

# A biographical sketch of Col. George Montagu (1755—1815).

English Field Zoologist

by Bruce F. Cummings, British Museum of Natural History.

(Antea 1913, pp. 307—325.)

*Corrigenda et Addenda.*

## CORRIGENDA.

Page 308, line 21, for "Yet none or very few" read "Yet very few".

Page 309, line 8, for "irate" read "irascible".

Page 316, line 2, for "Mouse Harvest" read "Harvest Mouse".

Ibid., line 5 *Rhinolophus ferrum-equinum* was added to the British list by Latham who discovered specimens at Dartford, Kent. (Pennant, Brit. Zoology, ed. IV, 129, 1776.)

Ibid., line 12, for "Sowerly" read "Sowerby".

Page 317, 8 lines from bottom, for "Dr. M. Dougall" read "Dr. M'Dougall".

Ibid., 16 lines from bottom, for "in" read "is".

## ADDENDA.

### *Literature.*

- (4). Lady Holland's Journal (pub. by Longmans, 1908) including an account of a visit to Lord Boringdon at Saltram in 1799 when she met. Col. Montagu at dinner.
- (5). The Kingsbridge Gazette (pub. in Devonshire), July 7<sup>th</sup> 1899. Supplement dealing with Col. Montagu, by Dr. E. A. S. Elliot, M. B. O. U.
- (6). The Field Newspaper (London), July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1897. "Recollections of Col. Montagu" by Dr. E. A. S. Elliot, M. B. O. U.
- (7). Transactions of the Devonshire Association, 1903, XXXV, pp. 430—433. "An Original Article on the Pilchard Fishery at Borrough Island by Col. Montagu a Hundred Years Ago, with supplementary notes to the present time" by Dr. E. A. S. Elliot, M. B. O. U.
- (8). Ibid. 1900, XXXII. pp. 271—276, "Notes from an unpublished M S. of a Contemporary of Col. Montagu—Dr. A. G. C. Tucker, of Ashburton", by Dr. E. A. S. Elliot, M. B. O. U.

Lady Holland (4) the famous grande dame, visited Lord Boringdon at Saltram in 1799, where she met Montagu. She writes in her gossipy journal: "Col. Montagu I saw but once. Lord Boringdon announced him as a superior man and I was therefore prepared for something remarkable tho' his praises are often queerly bestowed, frequently for the love of paradox, to surprise by admiring where others disapprove. However, Col. Montagu appears to be clever. He launched forth on the topics he is au fait of and during a three hours' assemblage of people at and after dinner, he gave the natural history of every bird that flies and every fish that swims. He is a man of bad temper nor does it sound creditable to him that none of his officers speak to him and they are on the eve of bringing him to a court martial. He is separated from his wife and might inherit an estate of his brother's if he would be united to her, but the condition is too hard and he renounces the possession of a benefit so encumbered."

I am much indebted to Dr. E. A. S. Elliot, of Slade, Kingsbridge, Devon, for drawing my attention to his note in "The Field" (6) in which he gives an interesting account of a conversation he enjoyed with a cottager, aged 96, who knew Col. Montagu and as a glazier's apprentice put the glass into all his cases of stuffed birds. The Colonel often used to come into the workshop with his gun and dogs and say there was a case ready to be glazed. He was very fond of his gun which he called his "Joe Manton". The Colonel was very genial with a good word for everyone although a man with peculiar tastes. For example, the old cottager, as a house decorator, remembered the very peculiar wall-paper on the staircase at Knowle. The house and grounds resembled those of Charles Waterton, the "mad Englishman" who lived at Walton Hall and wrote the famous "Wanderings in S. America", for the house itself "was full of curiosities" and there were "live birds all over the grounds". On the pond, he had ducks, gulls and all sorts of swimming birds. While some repairs were being done to the house and a lot of old timber was lying about, the Colonel stepped on a rusty nail and died of lockjaw in three days.

Many years ago, when Kingsbridge Church was being restored, the vaults in the aisles were opened and the lead stolen from the coffins. Montagu's coffin the most massive of all presented some difficulty, but the lead was finally ripped off and the remains of the coffin and of the Colonel's bones were pitched back into the vault. More recently, during a second restoration, Dr. Elliot, who has kindly sent me this information, upon discovering the sacrilege, rescued the breastplate and had it suitably framed and placed on the Church wall over the vault.

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