

GEORGE CRABBE, 1754-1832

In September 1905, the sesquicentenary of the birth of Aldeburgh's greatest son was celebrated in his native town with a luncheon, an exhibition, an orgy of lectures and tableaux, finishing with an excursion to Parham, Glemham and Rendham of 'three brakes of considerable size, several smaller vehicles and some bicycles'. The celebrations were preceded by a concert in the Jubilee Hall.¹

In June 1954, at the seventh Aldeburgh Festival of Music and the Arts, the Bicentenary of Crabbe's birth was celebrated. There was a luncheon, an excursion—by charabanc—to the sacred shrines and an exhibition of his works and manuscripts, collected and arranged by the staff of the East Suffolk County Library. The Guide to the exhibition was compiled by the staff of the Library and published by the Festival Committee in conjunction with the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, which made a financial contribution towards the cost, on the understanding that it could be reprinted, in whole or in part, in these *Proceedings*.

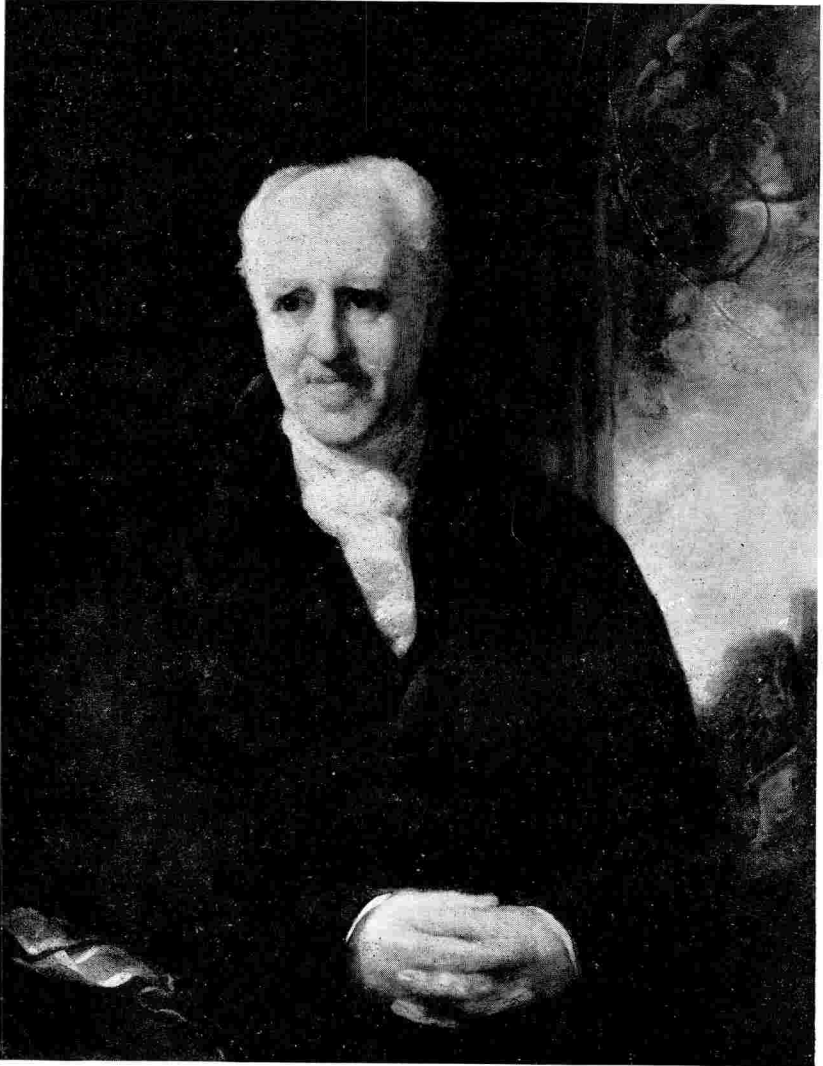
The compilation of the Guide, and especially of the bibliographical details, entailed much original research and it is felt that the result of this work should be placed on permanent record in our pages, for the use of future students.

Although the outlines of Crabbe's life are known to most, his own autobiographical sketch, published in the now rare and rather inaccessible *New Monthly Magazine and Universal Register*, of January 1816, is not so well known and is here reprinted, with a short supplementary note continuing the story up to his death in 1832. This is followed by line-block facsimiles of the title-pages of each of the first editions of all the works separately published during the poet's life-time, with bibliographical descriptions. These are not available in this collected form elsewhere. Finally, there is a list of the exhibits which were shown at the Moot Hall. Here again, many items were brought to light for the first time.

EDITOR.

¹ For a short account of these celebrations, see *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, vol. xii, p. 200. In the same volume, pp. 223-232, will be found an article on 'Crabbe as a Botanist' by James Groves, F.L.S.

PLATE XVII



(From a portrait by Thomas Phillips, R.A., in the possession of Sir John Murray, K.C.V.O., F.S.A.)

GEORGE CRABBE

BIOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT OF
THE REV. GEORGE CRABBE, L.L.B.²

The subject of this sketch was born on the 24th December, 1754, at Aldborough in Suffolk, where his father and grandfather were officers of his majesty's customs.

At an early age he was placed by his father in a school in his native county, probably with no other view than that of his acquiring such a knowledge of arithmetic and accounts as would fit him for the paternal employment; but when his prospects in a certain degree brightened, Mr. Crabbe removed his son to a seminary where the classics were taught, with a design of giving him that moderate portion of the learned languages which might qualify him for the profession of physic in the capacity of surgeon and apothecary. To this business he was in due time apprenticed, and looked forward in life to the labours and rewards (things by no means proportionate) of that arduous profession.

But in this view he was not perhaps disappointed, though certainly prevented. The family of his father was not small, his abilities to establish his children in life were limited, and the young man found on arriving at that period when he was called upon to think for himself, that there were at least two impediments in his way, neither of which he had the power, and one of them probably not the inclination, to remove. He saw that he had not the means of establishing himself in a situation profitable or respectable, and after some contention with himself and the circumstances around him, he judged that it would be most conducive to his happiness to relinquish a profession in which he had no rational hopes of succeeding, even though his expectations in any other way, were (if somewhat more exhilarating) not more to be depended upon. What that other impediment to his succeeding in his intended profession was, may be readily conjectured from the bias and inclination of his mind, which at a very early period wandered into the fairy land of imagination, and rendered him unfit for a contention with the difficulties of life and the habits of severe application in a profession where his prospects were so clouded and precarious.

