

THE C.L.S.



BULLETIN

(Organ of THE CHARLES LAMB SOCIETY, founded 1935)

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(Twenty-Third Year)

SEPTEMBER, 1957

RARE AND VALUABLE ACQUISITION BY THE SOCIETY

[John Lamb] *Poetical Pieces on Several Occasions*, 4to, n.d. (c. 1770).

This work is thus noticed by Talfourd in *The Letters of Charles Lamb with a Sketch of His Life* (1837): "He (John Lamb, father of Charles) was not without literary ambition; and having written some occasional verses to grace the festivities of a benefit society of which he was a member, was encouraged by his brother members to publish, in a thin quarto, *Poetical Pieces on Several Occasions*. This volume contains a lively picture of the life of a lady's footman of the last century; the 'History of Joseph,' told in well-measured heroic couplets; and a pleasant piece, after the manner of Gay's *Fables*, entitled 'The Sparrow's Wedding,' which was the author's favourite, and which, when he fell into dotage of age, he delighted to hear Charles read."

The work, published anonymously and without date, is "Dedicated to the Forty-Nine Members of the Friendly Society for the benefit of their Widows. Of whom I have the honour of making the number Fifty."

The copy acquired by the Society from George's, the Bristol booksellers, is one of only four known to exist. Although wormed in the margins, the pages are otherwise clean and well preserved, and the text clear and well printed.

The volume is bound in binder's buckram, probably commissioned by James Dykes Campbell at the time of receiving it as a gift from Canon Ainger, who had originally purchased it and another copy from the executors of Mrs. Arthur Tween of Widford, Hertfordshire. In one of the blank binder's leaves at the front Canon Ainger has inscribed the gift to Campbell, while on those at the back Mrs. Campbell, from whose family it was recently acquired by George's, has pasted copies of correspondence in the *Athenaeum* of February, 1897, between Bertram Dobell, Canon Ainger, and herself, concerning the work, as well as an original letter to her from Ainger giving the provenance of this and another copy, still in his possession.

When E. V. Lucas was preparing his "Life of Charles Lamb" he used the only copy then possessed by the British Museum for his reprint of John Lamb's Poems included as an appendix in that biography. The copy was so worm-eaten that Lucas was obliged to guess, not always correctly, several words.

B. R. DAVIS.

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Note.—See the last page for Charles Lamb's character sketch of his father under the assumed name of Lovel.

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Recently the Society was given the opportunity of purchasing *POETICAL PIECES ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS* by John Lamb, father of Charles Lamb, for the reasonable sum of ninety pounds. Only four copies of this book are known to exist. The British Museum now has two copies, and Harvard University has one. According to our information there is no copy in the Bodleian. The copy offered to the Society is of special interest to Elians as will be apparent from the description on the previous page. After considering the matter your Council decided to purchase the book and this has been done by drawing upon the Society's funds.

It is felt however that some members will be so interested in this valuable addition to the Society's Library that they will welcome the opportunity of being associated with its purchase. Members will hardly need reminding that

it has been the Council's constant aim to keep the annual subscription as low as possible—a circumstance which does not permit the Society to build up any worthwhile financial reserves. Since the foundation of this Society this is the first occasion upon which the Society has purchased a book of any note; the Library having largely grown, and been enhanced in value, through the generous gifts from members and publishers.

Therefore I have no hesitation in inviting members to send a contribution, large or small, to the "John Lamb Poems Fund". Cheques or postal orders should be made payable to the Charles Lamb Society and sent as soon as possible to Mr. E. G. Crowsley as the Hon. Treasurer will be on holiday.

WALTER FARROW,
Chairman of the Society.

THE SOCIETY VISITS FINSBURY

On Saturday, July 6th, a company of Elians succeeded in penetrating Mr. Micawber's "arcana of the Modern Babylon in the direction of the City Road" (it seems impossible to write of any older part of London without quoting one of the two Incomparable Charleses—Lamb and Dickens!) to visit an admirably arranged exhibition of prints and playbills referring to Joseph Grimaldi, Charles Dibdin, and others in the Lecture Hall, at the Finsbury Health Centre in Pine Street, E.C.1, by the kind permission of the Health Committee of the Finsbury Borough Council.

