

***Transcripts of excerpts from the diary of Robert Fulke Greville, vol. 2, RCIN1047014.***

*Early November 1788 [pp. 3-4]*

His Majesty had not long recovered from an illness at Kew, before unpleasant symptoms of interrupted health appeared at his after residences at the Queen's Lodge at Windsor, & which was attended by new & unfavourable appearances in his manner-

Those around Him perceived a change in his manner, & in his temper, & thought His Majesty had become more peevish than He used to be. He now talked much more than usual, & spoke to everybody, on strange varieties of Subjects.

His incessant talking became at last so remarkable, that it was thought necessary to recommend H. M. to be a little more silent, His Physician Sir George Baker accordingly hinted to Him, that it was essential to his health to be less frequent & Earnest in his conversations, which He did not take amiss, but on the contrary thanked Him for his advice – They continued however much the same after this - Those around him frequently reminded Him that He was talking too much, & He often desisted on the hint.

Succeeding symptoms of approaching disorder appearing, it was judged necessary to propose His Majesty's removal to an apartment separate from the Queen's – With difficulty this was acceded to, but on condition that the Queen would promise to sleep in the next bedchamber to that in which He was to remove. – This change took place on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of Nov. 1788.

*5 December 1788 [pp 56-7]*

This Morning Doctor Warren brought Doctor Willis to Kew – He had been sent for to attend on the King & He now arrived from Lincolnshire – His arrival I believe was mentioned to the King, previously to his seeing Him.

Soon after his arrival Dr. Willis went into the King's Apartment without any of the Physicians & attended by Mr Charles Hawkins one of H.M.s Attendant Surgeons.

The Pages were at this time with the King.

His Majesty received Dr. Willis with composure & began immediately to talk with him - & seemed very anxious to state to Him that He had been very ill, but that He was now quite well again. He expiated on his usual complaints against his Physicians & dwelt much on the loss of his Keys – He told Dr. Willis that He knew where He lived, & He asked Him how many patients He then had with Him under his Care – He then thus Address'd Dr. Willis – "Sir, your dress & appearance bespeaks you of the Church, do You belong to it" . Dr Willis replied I did formerly, but lately I have attended chiefly to physick. "I am sorry for it answered the King, with "emotion & agitation". You have quitted a profession I have always loved, & You have embraced one I must heartily [new page] detest – Alter your line of Life, ask what preferment You wish & make me Your Friend – I recommend You Worcester"

Thus began the first acquaintance – In progress H. M. took frequently occasions to sett Dr. Willis against His Physicians, & his displeasure pointed principally agst Dr Warren & Sir Lucas Pepys – and He most earnestly begged that Dr. Willis would take the former under his case as one of his Patients, & remove Him to Lincolnshire - ...

20<sup>th</sup> December 1788 [pp 68-71]

The high Spirits which had marked the latter part of yesterday Evening gave no favorable prospect of H. Mys fallings soon asleep, & they proved the forerunners of much irritation. During the night He became restless and turbulent, Jumped up from his Bed, & in other respects was much unsettled.

About 5 oClock in the Morning H. My became so ungovernable that recourse was has to the strait Waiscoat: His legs were tied, & He was secured down across his Breast, & I this melancholy situation He was, when I came to make My Morning Enquiries –

However persuaded I had been of the necessity of obtaining positive submission from H My under his afflicting Malady, as the best means whereby his recovery might be ultimately expected, I have not been prepared for those harsher processes, which have followed – I do not question that these have been now adopted, on a practice, sanctioned by confirmed experience, but as of this I cannot decide Myself, I can but grieve, & hope the best.

Sir George Baker, & Dr Gisborne saw H My this morning. While H Mys situation was thus distressing a profuse Sweat came on, & which afterwards subsided gradually. The Willis's thought much of the favourable Turn to be expected from this perspiration as hitherto in general there had been no tendency to it.

The King remained under coercion until near Two o'clock, when He was released, & the perspiration having now subsided, He was permitted to get up. Still however his agitation continued in a considerable degree, & He remained much disturbed. He still talked incessantly & violently, & He was quite wrong in his ideas.

In the morning this derangement was called Delirium rather than Insanity. At one time he sighed violently & complained moanfully. This according to my ideas more resembled delirium, than what I heard afterwards when He was loud, turbulent & threatening, at these times talking in a manner very unlike Himself, & being extremely angry with all around Him. The Q[ueen] was now in no favour, He called Mr P[itt] a rascal, & Mr Fox his Friend.

The seriousness of H. Mys malady was strongly marked by everything He said or did this day, which I think has been by much the worst I have yet known, since his confinement. After H M got up the Willis's did not speak so favourably of the Effects of his late perspiration, & which had not been followed by the good which they had Expected. His pulse had not been moderated by it – At one time when his perturbation was at its height it was supposed to be not less than 140. Counted afterwards attentively, it was found to be 136. The variety of inaccurate relations from many quarters, & the many opinions which are floated off in many directions, may make me at this time (since my return to Kew) more attentive to circumstances, which otherwise I might have deemed of little importance to note down among my daily memorandums - Now I am resolved to put down Every thing fairly as I see them (as has been my practice hitherto) let the conclusions on the general information, be what they may.

Things are not now always explained as they have really happen'd, but not unfrequently an occasional turn is here given, how these are to be thought of.

I know nothing of medicine, but viewing dispassionately I may judge of what I see as well as another; & my conclusions become an affair of the mind, & not of medicine.

I cannot think it kindness to the King or his Family to disperse at a time like this, accounts more favourable than his unhappy disorder in fact can warrant. O raise false hopes by such means of his Casse, may at some future time greatly depress the Expectations of many, who while they bewail the awful dispensation of providence, would have waited with patient hope for his recovery.

During the Evening of this day H My has not been violent, but He has been fretful & angry in his conversatoins. He went to bed Early – His pulse remained quick & his Eyes wild. About 7 o’Clock this Evening, the Chancellor arrived – He Saw Her Majesty & was afterwards for some time with both the Doctor Willis’s & He then returned to Town.