Mr. Crabbe the father was a mathematician, and in the course of his studies he became acquainted with and purchased the periodical works of Mr. Benjamin Martin, a man well known in his day, and remembered at this time by those then engaged in similar pursuits. Mr. Crabbe having much respect for the scientific part of the

² This account written by Crabbe himself, appeared in *The New Monthly Magazine and Universal Register*, vol. iv, January 1816, under the heading, 'Memoirs of Eminent Persons'.

publication and not much for the poetical, separated the different parts which were paged with that view, and collecting the more favoured portions, mathematics and natural philosophy in decent binding, he sewed the poetry in paper and left it to the chance perusal of his children, if the eye of any of them should be attracted by the view of words placed in parallel lines of about the same length. The eye of the youth or rather the child was so directed, and he read, scarcely knowing what, pleased with the recurrence of similar sounds and with his ability of retaining a vast number of unmeaning verses in his memory. These he afterwards copied and when at school it became a part of his amusement; when his memory failed, he supplied the defect by his invention, and thus at a very early period of his life became a versifier: a poet, it is presumed, he was not vain enough at that time to imagine he could be.

To guess what number of idle verses a boy thus initiated would compose is impossible. He wrote upon every occasion and without occasion, and like greater men, and indeed like almost every young versifier, he planned tragedies and epic poems, and began to think of succeeding in the highest line of composition before he had made one good and commendable effort in the lowest.

But this period of boyhood and insensibility to the cares and duties of man does not continue long: the time came when Mr. Crabbe was told and believed that he had more important concerns to engage him, and therefore for some years, though he occasionally found time to write some lines upon *Mira's Birth-day*, and *Silvia's Lap-dog*, though he composed enigmas and solved rebuses, he had some degree of forbearance, and did not believe that the knowledge of diseases and the sciences of anatomy and physiology were to be acquired by the perusal of Pope's Homer, a Dictionary of Rhymes, and a Treatise on the Art of Poetry.

In this period of his life, had his prospects been such as would have given him rational and substantial grounds of hope that he might succeed in his profession, his views and connexions would probably have induced him to determine seriously to devote himself to his more immediate and certain duties; but he wanted courage to meet the difficulties that lay in his way: he saw impediments, insuperable in his idea, before him, and he probably did not find in himself that perseverance and fortitude which his situation required; nor can we suppose that the influence of the prevailing inclination was long dormant in him. He had with youthful indiscretion written for magazines and publications of that kind, wherein *Damons and Delias* begin the correspondence, that does not always end there, and where diffidence is nursed till it becomes presumption. There was then a *Lady's Magazine* published by Mr. Wheble in which our young candidate wrote for the prize on the subject of *Hope*, and he had the misfortune to gain it; by

which he became intitled to we know not how many magazines, and in consequence of which he felt himself more elevated above the young men his companions, who made no verses, than it is to be hoped he has done at any time since, when he has been able to compare and judge with a more moderate degree of self-approbation.

About the end of the year 1778, Mr. Crabbe, after as full and perfect a survey of the good and evil before him as his prejudices, inclinations, and his little knowledge of the world enabled him to take, finally resolved, to abandon his profession; his health was not robust, his spirits were not equal; assistance he could expect none, and he was not so sanguine as to believe he could do without it. With the best verses he could write and with very little more he quitted the place of his birth, not without the most serious apprehensions of the consequence of such a step—apprehensions which were conquered, and barely conquered, by the more certain evil of the prospect before him, should he remain where he then was.

When our young author, for such he was soon to become, if he had not yet entitled himself to the appellation, thus fled from a gloomy prospect to one as uncertain, though less gloomy, he had not heard of a youthful adventurer whose fate it is probable would have in some degree affected his spirits, if it had not caused an alteration in his purpose. Of Chatterton, his extraordinary abilities, his enterprising spirit, his writing in periodical publications, his daring project and melancholy fate, he had yet learned nothing; otherwise it may be supposed that a warning of such a kind would have had no small influence upon a mind rather vexed with the present than expecting much from the future, and not sufficiently happy and at ease to draw consolations from variety, and much less from a comparison in which vanity would have found no trifling mortification.

Thus relinquishing every hope of fixing in his profession, Mr. Crabbe repaired to the metropolis and resided in lodgings with a family in the city: for reasons which he might not himself be able to assign, he was afraid of going to the west end of the town. He was placed it is true near to some friends of whose kindness he was assured, and was probably loth to lose that domestic and chearful society, which he doubly felt in a world of strangers.

In this lodging Mr. Crabbe passed something more than one year, during which his chief study was to improve in versification, to read all such books as he could command, and to take as full and particular a view of mankind, as his time and his finances enabled him to do. We believe that he particularly acknowledges his obligation to Mr. *Bonnycastle*, the present master of the

Military Academy at *Woolwich*, for many hours of consolation, amusement, and instruction. They met in an evening after the studies and labours of the day, to commence other studies and labours of a more light and agreeable kind, and then it was that Mr. Crabbe experienced the inestimable relief which one mind may administer to another. After many months intercourse they parted as their different pursuits and duties called them.

Mr. Crabbe we believe at this time offered some poem for publication, but he was not encouraged by the reception which his M.S. experienced from those who are said to be not the worst judges of literary composition; he was indeed assured by a bookseller, who afterwards published for him, that he must not suppose the refusal to purchase proceeded from a want of merit in the poem. Such however was his inference, and that thought had the effect which it ought; he took more pains and tried new subjects. In one respect he was unfortunate. While preparing a more favourite piece for the inspection of a gentleman whom he had then in view, he hazarded the publication of an anonymous performance and had the satisfaction of hearing in due time that something, (not much indeed, that something was much) would arise from it, but while he gathered encouragement and looked forward to more than mere encouragement from this essay, the holder of his little prize, the publisher, failed, and his hope of profit was as transitory as the fame of his nameless production.

Our author, for now he must be classed with these adventurous men, either from his little experience or his observations, conceived the idea that his attempts would be hopeless while he continued to be unknown, and he grew modest enough to believe, that instead of being made known by his works, he must be first known to have them introduced, and he began to turn his view to the aid of some friend, celebrated himself, and therefore able to give him an introduction to the notice of the public; or if he did not so far mistake as to believe that any name can give lasting reputation to an undeserving work, yet he was fully persuaded that it must be some very meritorious and extraordinary performance, such as he had not the vanity to suppose himself capable of producing, that would become popular without the introductory *probat* of some well-known and distinguished character. Thus thinking, and having now his first serious attempt nearly completed, afraid of venturing without a guide, doubtful whom to select, knowing many by reputation, none personally, he fixed, impelled by some propitious influence, in some happy moment, upon EDMUND BURKE, one of the first of Englishmen, and in the capacity and energy of his mind, one of the greatest of human beings.