These exhibits, probably unique in their scope and concentrated interest, were lent by the Finsbury Borough Librarian and arranged for display by Mr. Ernest G. Crowsley and his assistants. Through illness and pressure of Library work we were unfortunately unable to hear a short talk by one of the Library staff as promised, but here Mr. Crowsley came really nobly to the rescue. Speaking at the shortest notice from a few hastily gathered notes, he yet gave us a most informative and interesting account of the theatrical neighbourhood in which we were sitting, some curious details of the management of Sadlers Wells Theatre under Charles Dibdin the Younger in Grimaldi's day, and a clear sorting-out of the complicated ramifications of the Dibdin family, one of whom, Thomas John, was Grimaldi's intimate friend. The great clown and he lie close to each other in the burial-ground of St. James's Chapel, Pentonville. And a pleasant Elian note was

sounded in quotations from Charles and Mary Lamb's letters detailing visits to the "Wells".

Called on by Mr. Crowsley to add a few words, Mr. Meadows White spoke briefly on Joe Grimaldi's creation of the traditional stage make-up for the Harlequinade Clown, whose name remained "Joey" from Grimaldi's day to our own.

The playbills and prints, well placed for easy reading and inspection on canvas screens and tables, formed an epitome of what attracted audiences—apart from the two Royal Patent Theatres' offerings—in early nineteenth-century London. Aquatic and Live-Animal Spectacles (shades of Mr. Vincent Crummies's pony!), musical melodramas and pantomimes, with an occasional opera, constituted the entertainment seen at Sadlers Wells. As was proper, the personality of Joe Grimaldi, supreme among clowns, dominated the exhibition. As long as Joe was on stage to sing "Hot Codlins" and "Tippitywitchet", keeping crowded houses helpless with laughter at his weird feats with incongruous inanimate objects, Charles Dibdin, junior, could have had few business worries as manager of the "Wells".

Although intensive research has failed to discover any personal contact between Charles Lamb and the Immortal Joe, a paragraph in "The Religion Of Actors" indicates considerable knowledge on Lamb's part of Grimaldi's stage work. Both men had much in common—deep personal sorrows bravely and unfailingly masked by that "laughter through tears" which has

so often hall-marked the great comedian. It is pleasant to think that the L.C.C. has acknowledged Joe Grimaldi by a plaque on the house where he lived for years and died; No. 22, Calshot Street, Pentonville—in Joey's day and until comparatively recently Southampton Street—now a decaying Georgian byway, but worth a visit for its compelling atmosphere of Lamb's London.

A short walk from Pine Street past the old "Wells", now happily flourishing in modern dress, brought us to the "Angel" at Islington, where a first-class tea had been arranged for the party. The Society was glad to welcome Mr. H. W. Dawe, of the University of Wisconsin, as representative of a nation which has never lacked appreciation of "Elia".

A most happy and unusual afternoon.

* * *

Here lies Grimaldi

Where laughing children romp on summer nights,
And play beside the graves of old St. James'
The shade of some pale clown remarks their games,
And musing, falls to dream of lost delights:
Of Harlequins in gaily spangled tights,
And drolls whose merry quips the crowd acclaim
Where snatch of song and half-remembered names
Bring back in retrospect long-vanished sights.

I was Grimaldi, King of Sadler's Wells,
And Prince of Pantomime at Drury Lane;
I served them well, those motley clientele,
Evoking humour through a mask of pain
Now here above the peal of evening bells
I hear youth's happy laughter once again.

HAROLD ADSHEAD.

THE ACCURATE—ACCOMPTANT, 1669

"Layers of dust have accumulated (a superfoetation of dirt!) upon the old layers, that seldom used to be disturbed, save by some curious finger, now and then, inquisitive to explore the mode of book-keeping in Queen Anne's reign." So wrote Elia in his essay, *The South Sea House*. It was not curiosity to explore ancient modes of book-keeping, but a desire to get rid of moths that were battenning upon some valuable seventeenth century books which led me to a seldom-explored press in a nook of a Cathedral Library.

Dusting an old folio, I came across *The Accurate-Accomptant*, 1669, with the inscription, "Composed for the Use and Benefit of the poor Blew-coat Children Educated in Christ's Hospital, and Published For the Instruction of Merchants, Apprentices, and all others that desire to learn the exact Method of keeping Merchants Accompts To be sold at the Writing-School in Christ's Hospital".

