

A Long and Eventful Life.

The Life of EDWARD DRINKER, of Philadelphia, who saw greater revolutions than any other man that was ever born.

EDWARD DRINKER was born in a cottage in 1680, on the spot where the city of Philadelphia now stands, which was inhabited at the time of his birth by Indians, and a few Swedes and Hollanders. He often talked of picking blackberries and catching wild rabbits where this populous city is now seated. He remembered William Penn arriving there his second time, and used to point out the spot where the cabin stood in which Mr. Penn and his friends were accommodated on their arrival.

The life of this aged citizen is marked with circumstances which never befel any other individual ; for he saw greater events than any other man, at least since the Patriarchs. He saw the same spot of earth, in the course of his own life, covered with woods and bushes, the receptacles of wild beasts and birds of prey, afterwards become the seat of a great city, not only the first in wealth and arts in America, and equalled but by few in Europe : he saw great and regular streets where he had often pursued hares and wild rabbits : he saw fine churches rise upon morasses, where he used to hear nothing but the croaking of frogs ; great wharfs and warehouses, where he had so often seen the Indian savages draw their fish from the river ; and that river afterwards full of great ships from all the world, which in his youth had nothing bigger than an Indian canoe ; and on the spot where he had gathered huckleberry he saw their magnificent City-Hall erected, and that Hall filled with legislators astonishing the world with their wisdom and virtue. He also saw the first treaty ratified between the United Powers of America and the most powerful Prince in Europe, with all the formality of parchment and seals ; and on the same spot where he once saw William Penn ratify his first and last treaty with the Indians. And to conclude, he saw the beginning and the end of the British Empire in Pennsylvania. He had been the subject of many crowned heads ; but when he heard of the many oppressive and unconstitutional acts passed in Britain, he bought them all, and gave them to his great grandsons to make kites of ; and embracing the liberty and independence of his country in his withered arms, and triumphing in the last year of his life in the salvation of his country, he died on the 17th of November, 1782, aged 103 years.

From the *Philadelphia Gazette*, April 20, 1783. Newscutting in D.

On Wednesday last [21 iii. 1758] died at his house in Albemarle-street, Clerkenwell, in his 76th year, Mr. John Jennings, an eminent Quaker, and one of the greatest Contractors for Oxen in the Kingdom. The bulk of his fortune, which is very considerable, he has left to his Son-in-Law, Mr. Saunders of Tottenham.

Newscutting in D., dated 1758.