To Mr. Burke the young man, with timidity indeed, but with the strong and buoyant expectation of inexperience, submitted a

large quantity of miscellaneous composition, on a variety of subjects, which he was soon taught to appreciate at their proper value; yet such was the feeling and tenderness of his judge, that in the very act of condemnation something was found for praise. Mr. Crabbe had sometimes the satisfaction of hearing, when the verses were bad, that the thoughts deserved better, and that if he had the common faults of inexperienced writers, he had frequently the merit of thinking for himself. Among those compositions were poems of somewhat a superior kind, the *Library* and the *Village*; these were selected by Mr. Burke, and with the benefit of his judgment and the comfort of his encouraging and exhilarating predictions, Mr. Crabbe was desired to learn the duty of sitting in judgment upon his best efforts, and without mercy rejecting the rest. When all was done that his abilities permitted, and when Mr. Burke had patiently waited the progress of improvement in the man whom he conceived to be capable of it, he himself took the *Library* to Mr. Dodsley, then of Pall Mall, and gave many lines the advantage of his own reading and comments. Mr. Dodsley listened with all the respect due to the reader of the verses, and all the apparent desire to be pleased that could be wished by the writer, and he was as obliging in his reply, as in the very nature of things a bookseller can be supposed to be towards a young candidate for poetical reputation. "He had declined the venturing upon any thing himself: there was no judging of the probability of success. The taste of the town was exceedingly capricious and uncertain: he paid the greatest respect to Mr. Burke's opinion; the verses were good, and he did, in part, think so himself; but he declined the hazard of publication, yet would do all he could for Mr. Crabbe, and take care that his poem should have all the benefit he could give it."

The worthy man was mindful of his engagement: he became even solicitous for the success of the work, and no doubt its speedy circulation was in some degree caused by his exertions. This he did, and he did more: though by no means insensible of the value of money, he gave to the author his profits as a publisher and vender of the pamphlet, and Mr. Crabbe has seized every occasion which has offered to make acknowledgement for such disinterested conduct, at a period when it was more particularly acceptable and beneficial. The success of the *Library* gave some reputation to the author, and was the occasion of his second poem, the *Village*, which was corrected, and a considerable portion of it written in the house of his excellent friend, whose own activity and energy of mind would not permit a young man under his protection to cease from labour, and whose judgment directed that labour to its most useful attainments.

The exertions of this excellent friend in favour of a young writer

were not confined to one mode of affording assistance. Mr. Crabbe was encouraged to lay open his views, past and present, to display whatever reading and acquirements he possessed, to explain the causes of his disappointments and the cloudiness of his prospects; in short he concealed nothing from a friend so able to guide inexperience, and so willing to pardon inadvertency. He was invited to Beaconsfield to the seat of his protector, and was there placed in a convenient apartment, supplied with books for his information and amusement, and made a member of a family, whom it was honour as well as pleasure to become in any degree associated with. If Mr. Crabbe, noticed by such man, and received into such family, should have given way to some emotions of vanity, and should have supposed there must have been merit on one part, as well as benevolence on the other, he has no slight plea to offer for his frailty, especially as we conceive it may be added, that his vanity never at any time extinguished any portion of his gratitude, and that it has ever been his delight to think, as well as his pride to speak, of Mr. Burke as his father, guide, and friend; nor did that gentleman ever disallow the name to which his conduct gave sanction and propriety.

While Mr. Crabbe was at Beaconsfield he had the happiness of seeing and of becoming known to the Right Hon. Charles James Fox, who, though for some years afterwards he was disappointed in his expectations of the young man's progress as a writer, yet never withdrew the kindness, nor in fact that partiality, which he had before shewn. At the seat of a most respectable friend in the eastern part of Suffolk, Mr. Crabbe had the good fortune of seeing Mr. Fox, and there drew from him a promise of reading and giving his opinion of any poetical attempts which might be submitted to his perusal. By the concurrence of many impediments, and chiefly by Mr. Crabbe's own want of diligence, Mr. Fox received no such attempts till the last year of his life. Some he did see, and however he might have been disappointed in the failure of his higher expectations, his good-nature selected some portions of the manuscripts submitted to his judgment, which he conceived merited his approbation; and infirm as he then was, he would not withhold an opinion which he had reason to be assured would give the greatest satisfaction.

But we return to our author while yet in his younger days and unfixed in his situation: his paternally-minded friend being first satisfied with respect to his opinions and wishes, coincided with his own views, and approved of his design of becoming a candidate for holy orders. It is not necessary in this place to relate his fears, his difficulties, the unremitting efforts of his friends, or the event of their recommendation. Mr. Crabbe was ordained a deacon by the

Bishop of Norwich in the year 1781, and priest by the same prelate in the following year.

Mr. Crabbe immediately after his ordination became curate to the Reverend James Bennett, vicar of Aldborough, the place of his birth, and continued a few months in that situation: but it was not intended that the efforts of his friends should rest there.

Through the personal influence of Mr. Burke, our author had the honour of being introduced to the late Duke of Rutland, and his grace willing to prove his regard to such recommendation, was pleased to invite Mr. Crabbe to his seat, Belvoir Castle, to retain him there as his domestic chaplain, and to shew him by repeated acts of his favour what was expected from his gratitude and improvement.

As our author had not the benefit of a university education, it became necessary that he should take the only certain means in his power to obtain a degree; and in obedience to the desire of his patron his name was entered at Trinity College, Cambridge, where, in conformity with the statute, it was continued ten years; after which time a degree in that college was offered to his acceptance, of which he would gladly have availed himself, had not circumstances unforeseen, and events of much importance to him changed his purposes, and made an application to the late Archbishop of Canterbury for a degree at Lambeth a more immediate object. This his grace was pleased to grant, and Mr. Crabbe became, in virtue of it, Bachelor of Laws, which gave one qualification for holding the benefices which have been, and those which now are in his possession.

Among the many benefits conferred by Mr. Burke upon our author, was that of an introduction to Sir Joshua Reynolds, at whose hospitable mansion he first beheld and was made known to Dr. Johnson; and from this knowledge, late as it was in the doctor's life, he had the good fortune of reaping all the advantages which could be expected by him. He had frequently the pleasure of seeing that good and wise man, and he obtained his opinion of a poem, afterwards published under the title of *The Village*, which certainly was a gratification to his pride, though it did not prove so much as it ought to have been a stimulus to his endeavours.