The learned divines who have used this venerable library since Restoration days would hold such a curiosity to be impertinent—unreverend. But members of the Charles Lamb

Society have a catholic and unexcluding taste where Christ's Hospital is concerned. There is an Address to the Right Worshipful Sir John Frederick, President; the Worshipful William Gibbon Treasurer; and the Worshipful Governors of the School:—

"To Your Honours be it spoken, You spare no Cost nor Pains to make this Hospital a Nursery of hopeful Plants that may be fruitful in their generation, to God's glory and the Honour of this Famous City. When Spectators come and view this Seminary of Morality and Piety, they cannot but applaud Your Care and Bounty God Almighty strengthen your hands in the works that lie before you, and encourage your hearts in the upholding of this Royal and Noble Foundation, that You who cast your Bread upon these Waters, may find it after many Days."

The Accurate-Accountant, with its Journal and Leager was published over a hundred years before Lamb was born. It no doubt produced accountants of the John Tipp kind who thought an accountant the greatest character in the world.

ELSIE SMITH.

KEATS'S INDIAN ALLEGORY

In the Keats-Shelley Journal (Vol. VI, Winter 1957) published by the Keats-Shelley Association of America, Inc., there is an article on Keats's Indian Allegory by our indefatigable member Miss Phyllis G. Mann. This unfinished satirical allegory *The Cap and Bells* was begun by Keats at Hampstead in the autumn of 1819, with probable later additions, but the poem was not published until long after Keats's death, although four stanzas were published by Leigh Hunt; the title was suggested by Charles Brown, as alternative to Keats's original title of

The Jealousies, a fairy tale by Lucy Vaughan Lloyd of Chin a Walk, Lambeth. Incidentally *China Walk, Lambeth*, north of Regent Street (now Ethelbert Street), was and is a real address, and was but a short distance from Charles Brown's birthplace and was also quite near to Hercules Buildings, home of Frederick Leffler, a friend of Keats in his medical-student days.

Among the stanzas of autobiographical significance is mentioned the Man-Tiger-Organ, the famous mechanical musical tiger of Tipu

Sultan, tearing to pieces one of the East India Company's English officers. This musical instrument was found in the music room of the palace at Seringapatam, and came to England in May 1799, being received in the library at the East India House, Leadenhall Street, in July 1808.

Whilst writing *The Cap and Bells* in 1819 Keats was thinking of a sea voyage for his health with the possibility of a surgeon's appointment in an East Indiaman, and could have visited the East India House where he might have seen the tiger, and where Charles Lamb and Shelley's and Leigh Hunt's friend Thomas Love Peacock were working. Members of several families in Keats's circle were employed by the East India Company. Moreover, one of the Madras Engineers who surveyed the

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1957

Although we are now in the ninth month of the year there are still some members' subscriptions not paid for 1957. If you are included in this category do please rectify your omission immediately by sending the appropriate amount to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss F. A. Parsons, 32 Carmel Court, Kings Drive, Wembley Park, Middlesex.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. LIBRARIAN

As announced in our last issue Mr. Sandry has retired from his position as Borough Librarian of Edmonton, and Mr. G. Malcolm Noble, F.L.A., has been appointed as his successor. We are pleased to report that Mr. Noble has agreed to act as the Society's Hon. Librarian, and we look forward to a continuance of that happy relationship which has existed between this Society and the Edmonton Public Libraries and the Edmonton Borough Council.

LAST SUMMER VISIT

The final event of the Summer programme will take place on **Sunday, 8th September** and will consist of a conducted tour around the special Regency Exhibition in the Royal Pavilion, Brighton. This is a whole-day excursion and members will travel by private coach which will leave London about 9-30 a.m. The approximate cost of this excursion is 17/6 which includes coach fare, admission to the exhibition, tea and tips, but excludes lunch as it is considered that members would prefer to make their own arrangements. At time of going to Press there were still a few vacancies on the coach so an early application is advised as the accommodation is necessarily limited. All successful applicants will be informed of the starting time and place.

WINTER PROGRAMME 1957-1958

During the forthcoming winter there are to be lectures on William Blake by Miss Kathleen Raine, on Joe Munden by W. Macqueen-Pope, and on Children's Books with special reference to Charles Lamb by Mr. Peter Opie. The Session opens with a lecture by the President of the Society. Copies of the complete programme are available from Miss F. S. Reeves.

dangerous crossing of the river prior to the capture of the fortress of Seringapatam was Captain John Norris, A.D.C. to Colonel Gent, and brother of the Christ's Hospital builder and surveyor, and no doubt well known to the father of John Hamilton Reynolds. There were, too, various books in the East India House library which could have provided Keats with material for his theme. The allegory undoubtedly satirised the Prince Regent.

