expired before I could reach the room, and I had the comfort of learning that he had expired without any struggle or apparent pain. His countenance indeed confirmed this; it was as calm as possible, and quite free from any distortion, indeed it almost looked as if he had died with a smile upon it.

The medical attendants, the Duke of Sussex, Bachelor, and another servant, were in the room, looking at him in silence, and with countenances strongly expressive of their feelings.

Such was the end of this amiable, kind, and excellent man, after a long and painful struggle, borne with exemplary resolution and resignation, and I am confident, that the details into which I have entered of the last circumstances of that struggle, will not prove uninteresting to those who were sincerely attached to him.

MELCHIZEDEK.

After Abraham returned from the conquest of the Kings mentioned Gen. 14. V. 15, and recovering Lot his Brother's Son, with his substance, out of their hands, and gaining a complete Victory over them. There met him Melchizedek, King of Salem, Priest of the Most High God, and blessed Abraham. Likewise he brought with him Bread and Wine; doubtless for Abraham and his little Army, for their refreshment after so great a Victory.

But, who was this Melchizedek? I answer; by the interpretation of his name a King of Righteousness; By the signification of the Place where he reigned, Salem (Peace;) that is Zion his Church, mentioned Psal. 76. V. 2; or King of Peace by the Appellations and Titles the Apostle gives him, with his Office in Heb. 7. V. 2; or rather is at a loss to give him. He can be no less a person than the Son of God himself; for it is utterly impossible that those Characters that are given to Melchizedek in Heb. 7. V. 3, should belong to any created Being; and they can never appear excellent in any other being, but in Him who is Antegenial. Though this Idea may appear new, and foreign to the Judgment of our Modern and Antient Expositors; yet it appears evidently to be the Truth; as may be seen in a little Treatise entitled "Melchizedek no Type of Christ, but really the Son of God Himself, appearing to Abraham and blessing him."—Christians Grand Treasure.

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