But we must once more return to an earlier period in our author's life. In the same year, when he became known to Mr. Burke, he had the good fortune to be introduced to the Lord Chancellor Thurlow, from whom he received, at various times, very flattering attention, as well as more substantial and lasting proofs of favour. By his lordship's presentation Mr. Crabbe became possessed of the rectory of Frome St. Quintin with Evershot, in the county of Dorset, which he held about six years, when, in con-

formity with the wishes of her grace the Duchess of Rutland, his lordship presented him to the rectories of Muston and West Allington in the diocese of Lincoln, which he held during many years.

Previous to this event Mr. Crabbe had, by the direction of the Duke of Rutland, taken a curacy at Stathern, a village near to Belvoir Castle, where he purposed to reside till his grace should determine respecting his more permanent situation. In this place he continued with his family, for he was now married and a father, till the news arrived so distressing as well as so important to him and to many, of his grace's decease in Ireland, where he had been Lord Lieutenant from the year 1784 to 1787.

Mr. Crabbe now had ample leisure for his poetical improvement and pursuits: he was himself young, and his children infants. But with some men leisure is not an excitement to industry:—Mr. Crabbe satisfied himself with few and abortive attempts. Perhaps the deaths of his friends were not without their effect: he felt the loss of them, and could not feel their disappointment in him. New engagements, situations, and duties, engrossed his attention, his faculties, and his inclinations; most of the great men whom he had the honour of calling his friends, were lost to him and to their country; and those who remained were distant, and their opinions and encouragements reached him not in the villages where his fortune had allotted him a temporary residence. He removed with his family, after the decease of the Duke of Rutland, into Suffolk, and continued there, taking upon him the duties of the rectory of Sweffling in that county, then and at this time in possession of the Rev. Richard Turner, minister of Great Yarmouth in the same diocese, with whom it has ever been Mr. Crabbe's pride and satisfaction to have lived, as he still does, on terms of friendship, and in the mutual interchange of good offices.

After an interval of more than twenty years, Mr. Crabbe, returned to his duties and parsonage in Leicestershire, and prepared those poems for the press of which Mr. Fox had given his more favourable opinion. These were returned to their author by the kindness of Lord Holland, after the decease of his uncle, and his lordship was pleased to permit the work then in hand to be dedicated to him; in this respect, as in others, imitating the condescension and obliging spirit of that great man.

Why our author should so long abstain from any call or claim upon public favour, it is not our business to inquire; but it is most probable that the subject itself, viz. Village Manners, described under the three parts of a parish register—Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, and the further opportunities which he had of viewing these in the different places wherein he resided, gave the hope of success in this attempt. He must have acquired some

knowledge of men and their manners; and if from disuse his facility of versification was somewhat abated, his powers of discrimination, and his accuracy in describing, were proportionably augmented.

Of the poems published in 1807 the general opinion was not unfavourable, and Mr. Crabbe had reason to be well satisfied, as it is understood he felt himself, with the verdict of more critical judges. In what degree critics of this description may unite in fixing the reputation of an author, or whether they do in fact determine this, we pretend not to judge; it may be, that every work finally succeeds according to its merit; but it is assuredly a fact, that the immediate success of writers, and especially writers on subjects of taste and those addressed to the imagination, is caused in a great measure by the favourable sentence of critics who stand foremost in the public estimation, and in these Mr. Crabbe certainly found no cold or injurious opinions. What they wrote it is hoped they wrote justly; it is certain they wrote favourably.

Thus encouraged, Mr. Crabbe proceeded to compose a still greater number of verses on kindred subjects, which arose in his view of a sea-port, and amid scenes which were engraven on his memory from the time when he first began to observe, or at least to retain whatever he might remark.

Neither the picture of a populous borough, nor that of a noisy port, had been described: they had certainly not been made the subject of a poem; and this might likewise be observed of the manners of the different classes of the inhabitants. The novelty of the work; therefore, the author probably conceived, might be some compensation for the coarseness of the materials, and the accuracy of the likenesses might in some degree atone for their humble situations. This has been decided, and the author was satisfied with the decision; at least he gave a further proof in a third publication (*Tales in Verse*), in which he introduced characters principally from the middle class of life, and incidents such as were likely to befall them. Three years have elapsed since this work was given to the public, and we cannot therefore judge from that time whether Mr. Crabbe means once more to try the constancy of his partial readers; though it has been mentioned to us that, without meaning to pledge himself for their appearance, he has informed his friends that he has a view of sparing his family the trouble of examining his papers, and of deciding for himself whether the subject which at present offers, and the verses it has already occasioned, are worth the trouble of correction, and will at length become such as may be presented to the view of the public, without causing in him greater apprehensions for their fate, than he has felt for that of their predecessors; and this we suppose is the way which the modesty of an author takes when he means to inform us that he intends to publish again.

When Mr. Crabbe was writing the *Borough*, his second publication, (at least the second fruits of his riper years), he was resident on his benefice of Muston, and had once more the happiness of seeing the noble family at Belvoir Castle, by whom he had been so highly favoured in the former part of his life. He now petitioned for the honour of dedicating the poem he was writing to his grace of Rutland, who granted his request, and was pleased to receive into his notice the chaplain of the late duke, although he had for many years, in an earlier part of his life, been a stranger to the country. Her grace the duchess dowager was likewise pleased to remember him, and to allow him to express his sense of her goodness by dedicating his last works (his *Tales*) to her grace. These were honours to which he looked, and rewards which his respect for the family might have some claim to; but his grace did not confine himself to these proofs of his favour; he presented Mr. Crabbe to the rectory of Trowbridge, in the diocese of Salisbury, and with it to a smaller benefice in that of Lincoln, which the indulgence of the bishop enabled him to hold. To the former Mr. Crabbe was instituted early in the year 1813, and has from that time resided in a parsonage, made convenient and enlarged by the efforts of the Rev. Gilbert Beresford, who preceded him in the rectory.

If there be anything in the life of Mr. Crabbe which calls for particular attention from a general and indifferent reader, it must be, as he has himself frequently remarked, that ready kindness, the continued benevolence and liberality of those friends, upon whom he had no other claim than that with which his need of their favours supplied him. Grateful he might be, and as we know not any proof to the contrary, we may admit that he was; but his gratitude was not manifested by any pains that he took, or at least by any progress that he made, in those pursuits which it is probable his friends expected from him. During many years he gave no proof of his exertions; and when at length he ventured to publish his *Parish Register* and other poems, there is reason to believe that he was actuated by a more common and less generous motive than that of gratifying the expectations of his friends, in giving proof of his obedience to their commands. Yet for this he may not be entirely without excuse. That he wrote sometimes may be presumed, and if he succeeded not to his own mind, he was right in not intruding his unsuccessful attempts on the notice of the public; and if we add to this, though this of itself is sufficient, the increase of his duties and engagements as a father of a family and the minister of a parish, he is perhaps rather justified in his long silence than in his breaking it at last; for it does not always happen that a man has so good a reason for publishing his manuscripts as he has for keeping them in his private possession.

