

The Hon. Colonel James Gardiner of Bankton House, Prestonpans, emerged from the Battle in 1745 as a truly well remembered and heroic figure notwithstanding that he fought for the Hanoverians and died on the field of battle on September 21st.

He had in Dr Philip Doddridge of Northampton and extraordinary admirer, and it was perhaps the more surprising because Philip Doddridge was himself an outstanding figure in 18th century Northampton history. On learning of James Gardiner's death he preached a memorable but unrecorded sermon but avowed then that he would write a much more extensive appreciation as soon as he could have accessed to the Colonel's papers and to word of mouth accounts of the battle itself. By 1st July 1747 his manuscript was completed and published shortly afterwards. The extracts given here are taken from the 1807 New Edition and provide (i) his Dedication to the Colonel's son David Gardiner serving with Sir John Cope's Regiment of Dragoons; (ii) the first pages explaining the rationale for publishing a record of 'Some Remarkable passages in the Life of the Hon. Col. J Gardiner'; and finally the concluding pages 165/ 186 which tell of the battle and the Colonel's state of mind as he joined it and died.



HON. COL. J. GARDINER.

SOME
REMARKABLE PASSAGES

IN THE

L I F E

OF THE

HON. COL. JAMES GARDINER,

WHO WAS SLAIN AT THE

BATTLE OF PRESTON-PANS,

SEPTEMBER 21st, 1715.

BY P. DODDRIDGE, D. D.

A new Edition.

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1847.

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TO

DAVID GARDINER, ESQ.

*Cornet in Sir John Cope's Regiment of
Dragoons.*



DEAR SIR,

WHILE my heart is following you with a truly paternal solicitude through all the dangers of military life, in which you are thus early engaged, anxious for your safety amidst the instruments of death, and the far more dangerous allurements of vice, I feel a peculiar pleasure in being able at length, though after such long delays, to put into your hands the memoirs with which I now present you. They contain many particulars, which would have been worthy of your attentive notice, had they related to a person of the most distant nation or age: but they will, I doubt not, command your peculiar regard, as they are sacred to the memory of that excellent man from whom you had the honour to derive your birth, and by whose generous and affectionate care you

have been laid under all the obligations which the best of father's could confer on a most beloved son.

Here, Sir, you see a Gentleman, who, with all the advantages of a liberal and religious education, added to every natural accomplishment that could render him most agreeable, entered, before he had attained the stature of a man, on those arduous and generous services to which you are devoted, and behaved in them with a gallantry and courage which will always give a splendor to his name among the British soldiery, and render him an example to all officers of his rank. But, alas! amidst all the intrepidity of the *martial Hero*, you see him vanquished by the blandishments of pleasures, and in chase of it plunging himself into follies and vices, for which no want of education or genius could have been a sufficient excuse. You behold him urging the ignoble and fatal pursuit, unmoved by the terrors which death was continually darting around him, and the most signal deliverances by which providence again and again rescued him from those terrors, till at length he was reclaimed by an ever-memorable interposition of divine grace. Then you have the pleasure of seeing him become in good earnest a *convert to Christianity*, and by speedy advances growing up into one of its brightest ornaments; his mind continually

filled with the great ideas which the gospel of our Redeemer suggests, and bringing the blessed influence of its sublime principles into every relation of military and civil, of public and domestic life. You trace him persevering in a steady and uniform course of goodness through a long series of honourable and prosperous years, the delight of all that were so happy as to know him, and, in his sphere, the most faithful guardian of his country; till at last, worn out with honourable labours, and broken with infirmities which they had hastened upon him before the time, you see him forgetting them at once at the call of duty and providence; with all the generous ardour of his most vigorous days rushing on the enemies of religion and liberty, sustaining their shock with the most deliberate fortitude, when deserted by those that should have supported him, and cheerfully sacrificing the little remains of a mortal life in the triumphant views of a glorious immortality.

