

My Lord

I regretted much yesterday, that I cou'd not attend your Lordship to the Coun:
:try, when you did me the Honor to call on me. I am now engag'd in such a manner as will confine me
during some time to the Town. My second Volume is printing at London; & I receive a Sheet every
Post and must return it corrected by the next Post. The Printer complains somewhat of
this Delay, but woud be very much displeas'd, if I were not punctual¹.

Except this small Occupation, I am entirely idle at present; and Idleness, I own, has some
Charms, after so much Application, as that which I subjected myself to. I am only sorry, that it shoud
be attended with Confinement, and that I cannot enjoy it, as I cou'd wish, with Your Lordship.
Some People tell me, that I will soon tire of doing nothing, & that I shoud think of some other
Occupation. The History of the House of Tudor is recommended to me; and indeed I am fully
convinc'd, that I shou'd have done much better had I wrote these Reigns previously to the History of the
House of Stuart. For after having shown by a long Series of Facts the Nature of the English Govern:
:ment during that Period, it woud have been easy to correct the Prejudices of those, who think
that James the I & Charles the I ought to judg'd by the same Standard which we woud
apply to George the I & 2d. However, it has been remarkd to me, that Tacitus went
backwards, and wrote his Annals after his History; and that there is nothing absurd in a
man's enlarging his Plan after this manner. I may hereafter think of this Scheme, if it
happen, as is probable, that Idleness becomes a Burthen to me.²

Baillie

Baillie Hamilton offerd me the same Terms for the second, as for the first Volume;
and I try'd to bring Andrew Millar, who is my London Bookseller, to enter for a Share with
him: But he insisted upon the Whole, or none of it. He gives me Terms equally profitable:
Which is a good Proof to me, that I shall at last get the better, both of the Cry of Faction & the
Combination of Booksellers. I am My Lord

Edinburgh

8th of June. 1756

Your Lordship's

Most obedient & most humble

Servant

David Huem

注1 最終的に6巻本で完結する『イギリス史』(*History of England, from the Invasion of Julius Caesar to the Revolution in 1688*)の第1巻は、ジェームズ1世とチャールズ1世の治世を扱っていた。それは、1754年、エディンバラのゲイヴィン・ハミルトン (Gavin Hamilton) によって出版された。ここで言及されている、チャールズ2世とジェームズ2世の国と治世を取り扱っている第2巻は、ロンドンのウィリアム・ストラハン (William Strahan) の出版、アンドリュー・ミラー (Andrew Millar) の印刷であった。『歴史』全巻の十

分な説明は『生涯』第 23 章に登場する。そして本書簡の最後"the Combination of Booksellers"でヒュームが何を述べようとしたのかについての、もっと技術的な説明は次の論稿の中にある。E. C. Mossner and H. H. Ransom, "Hume and the 'Conspiracy of the Booksellers': The Publication and Early Fortunes of the History of England," in *The University of Texas Studies in English*, 29 (1950), pp.162-182.

2 17 世紀の 2 巻部分〔執筆〕後、ヒュームはテューダー朝の 2 巻部分そして最終的には、草創期の 2 巻部分へと遡っていった。