Our author, besides the poems mentioned above, wrote a

sermon on the death of his patron the Duke of Rutland, which he preached at the chapel at Belvoir Castle. This her grace the duchess caused to be printed; a task which Mr. Dodsley took upon himself, though at that time he had retired from the fatigues of his profession, and confined his attention to works in which he was more particularly interested.

Of the poems published by Mr. Crabbe, (we speak of those of his late years, including the *Library* and *Village*,) one has reached a fourth, and the other two each a sixth impression: the author has, therefore, no reason to complain of their reception; and whether he makes any future attempt or not, he may draw some consolation from what he has done, and may indulge the hope that his verses will be read when he is no more solicitous for any future success; or what should be the same thing, when he is no longer grateful for past indulgence.

[Crabbe had been at Trowbridge two years when he wrote the above autobiographical sketch. His wife had died in 1813. At Trowbridge he had to encounter some opposition from the parishioners, who had pressed the claims of another candidate upon the patron, and was even mobbed at a contested election, when he showed unflinching firmness. He was welcomed by the chief people, and his liberality and independence gradually won general popularity. His son mentions certain flirtations which prove that he was still sensitive to feminine charms and capable of attracting feminine devotion. He was now famous, and on a visit to London in 1817 was welcomed at Holland House and received many attentions from Rogers, Moore, Campbell, and others. In 1819 he published *Tales of the Hall*. Murray paid him £3,000 for these and the copyright of his previous poems. On a later visit to London (1822) he met Scott. In his later years, Crabbe led a retired life varied by occasional visits to his son George, now vicar of Pucklechurch, to the house of Samuel Hoare at Hampstead, where he met Wilberforce, Joanna Baillie, Miss Edgeworth, Mrs. Siddons, and others, and to seaside places. His second son, John, became his curate at Trowbridge at the beginning of 1817 and lived with him till his death. He suffered much from tic douloureux, but took great pleasure in his grandchildren, kept up his old habits of observation, performed services, and became increasingly liberal. His strength declined gradually, and he died 3rd February, 1832. —B.S.]

INEBRIETY,

A P O E M,

In THREE PARTS.

If, when the more you drink, the more you crave,
Is your Complaint; if when the more you have,
The more you want; why not with equal Ease
Confess as well the Folly, as Disease?
The Heart resolves this matter in a trice,
" Men only feel the smart but not the Vice. "

POPE.—



I P S W I C H :

Printed and Sold by C. PUNCHARD, Bookfeller, in the Butter-Market
and by rest of the Bookfellers, 1775.

[Price ONE SHILLING & SIX-PENCE

INEBRIETY 1775

In the *Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature*, 1940, three copies of this work are recorded. The first is in the Bodleian Library, the second in the Turnbull Library, New Zealand and the third, the Rowfant copy, was in the possession of J. A. Spoor of Chicago. The first two are still in possession of the libraries: the Bodleian copy is incomplete and starts with the Preface.

J. A. Spoor died in 1926 and his collection was sold at auction by Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc. of New York. Mr. Arthur Swann, Vice-President of this company, states (April 1954) that the Spoor Collection was sold in 1939 and that the sales catalogue was prepared under his supervision and that *Inebriety* was not included and concludes therefore that the book was never delivered to the company for sale. Mr. Swann has searched the records of the auction sales held in the U.S.A. and the only copy of *Inebriety* sold at public sale was the one his firm sold in a combination sale known as the Charles L. Dana and Guy B. Stearns sale in 1927. It realised \$60 and was bought by Mr. E. R. Gee of New York, another dealer. Mr. Gee is unable to recollect for whom he bought the book.

Acknowledgement is made to the Turnbull Library, New Zealand for sending a reproduction of the title page of their copy and also to the Bodleian Library for lending their copy. From descriptions supplied it would appear that the collation of a perfect copy is:—

Quarto: π^2 ; a^2 ; B—N²

$\pi 1$	Blank (or a half title)
$\pi 2^r$	Titlepage
$\pi 2^v$	Blank
$a 1^r$ — $a 2^r$	Preface
$a 2^v$	Blank
B—N ²	Text

The size of the Turnbull copy, cut down in binding, is 218 × 154 mm.

THE CANDIDATE;

A

POETICAL EPISTLE

TO THE

AUTHORS OF THE MONTHLY REVIEW.

Multa quidem nobis facimus mala sæpe poetæ,
(Ut vineta egomet cædam mea) cum tibi librum
Sollicito damus, aut fesso; cum lædimur, unum
Si quis amicorum est ausus reprehendere versum,
Cum loca jam recitata revolvimus irrevocati:
Cum lamentamur non apparere labores
Nostros, et tenui deducta poemata filo:
Cum speramus eo rem venturam, ut, simul atque
Carmina rescieris nos fingere, commodus ultrò
Arcessas, et egere vetes, et scribere cogas.

Hor. Lib. ii. Ep. 1.

L O N D O N :

Printed for H. PAYNE, opposite Marlborough-House, Pall-Mall.

M DCC LXXX.

THE CANDIDATE 1780

Quarto: A—D⁴; E²

pp [1—3] 4—34 [35—36]

A1^r [1]

Titlepage

A1^v [2]

Blank

A2^r—A3^v [3]—6An introductory [poetic]
address by the author to
his poems.A4^r—A4^v 7—8

To the reader

B1^r—E1^v 9—34

Text

E2^r—E2^v [35—36]

Blank

The British Museum copy (1346k54), the only one examined, lacks E2. It has been cut down slightly and is 248 × 195 mm.

THE
LIBRARY.

A
POEM.



L O N D O N:
PRINTED FOR J. DODSLEY, IN PALL-MALL.

M. DCC. LXXXI.

[Price 2s.]

THE LIBRARY 1781

Quarto: A—D⁴; E²

pp [1—3] 4—34 [35—6]

Size: 276 × 220 mm., uncut.

A1 ^r	[1]	Titlepage
A1 ^v	[2]	Blank
A2 ^r —E1 ^v	[3]—34	Text
E2 ^r —E2 ^v	[35—6]	Blank

T H E
V I L L A G E :

A
P O E M.

I N T W O B O O K S.

B Y
THE REV^d. GEORGE CRABBE,
CHAPLAIN TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF RUTLAND, &c.

L O N D O N :
PRINTED FOR J. DODSLEY, PALL-MALL.

M.DCC.LXXXIII.