In 1955 Tipu's wooden musical toy was sent on loan from the Indian Museum at South Kensington to the Museum of Art, New York. Other details in this informative article provide an interesting association with the East India Company's activities, of some of which Charles Lamb was no doubt cognisant.

Below are details of the first two meetings of the Session:

Monday, 14th October, 1957—"Lamb's Essay 'Witches, and other Night-Fears,'"—Professor Geoffrey Tillotson, M.A., B.Litt. (President of the Society). *Chairman*: Mr. Walter Farrow.

Saturday, 9th November, 1957—"Blake and Traditional Symbolism"—Miss Kathleen Raine. *Chairman*: Mr. F. A. Whiting. The Monday meeting will be held at Dr. Williams's Hall, 14 Gordon Square, W.C.1 at **6-30 p.m.** (Members should note the earlier commencing time). The Saturday meeting will be held in the Library of the Mary Ward Settlement, 5-7 Tavistock Place, W.C.1 at **2-45 p.m.**

NEW MEMBERS. Mr. and Mrs. H. Haynes, 23 Cannon Street, St. Albans. Miss Grace Overmyer, 336 West 12th Street, New York 14, U.S.A. Mrs. R. M. Parrott, 5a Macaulay Road, S.W.4.

DRAMATIC GROUP

FRIDAY, 27th September: "1806 and Mr. H." by **Mr. R. Meadows White**: *Chairman*: Mr. E. G. Crowsley. 7 p.m. Courtauld House, Byng Place, W.C.1. (Quite close to Gordon Square, W.C.1.)

Mr. R. Meadows White—a Member of the Society—is an actor of distinction on the stage, screen and television and we feel sure all members will accord him a hearty welcome.

FRIDAY, 18th October: Conversazione and Buffet Supper to celebrate the **Group's Twelfth Birthday** at which **Mr. Basil Francis** will be the Guest of Honour. 6-45-7-0 p.m. Courtauld House. Tickets 8/- each are obtainable from Miss G. Edna Philpot, 26, Cranborne Avenue, Tolworth, Surrey. **11th July, 1957: An evening with the Ballet at Sadlers Wells.** Members enjoyed the programme which consisted of "Les Sylphides", "The Blood Wedding", "Beauty and the Beast" and "Facade".

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Frances, widow of Francis, who died on July 3rd at the age of 85. She was a devoted and efficient Chief Secretary of the Society in 1910. Her husband, John Robert Southey, was a well-known author and poet. She was so graceful and kind that she was a veritable literary treasure. Many of her private papers and letters have been preserved. Having no issue she left her material to be deposited in the Museum and the

THOMAS NOBLE

Members will be interested to know that James a few years ago. Now Mr. Noble has been elected to the Society and will be given an address with additional information on this subject. The Society is pleased to have Brett-James for its biographer of Thomas Noble. Professor Robert Noble was born in 1897 at Columbus, Ohio. He held various positions in the Ohio State University during 1926-1939. Professor Noble prepared his biography of Thomas Noble whom he had known as editor of the Ohio State University. Among his last works were on the verse of Thomas. The present work, carefully prepared, nearly three hundred pages of script excluding illustrations. Although written in much new Talbot light, the Newdigate prove invaluable work of Thomas.

BOOKS RECEIVED

almost as good as new. The Selected Letters of Thomas Lamb with an Introduction by Charles Lamb. Series which includes Cowper, Gray, Byron above New York.

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death at Bath on July 3rd at the age of 77 of Mrs. Ellen A. Beault, widow of Francis Farrington Beault, formerly Chief Secretary of Sarawak. Mrs. Beault, nee Warner, who together with her husband joined the Society in 1949, was the grand-daughter of Robert Southey's eldest child Edith and her husband John Wood Warner, his literary executor. Many precious family relics remain- ing at her safekeeping, making the home in which she was so gracious and hospitable a hostess a veritable literary shrine. Her lovable and irascible personality will be sadly missed by those who were privileged to enjoy her friendship. Having no issue, Mrs. Beault left her Southey material to be divided between the British Museum and the Museum at Keswick.

