

"Why do not people plant more beef?" asked the king. Upon being told that beef could not be raised from the seed, he seemed still incredulous. He took some bits of beef-steak, and went into the garden and planted them. The next morning he went out to see if they had sprouted, and found there some snails. Thinking they were oxen, he was heard calling out, "Here they are! here they are, Charlotte, horns and all!"

The following anecdote, which exhibits King George III. in a most kindly character, belongs to Kew Palace. A person named Goupy attended as an assistant drawing-master at the palace of his royal Highness Frederick, Prince of Wales. When he was one day there, his Majesty George III., being then a very little boy, for some trifling fault was compelled to stand behind a chair as a prisoner. Goupy was ordered to go on with his drawing. "How can I," replied the artist, "make a drawing worthy the attention of your royal Highness when I see the young prince standing under your displeasure." "You may return to your seat, sir," said the good-natured Prince of Wales; "but remember that Goupy has released you." As Goupy grew old, he became infirm and poor; at the accession of George III. he was eighty-four. Soon after that period, walking in pensive mood and piteous plight on the Kensington Road, the royal carriage passed, and he pulled off his hat. The face of the old man caught the king's eye; he ordered the coach to stop, called the friendless artist to the door, and asked him how he went on. "Little enough, in truth," replied the old man, "little enough; but as I was so happy as to take your Majesty out of prison, I hope you will not suffer me to go into one." "Indeed I will not, my dear Goupy," replied the good-natured monarch, casting on the poor old man a look brightened with the tear of sympathy, "indeed I will not." And he immediately ordered him a handsome allowance weekly, which the forsaken artist enjoyed to the last day of his life.

The following anecdote of an incident which happened at Kew is quoted from "Our Great-grandmothers" in *Fraser's Magazine*.—"The beautiful Miss Port (her grand-niece and adopted child, and subsequently the mother of Lady Llanover), sitting one day writing in Mrs. Delany's drawing-room at the Lodge, heard a knock at the door; she of course inquired who was there. 'It is me,' replied a man's voice, somewhat ungrammatically; but grammar appears to have been much disdained in our great-grandmothers' days. 'Me may stay where he is,' answered Miss Port; on which the knocking was repeated. 'Me is imper-

minent, and may go about his business,' reiterated the lady; but the unknown party persevering in a third knock, she rose to ascertain who was the intruder, and, to her dismay, found it was no other than King George himself she had been unwittingly addressing with so little ceremony. All she could utter was, 'What shall I say?' 'Nothing at all,' replied his Majesty; 'you *was* very right to be cautious who you admitted.' The royal disregard of grammar seemed to have furnished a precedent for that of the court and of society in general."

Here, like Dr. Johnson at Buckingham House, Dr. Beattie attended by command of George III., to be presented to his Majesty, after he had published his famous "Essay on Truth." "I never stole a book but once," said the kind-hearted king, "and that was yours: I stole it from the queen to give it to Lord Hertford to read." A more delicate and graceful compliment can scarcely be imagined.

Kew House, or the Old Palace, as it was afterwards called, was taken down in 1802-3. A building for a palace was commenced by George III. on a site near the Thames, in Richmond Gardens, but, as stated in a previous chapter, was never finished internally, although a large sum of money had been expended on the stone exterior. After the death of the king it was pulled down, and the materials sold piecemeal by his successor, George IV.

Mr. Martin F. Tupper writes:—"Kew was an abortive attempt at a palace; and the Fourth George scarcely ever did a better deed in all his life than when he pulled down to the ground that 'castellated structure of carpenter's Gothic.' Its exotic gardens, with the conservatories and all their choice natural treasures, may well be suffered to bloom on; 'whether every temple and ruin which Sir William Chambers created is equally worthy of perpetuity may be questioned; but one, at any rate, is appropriate, useful, and ornamental.'"

The house now called the Palace, but originally known as the Dutch House, is an old structure of red brick, probably built in the time of James I. by Sir Hugh Portman, the Dutch merchant, who is mentioned in a letter among the Sydney Papers, dated 1595, as "the rich gentleman who was knighted by her Majesty (Queen Elizabeth) at Kew." It is about 100 or 150 yards from the original palace, or Kew House, which the king inhabited, and is a solid substantial building, heavy and Dutch in style, with stabling on the one side and a court with out-quarters on the other. It is one of her Majesty's private possessions, and is now quite unoccupied, the lady who has charge of it for the queen living in a small house in the adjoining garden. It is three storeys in height. On