THE VILLAGE 1783

Quarto: [A]²; B—F⁴

pp [i—iv] [1]—23 [24—25] 26—38 [39—40]

Size: 284 × 200 mm. Uncut.

[A1] ^r	[i]	Half titlepage
[A1] ^v	[ii]	Blank
[A2] ^r	[iii]	Titlepage
[A2] ^v	[iv]	Blank
B1 ^r —D4 ^r	[1]—23	Text of Book 1
D4 ^v	[24]	Blank
E1 ^r —F3 ^v	[25]—38	Text of Book 2
F4 ^r	[39]	Blank
F4 ^v	[40]	Blank.

THE
NEWS-PAPER:
A
POEM.

BY

The Reverend GEORGE CRABBE,
Chaplain to His Grace the DUKE OF RUTLAND.

*E quibus, hi vacuas implent sermonibus aures,
Hi narrata ferunt aliò; mensuraque fidei
Crescit, et auditis aliquid novus adjicit auctor:
Illic credulitas, illic temerarius error,
Vanaque lætitia est, consternatique timores,
Seditioque repens, dubioque auctore furri.*

OVIP. Metam. Lib. XII.

L O N D O N :
PRINTED FOR J. DODSLEY, IN PALL-MALL.

M. DCC. LXXXV.

[Price 2 s.]

THE NEWSPAPER 1785

Quarto: A—E⁴

pp [i—iii] iv [v] vi—vii [viii] [1]—29 [30—32]

[A1] ^r	[i]	Titlepage
[A1] ^v	[ii]	Blank
A2 ^r —A2 ^v	[iii]—iv	Dedication to Edward, Lord Thurlow, dated 20th February, 1785, at Belvoir Castle.
A3 ^r —A4 ^r	[v]—vii	Dedication to the reader
A4 ^v	[viii]	The argument
B1 ^r —E3 ^r	[1]—29	Text
E3 ^v	[30]	Blank
E4 ^r	[31]	Advertisement
E4 ^v	[32]	Blank

All copies examined have been cut down in binding and an average measurement is 263 × 210 mm.

A
DISCOURSE,

READ IN

THE CHAPEL AT BELVOIR CASTLE,

AFTER THE

FUNERAL

OF HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF

RUTLAND,

LATE LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE KINGDOM OF IRELAND,
&c. &c.

By the Reverend GEORGE CRABBE.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. DODSLEY, IN PALL-MALL.

M.DCC.LXXXVIII.

Price 1s.

A DISCOURSE 1788

Quarto: A—B⁴

pp [1—7] 8—15 [16]

A1 ^r	[1]	Titlepage
A1 ^v	[2]	Blank
A2 ^r —A3 ^r	[3—5]	Dedication to the Duchess of Rutland dated 31st January, 1788 at Belvoir Castle.
A3 ^v	[6]	Blank
A4 ^r —B4 ^r	[7]—15	Text
B4 ^v	[16]	Blank

The British Museum copy (4905f23) has been cut down slightly in binding but is the larger of the two examined and measures 285 × 205 mm.

P O E M S.

BY

THE REV. GEORGE CRABBE, LL.B.

Ipse per Ausonias *Æneia* carmina gentes.
Qui sonat, ingenti qui nomine pulsat Olympum;
Mæoniumque senem Romano provocat ore:
Forsitan illius nemoris latuisset in umbrâ
Quod canit, et sterili tantum cantasset avenâ
Ignotus populi; si Mæcenate careret.

Paneg. ad Pisones, LUCAN.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. HATCHARD,
BOOKSELLER TO HER MAJESTY, OPPOSITE ALBANY,
PICCADILLY.

1807.

POEMS 1807

Octavo: a⁸; c⁴; χ¹; B—R⁸

pp [i—v] vi—viii [ix] x—xxv [xxvi] [1—3] 4—256

Binding: Original boards (blue), label on spine. One fly leaf, back and front. Uncut.

Size: 228 × 145 mm.

Watermark: "1806"

Imprint: Printed by Brettell and Co., Marshall Street, Golden Square, at a2^v and R8^v

a1 ^r	[i]	Half titlepage
a1 ^v	[ii]	Blank
a2 ^r	[iii]	Titlepage.
a2 ^v	[iv]	Blank except for imprint at foot
a3 ^r —a4 ^v	[v]—viii	Dedication to Henry-Richard Fox, Lord Holland
a5 ^r —c4 ^v	[ix]—xxiv	Preface dated September 1807 at Muston
χ1 ^r	xxv	List of contents
χ1 ^v	[xxvi]	Blank
B1 ^r —R8 ^v	[1]—256	Text.

THE BOROUGH:

A

P O E M,

IN

Twenty four Letters.

BY

THE REV. G. CRABBE, LL.B.

PAULO MAJORE CANAMUS.—VIRGIL.

London :

PRINTED FOR J. HATCHARD,
BOOKSELLER TO HER MAJESTY, 190, OPPOSITE ALBANY,
PICCADILLY.

1810.

THE BOROUGH 1810

Octavo: [a]—b⁸; c⁴; d²; B—Y⁸; Z⁴; χ²
 pp [i—v] vi—ix [x—xi] xii—xli [xlii—xliv] [1—3] 4—344
 [345—8]

Binding: Original boards (blue). Label on spine. One fly leaf,
 back and front.

Size: 220 × 145 mm. Uncut.

Watermark: "1809"

Imprint: Brettell & Co., Printers, Marshall Street, Golden Square,
 London, at [a2]^v and Z4^r

a1 ^r	[i]	Half titlepage
a1 ^v	[ii]	Blank
a2 ^r	[iii]	Titlepage
a2 ^v	[iv]	Blank except for imprint at foot
a3 ^r —a5 ^r	[v]—ix	Dedication to the Duke of Rutland
a5 ^v	[x]	Blank
a6 ^r —c4 ^v	[xi]—xl	Preface
d1 ^r	xli	List of contents
d1 ^v	[xlii]	Blank
d2 ^r	[xliii]	A second half title page
d2 ^v	[xliv]	Blank
B1 ^r —Z4 ^v	[1]—344	Text
χ1 ^r —χ2 ^v	[345—348]	Advertisements.

TALES.

BY

THE REV. GEORGE CRABBE, LL.B.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. HATCHARD,

BOOKSELLER TO HER MAJESTY, OPPOSITE ALBANY,
PICCADILLY.

~~1812~~

1812.

TALES 1812

Octavo: [a]⁴; b⁸; B—CC⁸

pp [i—ix] x—xxii [xxiii—xxiv] [1—5] 6—398 [399—400]

Watermarks: (1) W. (2) T.M. (3) 1811
W.

