

APPENDIX 5

[Mrs Piozzi's Note on James Cecil, Sixth Earl of Salisbury.]¹

IT was James the 6th Earl who married Miss Keate, sister to the rector of Hatfield, that had the rage for coach driving—a fancy which seemed to have seized the noble youth of England in his day and is scarce yet extinct among them—though he was the first to reform the old fashion of carriages contrived more for splendour than for haste. He built the Salisbury coach, so called from himself, and drove it to York and back again as a stage—affecting the manners and terms of a professor. He set the world o'wondering by his choice of a lady from what was then deemed a station in life far below his dignity of birth—and he—neglecting other pursuits busied himself with planning broad wheeled wagons to supersede those that cut up the fine new roads and made people regret the old expedient of pack horses—which till towards the year 1748 carried on all the internal commerce of the kingdom.

Lord Salisbury invented post-chaises too for purposes of expedition and although he was ill thought on, and ill spoken of at the time, was certainly a means of civilizing our remote counties by lessening their difficulties in approaching the capital. By keeping low company however Lord Salisbury though not intemperate in drink, was apt to give a loose to fits of anger very dangerous in any society—and his countess who miscarried in consequence of her terrors on some such occasion, extorted a solemn promise from him that she should never again witness such horrid scenes—The promise was rigidly kept—and the sweet lady who never exerted her power except in the cause of virtue preserved it till a paralytic stroke took from her all companionable qualities. Her lord ended his days of course in the arms of a mistress, by whom he had many children that bore the name of Cecil: but always showed kindness to his lady's family.

The Rev Mr Keate married Miss Crawley of Stockwood not very many years ago.

1. See *ante* i. 349, n. 8. This note in Mrs Piozzi's hand has been inserted in a copy of *A Biographical Peerage of the Empire of Great Britain, in Which Are Memoirs and Characters of the Most Celebrated*

Persons of Each Family, 1808 (now WSL), at p. 115, where the account of James Cecil, Marquess of Salisbury, begins. Mrs Piozzi's note has not been printed previously.