This, Sir, is the noble object I present to your view; and you will, I hope, fix your eye continually upon it, and will never allow yourself for one day to forget that this illustrious man is Colonel Gardiner, your ever-honoured father, who having approved his fidelity to the death, and received a crown of life, seems, as it were, by what you here read, to be calling out to you from the

cloud of witnesses with which you are surrounded, and urging you, by every generous, tender, filial sentiment, to mark the footsteps of his Christian race, and strenuously to maintain that combat where the victory is thro' divine grace certain, and the prize an eternal kingdom in the heavens.

My hopes, Sir, that all these powerful motives will especially have their full efficacy on you, are greatly encouraged by the certainty which I have of your being well acquainted with the evidence of Christianity in its full extent; a criminal ignorance of which, in the midst of great advantages for learning them, leaves so many of our young people a prey to Deism, and so to vice and ruin, which generally bring up its rear. My life would be a continual burthen to me, if I had not a consciousness in the sight of God, that during the years in which the important trust of your education was committed to my care, I had laid before you the proofs both of natural and revealed religion, in what I assuredly esteem to be, with regard to the judgment, if they are carefully examined, an irresistible light; and that I had endeavoured to attend them with those addresses which might be most likely to impress your heart. You have not, dear Sir, forgotten, and I am confident you can never entirely forget, the assiduity with which I have laboured to form your mind,

not only to what might be ornamental to you in human life, but above all, to a true taste of what is really excellent, and an early contempt of those vanities by which the generality of our youth, especially in your station are debased, enervated and undone. My private as well as public addresses for this purpose, I know, will be remembered by you, and the tears of tenderness with which they have so often been accompanied: and may they be so remembered, that they who are most tenderly concerned may be comforted under the loss of such an inestimable friend as Colonel Gardiner, by seeing that his character, in all its most amiable and splendid parts lives in you; and that how difficult soever it may be to act up to that height of expectation with which the eyes of the world will be fixed on the son of such a father, you are in the strength of divine grace, attempting it, at least are following him with generous emulation, and with daily solicitude, that the steps may be less unequal.

MAY the Lord God of your father, and, I will add, of both your pious and honourable parents, animate your heart more and more with such views and sentiments as these! May HE guard your life amidst every scene of danger, to be a protection and blessing to those that are yet unborn; and may HE give you, in some far distant

when he was slain in defence of those liberties, which God then by so great a providence rescued from utter destruction, i. e. on Sep. 21st, 1745, he was aged 57 years, 8 months, and 11 days.

8. The annual return of his birth-day was observed by him, in the latter and better years of his life, in a manner very different from what is commonly practised; for, instead of making it a day of festivity, I am told, he rather distinguished it as a season of more than ordinary humiliation before God; both in commemoration of those mercies which he received in the first opening of life, and under an affectionate sense, as well as of his long alienation from the great author and support of his being, as of the many imperfections which he lamented, in the best of his days and services.

9. I have not met with many things remarkable, concerning the earliest years of his life only that his mother took care to instruct him with great tenderness and affection, in the principles of true christianity. He was also trained up in human literature at the school at Linlithgow, where he made a very considerable progress in the languages. I remember to have heard him quote some passages of the Latin Classics very pertinently; though his employment in life, and the various turns which his mind took under different impulses in succeeding years,

prevented him from cultivating such studies.

10. The good effects of his Mother's prudent and exemplary care, were not so conspicuous as she wished and hoped, in the younger part of her son's life; yet there is great reason to believe, they were not entirely lost. As they were probably the occasion of many convictions, which in his younger years were over-borne; so I doubt not, that when religious impressions took that strong hold of his heart, which they afterwards did, that stock of knowledge which had been so early laid up in his mind, was found of considerable service. And I have heard him make the observation, as an encouragement to parents, and other pious friends, to do their duty, and to hope for those good consequences of it which may not immediately appear.

11. Could his mother, or a very religious aunt, (of whose good instructions and exhortations I have often heard him speak with pleasure,) have prevailed, he would not have thought of a military life; from which it is no wonder, these ladies endeavoured to dissuade him, considering the mournful experience they had of the dangers attending it, and the dear relatives they had lost already by it. But it suited his taste; and the ardour of his spirit, animated by the persuasions of a friend who greatly urged it