Imprint: J. Brettell, Printer, Rupert Street, Hay Market, London,
at [a2]^v and CC7^v.

[a1] ^r	[i]	Half titlepage
[a1] ^v	[ii]	Blank
[a2] ^r	[iii]	Titlepage
[a2] ^v	[iv]	Blank except for imprint at foot
[a3] ^r —[a4] ^r	[v—vii]	Dedication to Duchess Dowager of Rutland, dated 31 July 1812, at Muston
b1 ^r —b7 ^v	[ix]—xxii	Preface
b8 ^r	[xxiii]	List of contents
b8 ^v	[xxiv]	Blank
B1 ^r	[1]	Half titlepage
B1 ^v	[2]	Blank
B2 ^r —CC7 ^v	[3]—398	Text
CC8 ^r —CC8 ^v	[399—400]	Advertisements of books published by Hatchards.

Of the copies examined, all of which have been cut down in binding, the British Museum copy (c116f13) is the largest and measures 235 × 147 mm.

*The Variation of public Opinion and Feelings
considered, as it respects Religion.*

A

SERMON,

PREACHED BEFORE

THE RIGHT REVEREND THE

LORD BISHOP OF SARUM,

ON HIS VISITATION,

held at Devizes,

On Friday the 15th of August 1817.

BY THE

REV. G. CRABBE, L.L.B.

RECTOR OF TROWBRIDGE, IN THE DIOCESE OF SARUM.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. HATCHARD,

BOOKSELLER TO THE QUEEN,

NO. 190, OPPOSITE ALBANY, PICCADILLY.

1817.

SERMON 1817

Octavo: A—B⁸; C⁴
pp [1—5] 6—36 [37—40]

Watermark: "1816"

Imprint: S. Gosnell, Printer, Little Queen St., London at A1^v and C2^v

A1 ^r	[1]	Titlepage
A1 ^v	[2]	Blank except for imprint at foot
A2 ^r	[3]	Dedication to John, Lord Bishop of Sarum and the clergy of the Deanery of Pottern, dated 9th September, 1817, at Trowbridge.
A2 ^v	[4]	Blank
A3 ^r —C2 ^v	[5]—36	Text
C3 ^r —C4 ^v	[37—40]	Advertisements of books published by J. Hatchard.

Two copies examined have been cut down in binding and an average measurement is 203 × 132 mm.

TALES OF THE HALL.

BY

THE REV. GEORGE CRABBE, LL.B.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE-STREET.

1819.

TALES OF THE HALL 1819

Octavo: *Vol* 1 [a]⁸; b⁴; B—P⁸ (±P6); Q—X⁸; Y⁴(—Y4)
pp [i—v] vi [vii] viii—xx [xxi] xxii—xxiv [1—3] 4—326

Vol. 2 [a]⁴; B—Z⁸; AA²
pp [i—v] vi—viii [1—3] 4—353 [354—6]

Binding: Original boards (red). Labels on spine. One fly leaf, back and front of each volume.

Size: 225 × 145 mm. Uncut.

Imprint: Thomas Davison, Whitefriars, London,
at [a1]^v and Y3^v of vol. 1
and [a1]^v and AA1^v of vol. 2.

Vol. 1

[a1] ^r	[i]	Half titlepage
[a1] ^v	[ii]	Blank except for imprint at foot
[a2] ^r	[iii]	Titlepage
[a2] ^v	[iv]	Blank
[a3] ^r —[a3] ^v	[v—vi]	Dedication to the Duchess of Rutland dated June 1819 at Trowbridge.
[a4] ^r —b2 ^v	[vii]—xx	Preface
b3 ^r —b4 ^v	[xxi]—xxiv	List of contents.
B1 ^r	[1]	Titlepage to Book I
B1 ^v	[2]	Synopsis to Book I
B2 ^r —Y3 ^v	[3]—326	Text. (pp [219]—220, P6, a cancel).

Vol. II

[a1] ^r	[i]	Half titlepage
[a1] ^v	[ii]	Blank except for imprint at foot
[a2] ^r	[iii]	Titlepage
[a2] ^v	[iv]	Blank
[a3] ^r —[a4] ^v	[v]—viii	List of Contents.
B1 ^r	[1]	Title page to Book XII
B1 ^v	[2]	Synopsis to Book XII
B2 ^r —AA1 ^r	[3]—353	Text
AA1 ^v	[354]	Blank except for imprint in middle
AA2 ^r —AA2 ^v	[355-6]	Advertisements

LIST OF EXHIBITS

1. *Inebriety*. 1775. First edition *Lent by the Bodleian Library*.
2. *The Candidate*. 1780. Only one copy of the first edition has been discovered. This is in the British Museum and here shown is a reproduction of the titlepage of this copy.
3. *The Library*. 1781. First edition. This copy is bound with what appears to be a fair holograph copy of the text as it was first printed. *Lent by the Bodleian Library*.
4. *The Village*. 1783. First edition, uncut. *Lent by Sir John Murray, K.C.V.O.*
5. *The Newspaper*. 1795. First edition. *Lent by the Earl of Cranbrook*.
6. *A Discourse read in the Chapel at Belvoir Castle after the funeral of His Grace the Duke of Rutland*. 1788. First edition. *Lent by the Earl of Cranbrook*.
7. *Poems*. 1807. First edition. *Lent by D. Mitchell, Esq.*
8. *The Borough*. 1810. First edition, uncut, in original boards. *Lent by the Earl of Cranbrook*.
9. *The Borough*. 1810. This volume contains 38 coloured wash drawings by Sneyd. *Lent by Arnold Muirhead, Esq.*
10. *Tales*. 1812. First edition. *Lent by W. E. Labrum, Esq.*
11. *The New Monthly Magazine*, January, 1816. Containing the autobiographical sketch. *Lent by the National Central Library*.
12. *The Variation of public opinion and feelings considered, as it respects religion: a sermon . . . preached on . . . 15th of August*, 1817. First edition. *Lent by the Earl of Cranbrook*.
13. *Works*. 8 vols. *London: Murray*. 1823. *Lent by the Norfolk and Norwich Library*.
14. *Tales of the Hall*. 2 vols. 1819. First edition. *Lent by Samuel J. Looker, Esq., C.C. (Staffs.)*.