B. K. Davis.

THOMAS NOON TALFOURD

Members will recall the admirable Centenary address given by Major Norman G. Brett-James a few years ago on Thomas Noon Talfourd. Now Major Brett-James has presented to the Society a copy of that lecture together with additional information, including portraits, on this subject.

The Society is further indebted to Major Brett-James for the gift of the typescript of a biography of Talfourd prepared by the late Professor Robert S. Newdick, which had been given to our member. Professor Newdick was born in 1897 at Dayton, Ohio and after graduating at the Ohio State University held various positions in that University until his death in 1959. Professor Newdick visited England during 1926-1927, and during that period prepared his biography on Talfourd, a study of whom as editor and biographer was published by the Ohio State University Press in 1935. Among his last publications were two articles on the verse of Talfourd which appeared in *The Reading Mercury* in 1959.

The present biography is a comprehensive work, carefully documented, and consists of nearly three hundred and fifty pages of typescript excluding the pages devoted to footnotes. Although written about thirty years ago, and much new Talfourd material has since come to light, the Newdick biography will undoubtedly prove invaluable to any student of the life and work of Thomas Noon Talfourd.

BOOKS RECEIVED. "Your new books are almost as good as the old."

The Selected Letters of Charles Lamb, edited with an Introduction by T. S. Matthews. Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, New York, 1956.

Charles Lamb is now in the Great Letter series which includes the Letters of Keats, Coleridge, Gray, Byron and others issued by the same New York publishers, and rightly so.

America is ever tender to the memory of Charles and Mary and to Edith in all his plenitude of fact and fancy, humor and sympathy. Mr. Matthews humbly acknowledges his debt to E. V. Lucas's *Life of Charles Lamb* and his three volume edition of Lamb's letters—"I have relied heavily on E. V., credited extensively from him—a muggle debt."

In his introduction he gives a perceptive picture of the brother and sister from the time of their daily life together in the Temple to the close at Edwinton, their friends—and how many these were!—and how in his letters Charles Lamb revealed his human sides, his likes and dislikes, his ever-ready help and sympathy—the letters bear his trademark in all their variety. E. V. Lucas called Lamb a "superb recording angel", and though not much of a hand at recording the history of his time he was indeed too interested in the smaller events which make up most of the life of the man in the street. Lamb had many friends as the letters printed by Mr. Matthews show, and his friends loved him: his letter-day friends still do.

"Horses, Hounds and Humans" by Aubrey Noakes (Oldbourne 3/-).

In these days of ever-increasing price of books it comes as a pleasant surprise to hear of a new series of volumes printed on good quality paper, cloth-bound in an attractive cover and priced at a modest 3/- each.

Each volume contains what is described as a "close-up biography", dealing in a lively style with some picturesque personality.

The first four books in the series deal respectively with Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, Marie Lloyd, Giovanni Belzoni and R. S. Surtees.

Members of the C.L.S. will be pleased and interested to find that the volume on Surtees has been entrusted to the pen of our esteemed fellow-member, Mr. Aubrey Noakes and a very fine job he has made of it.

Here is an excellent and eminently readable guide to the life, personality and novels of Surtees, especially to those who have as yet had no introduction to the joys of Jorrocks and are unaware of the comic characters and racy dialogue awaiting them in the pages of "Jorrocks's Jaunts and Jollies", "Handley Cross", "Hillingden Hall", "Mr. Sponge's Sporting Tour" and "Mr. Facey Romford's Hounds".

Here we may visit the Gothic splendours of Jawleyford Court, Puddingpote Bower or Cockloran Hall to meet such colourful members of the peerage as Lord Foliage, Lord Scamperdale, Master of the Flat Hat Hunt, and the Marquis of Bray with his father, the inevitable Duke of Donkeytown.

Mr. Noakes invites you to meet or re-discover Surtees, to make the acquaintance of Captain Miserrimus Dohelol, Marmaduke Muleygrub, John Prettylat, Scapey Sponge, Jogglebury Crowdey, Sir Hartley Scattercash, Sir Moses

Mainchance, Cuddy Flintoff and enjoy the engaging activities of the two rival quacks, Roger Swizzle and Sebastian Mello.

He offers an enticing menu to a feast of fox-hunting in the England of the nineteenth century and we can only hope that at some future time, he will write another equally entertaining volume in the series instructing the uninitiated into the delights of our Charles.