15. A contemporary review of No. 14 in *The Literary Chronicle and Weekly Review* for July 10, 1819. *Lent by S. F. Watson, Esq.*
16. Prospectus of the first complete and uniform edition of the poetical works of the Rev. George Crabbe: with his letters and journals, and a memoir of his life. 1833. *Lent by the Beccles Corporation from its Rix Collection.*
17. The poetical works of the Rev. George Crabbe: with his letters and journals, and his life, by his son. 8 vols. *London: Murray 1834. Lent by the East Suffolk County Library.*
18. Poetical works. *Paris: Galignani. 1829. Lent by Samuel J. Looker, Esq., C.C. (Staffs.).*
19. The Leadbeater papers: a selection from the MSS. and correspondence of Mary Leadbeater. 2nd ed., 2 vols. *London: Bell and Daldy 1862. The correspondence with Crabbe is contained in vol. 2 at pages 335-403. Lent by the Norfolk and Norwich Library.*
20. [FITZGERALD, EDWARD] Readings in Crabbe. "Tales of the Hall." *London: Quaritch. 1882. Lent by S. F. Watson, Esq.*
21. KEBBEL, T. E. Life of George Crabbe. (*Great Writers*) *London: Scott. 1888. Lent by Samuel J. Looker, Esq., C.C. (Staffs.).*
22. AINGER, ALFRED. Crabbe. (*English Men of Letters*). *London: Macmillan. 1903. Lent by Samuel J. Looker, Esq., C.C. (Staffs.).*
23. HUCHON, RENÉ. Un poète réaliste anglais: George Crabbe, 1754—1832. *Paris: Hachette. 1906. Lent by D. Mitchell, Esq.*
24. HUCHON, RENÉ. George Crabbe and his times, 1754—1832: a critical and biographical study. Translated . . . by Frederick Clarke, M.A. *London: Murray 1907. Lent by Samuel J. Looker, Esq., C.C. (Staffs)*
25. BROADLEY, A. M. & JERROLD, WALTER. The romance of an elderly poet: a hitherto unknown chapter in the life of George Crabbe revealed by his ten years' correspondence with Elizabeth Charter, 1815—1825. *London: Paul. 1913. Lent by the East Suffolk County Library.*

26. EVANS, J. H. The poems of George Crabbe: a literary and historical study. *London: Sheldon Press.* 1933. *Lent by Samuel J. Looker, Esq., C.C. (Staffs.).*
27. MS. A manual of natural history compiled by George Crabbe, dated 1767. *Lent by the Bodleian Library.*
28. MS. The poet's Journal when in London in 1780, with "Opinions in religion and morality, 1779." The journal does not collate with the transcription given by his son in the 1834 edition of his works (see No. 17). *Lent by Sir John Murray, K.C.V.O.*
29. The letter to Burke, 1781. *Lent by Samuel J. Looker, Esq., C.C. (Staffs.).*
30. Letter to Edmund Cartwright, Muston, September 5, 1792. *Lent by the Bodleian Library.*
31. Letter to Edmund Cartwright, *Jun.* of Tynemouth, Parham, November 14, 1794. *Lent by Sir John Murray, K.C.V.O.*
32. MS. Entry in Great Glemham Churchwardens' account book dated April 7, 1795, attested by George Crabbe, curate, whose signature occurs in three other similar entries in 1794, 1796 and 1799. *Lent by Great Glemham Parish Council.*
33. Letter to Mr. Nichols, Rendham, no date [after 1801]. *Lent by the Earl of Cranbrook.*
34. Letter to Miss Charter, Trowbridge, September 11, 1815. *Lent by Samuel J. Looker, Esq., C.C. (Staffs.).*
35. Letter to Mr. John Murray, Trowbridge, October 18, 1819. *Lent by Sir John Murray, K.C.V.O.*
36. Letter to his son John Waldron Crabbe, August 9, 1822, written when staying with Sir Walter Scott in Edinburgh. *Lent by the Bodleian Library.*
37. Letter to Miss Charter, Trowbridge, November 9, 1824. *Lent by Samuel J. Looker, Esq., C.C. (Staffs.).*
38. Letter to his eldest son, Trowbridge, May 18, 1826. *Lent by Samuel J. Looker, Esq., C.C. (Staffs.).*

39. Letter to his eldest son, Hastings, October 6, 1830. *Lent by the Beccles Corporation from its Rix Collection.*
40. MS. Botanical notebook. *ca* 1800. Lent by *Sir John Murray, K.C.V.O.*
41. MS. Botanical notebook, with the beginning of a journal, Dec.—Jan., 1815—16. *ca* 1800—1816. *Lent by the Earl of Cranbrook.*
42. MS. Notebook, 1813—22, containing drafts of poems, synopses, sermons preached and other miscellaneous matter. *Lent by Sir John Murray, K.C.V.O.*
43. MS. Draft of sixty-four lines for *Tales of the Hall*, apparently rejected and unpublished. *Lent by the Bodleian Library.*
44. MS. Notebook. Draft of poems.
45. MS. Notebook containing an early draft of poem *Flowers*, with other pieces.
46. MS. Notebook containing prayers and other religious writings with some miscellaneous poems.
47. MS. Notebook containing fair drafts of two poems, *The Lady's Album* and *Flowers*.
48. MS. Notebook. Fair draft of poem *Poins* and first draft of *The family of love* here entitled *The family of friends*.
49. MS. Notebook. First draft of poem *Joseph and Jesse* with other pieces.
50. MS. Notebook. Fair draft of poem *Hester*.
51. MS. Notebook. Fair draft of poem *David Morris* with other pieces.
52. MS. Sermon on 1 Corinthians 1. 2. 3. First given at Evershot, 1784.
53. MS. Christmas sermon on 2 Luke 10. First given at Glemham on Christmas Day, 1797.
54. MS. Sermon on 17 Luke 17. First given at Sweffling, 1803.

55. MS. Sermon on 6 Gallatians 7. First given at Trowbridge, 1827.
56. MS. Sermon on 52 Isaiah 7 given at Trowbridge for the Church of England Missionary Society on 2 October, 1831. *Items 44 to 56 lent by Sir John Murray, K.C.V.O.*
57. MS. Sermon on 10 Luke 41. First given, at Muston, 1791. *Lent by Mrs. A. E. Goldsmith.*
58. Original drawings by R. Westall, R.A., for Crabbe's poems. *Lent by H. A. Hammelman, Esq.*
59. Printed appeal for erection of memorial in Aldeburgh Church, with an association copy of one of Crabbe's works originally belonging to the sculptor, Thomas Thurlow. *Lent by the great-grand daughter of the sculptor, Miss M. M. Smith.*
60. Powell's popular annual, 1906. (With an account of the sesquicentenary celebrations at Aldeburgh in 1905). *Lent by G. E. Daldy, Esq.*
61. Souvenir of the Crabbe celebration and catalogue of the exhibits at Aldeburgh, Suffolk, 16th—18th September, 1905. *Lent by S. F. Watson, Esq.,*