HAROLD ADSHEAD.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES LAMB FROM FEBRUARY, 1935, continued:

(A) BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

An Unpublished Review by Charles Lamb: by George L. Barnett. Reprinted from *Modern Language Quarterly*, Vol. 17, No. 4, December, 1956.

Prof. Barnett tracks down the evidence concerning this unpublished review of Hazlitt's Table Talk, referred to by E. V. Lucas in a note to the text of Lamb's letter to John Taylor which he dates 8th June, 1821. It is also mentioned in Edmund Blunden's *Charles Lamb and his Contemporaries* (1933).

A very interesting document.

(B) Charles Lamb in the Harvard Library: by Carl R. Woodring. Reprint from the *Harvard Library Bulletin*, Volume X, Numbers 2 and 3, Spring and Autumn, 1956.

Details of books, manuscripts and letters by Charles Lamb now preserved in the Harvard Library. See article by Mr. C. A. Prance in the May Bulletin.

Love comes to Enfield: by Sydney W. Hart. *Islington Gazette*, January 15th, 1957.

The Lambs and their Friends: by Sydney W. Hart. *Islington Gazette*, October 16th, 1956.

Enchanting Colebrooke Cottage: by Sydney W. Hart. *Islington Gazette*, July 12th, 1967.

July 12th, 1957.

These three articles are interesting reconstructions in the life of Charles and Mary Lamb.

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

"He is no lawyer who cannot take two sides".

A propos the purchase by the Society of John Lamb's *Poetical Pieces on Several Occasions*, referred to on the front page, there was lively bidding from America at Sotheby's sale rooms in July last when a hitherto unknown Charles Lamb manuscript—a skit on the East India Office—was sold for £340. At the same sale an unpublished letter from Charles Lamb to Miss Mitford giving his impressions of Cambridge and containing the first sketch for his essay "The Gentle Giantess" was bought for £460.

These two items, of many similar during the past few years, are an indication of the high prices which Lamb material commands in the sale rooms at the present time. Naturally our society would only be too pleased to acquire such desirable Elia items, but its funds are too modest to stand the strain.

A somewhat similar state of affairs exists in connection with Keats material, for in June some most desirable gifts from the poet to his sister Fanny came into the sale room: an inscribed copy of *Poems* 1817 and *Lamia* 1820 were sold together for £2,200; Keat's silver watch, engraved "John Keats, Edmonton, 1813" sold for £160. These relics had been in Fanny Keats's family until their discovery in Spain about five years ago: their final home should have been the Keats Museum at Hampstead—but what Museum or Society can face such prices?

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Essex Hall, off the Strand, where Lamb's Aunt Hetty used to worship, and where in 1935 the Charles Lamb Society was founded, suffered destruction during air raids on London in 1944, though many valuable documents were rescued from the building. In June last a pleasing ceremony took place when the foundation stone was laid, and it is anticipated that the new hall will be completed towards the end of next year.

The old building was bought in 1778 by the Unitarian movement and named Essex Hall Chapel, and it was used by them until 1883 when the chapel was sold to a body of trustees, the congregation moving to Kensington where they built Essex Church. Essex Hall as it was renamed was opened in 1886 and was the scene for many years for the fight for humanitarian and liberal causes until its wartime destruction.

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ENVOI

You could not ruffle Samuel Salt. S. had the reputation of being a very clever man, and of excellent discernment in the chamber practice of the law. I suspect his knowledge did not amount to much. When a case of difficult disposition of money, testamentary or otherwise, came before him, he ordinarily handed it over with a few instructions to his man Lovel, who was a quick little fellow, and would despatch it out of hand by the light of natural understanding, of which he had an uncommon share Lovel took care of everything. He was at once his clerk, his good servant, his dresser, his friend, his "flapper", his guide, stop-watch, auditor, treasurer I knew this Lovel. He was a man of an incorrigible and losing honesty L. was the liveliest little fellow breathing, had a face as gay as Garrick's, whom he was said greatly to resemble possessed a fine turn for humorous poetry; moulded heads in clay or plaster of Paris to admiration, by the dint of natural genius merely; turned cribbage boards, and such small cabinet toys to perfection; took a hand at quadrille or bowls with equal facility; made punch better than any man of his degree in England—had the merriest quips and conceits and was altogether as brimful of rogueries and inventions as you could desire.

From The Old Benchers of the Inner Temple in the Essays of Elia.