

Journal

9th April

1790

Calcutta

Calcutta 9th April 1790
Monday

+ At home

This morning detected the thief
in theft - He had given into the
Dawson on the opposite ^{side} of the street
a silver Spoon 11 inches sq.
another smaller one was found
found - He has stolen 5 or 6
others which he got from and
sold for looking glasses - I made
also several phials with glass
glasses - after a good beating
turned him off - He had
the impudence to deny tho' the
stolen articles were found in
his possession -

Calcutta 1790

Tuesday 10th April —

The head beam appeared this morning as if nothing had happened — turned him out of the house —

— got another recommended by Mr Taylor Sunday —

+ with Mr. Taylor an early dinner that he might attend the showings — Two machines in the road since the fair began — sunset per as showings — same as last year —

+ upright from 10 to 20 feet

ropes piece consisting of 4 or 5 slender bamboos from 12 to 14 feet in length supported on the upper bar of the movable frame and fastened by a rope — This piece divided vertically in one machine runs at 1 to $3\frac{1}{2}$

The other about 1, to about 2
The movable frame which supports
the crop piece is from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet
high has 3 crop bars which bind
the Chucks. These are fastened on the
outside with wooden pins each bar
has a hole to receive the rounded
top of the upright, the whole weight
is supported on the shoulder of the
upright which sustains the lower
bar - The two chucks viewed along
the bar are tapered about one third
to the top -

- The arm which supports the
man is always the longest - The
circle which he describes from 10 to
20 feet in ϕ . - Velocity from 4 to 6
to one revolution - Centrifugal force
great - lateral angle some times 30°
- Chief pain seems to be felt at first

He holds the rope, when ascending,
and sometimes for a revolution or
two, with one /left/ hand, so as to
let down his weight on the rocks
gradually - The attitude is some times
very fine - like *Fama* or *Mercury*
- They are obliged by their Religion to
keep the rocks one year after which
they are said to be destroyed -

In some places of the town the rocks
are put in at home, in others at
the tree, I saw them put into the
last year. The points are of the shape
of horns the fit on to the rock
by a socket, when paper was
white is done in an instant. The
points are taken off - A bag con-
taining plants, flowers - *Polygonum*
&c. hangs in front, there are thrown
out, and he who the *Bong* takes
himself when he can catch one.

10th April

9 p.m. At 21. water, the first thin
season - N.W. were never rem. on hand
to be so late as in this season. It is
said they are getting later every year
They used frequently to begin the first
week in Feb^y - guess the cause of
the change? - little rain
wind not so high as usual
recent thunder 0" -
- collect all the principal
phenomena of N. Western -

Wednesday 11th April 1790.

This days volume contains an account
of the origin of Swinging — To inquire
of my friend George Mahon whether
it is a genuine account — It is but
imperfectly told — It originated with
Rajah Bala —

— Visit from Mr. Plunket and Mr. McNeill
+ with Mr. F. — ~~Electricity introduced~~
+ with Mr. Harrington — Birch — Warren
Carlington — Bentley — Ringlon.
Rumbold and then the fort.

— Prison — how the concords were
at first ascertained with such a
degree of accuracy as to admit ^{them} of those
of no improvement — It was alledged
that a burning fork would not
give the same tone here as at
home — Expansion and contraction —

To this it was replied the expansion
and contraction was so small that
it would cause no variation - that this
might be very easily ascertained by
experiment - that one of two forks,
which when cold are convex, and
then sound them together - It
will probably be found that the
ear can hardly distinguish any diff:
from the freezing to the boiling point -

From the middle of last page, belongs
to Sunday the 12th April -

In Calcutta

Thursday 12 April 1790

Put up a packet of cochineal to
sent to Mr. Paine by Mr. Dawson -
+ with Mr. Harrington, - (see the Post
and preceding page) -

+ The Surgery business is said not
to be general thro' Hindostan - It
is performed on the Coast in a much
easier and less dangerous way - The
man is twisted but to a small height
from the ground, and is carried
round, two or three times very slowly

- Mr. Kingdon says he has felt it
as hot on the Coast as it has lately
been here - During the land
winds I should suppose more so -
- Throwing the body down from a
bamboo ladder in which are
stuck a number of spikes -
(a particular description of this) -

- Mr. Bentley called with a table
calculated to discover the age of
any Sanscrit treatise or MS. from the
length of the year mentioned in it
I am requested by the Vice-Chancellor
to read and give my opinion of
Bentley's paper

- Problem of the Cube and Sphere
The Deaf and Dumb are taught to
speak by ~~Signs~~ Signs does not
prove ^{but} the sense of hearing and ^{speaking} ~~hearing~~
The sense of seeing are not entirely
independent -

Calcutta -

Friday 13th April 1790

Delivered his books and drawings
to Mr. Paves - visit with his
~~book~~ paper from Mr. Bentley
- Every Hindoo writer must make
the year shorter by 2" or 3" in
a century - guess why? -

+ with Mr. James Campbell
in Ch. B. - Messrs B. McDowd
and Taylor come on June

- A large Glow worm he
put under a glass in the
field, a number of others
with light on the out side -

See C - thinks that the inside
one is the female, that by the
light she courts the males -

- Antiquity of the Hindus - whether

They considered the orbits of the
planets as circular or Elliptical
if circular, then there was neither
Apheion nor Perihelion —

— About N. West at 7. My hand
sent my boy to shut the window
he was blown down and lost his
Turban at the water building —
— A second storm just midnight

~~th~~

Saturday 14 April 1790
+ with M. Spalding - after dinner
went to Kiddershoe school - (Denton
House -

th
Sunday 15 April 1790
+ with the Carities -

Evening at Capt^l Smalls -

++ It is alleged that the Indians
had ^{astronomical} instruments but that they
are lost - that revolutions in Sum-
atra will be constantly taking place
the eruptions must suppose nature
to be in a savage state - what
nations can now or formerly over-
run Europe? - All the Nations
of Europe are in some degree
enlightened - Spaniards were
a Century ago an enlightened people
and great commercial nation -
now the country is desolated - ~~and~~
now with the Birmahs -

Monday 16th April 1790

B. with Mr. Fairlie -

- + A play between the sailors and Scapoy - have neither the same -
- + with Mr. B. & Mr. Wals and Miss Smith - Miss Jarrat - Mr. and Capt. Nokes -
- + Latin Verse on Mr. W.'s plating a branch with fruit on it in his hood -
- + Fresh to dine at Merguany Castle on Saturday next -
- + Mr. Fairlie on going upon his lesson for observed a bell of iron on each conductor, during the N. week on Friday last -

Monday 17th April 1798

Account of the - to - investment
from China - near 10,000 \$k -
many articles not marketable
here

- Removed the apparatus to the
Front room -

+ with Mr. Fairlie - Ladies not
present -

- Letter in the India Gazette
states Fleming's tract on the
fall of the Papacy - 1st Jan. 1700
being the first day both of the
year and Century! It is the

work of 1700 -

- with Capt. Sinclair Esq -
+ Mr. B. - called with Lord

Cornwallis [something] not quite
finished - carried to Mr. Fairlie

1790

Wednesday 10th April

Sent 4 Vol. of M. Piere to
Mr. Sutton at Hindurpoore

+ B with Capt. Smale -

+ with Mr. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Tolken and

Mr. their daughter
a widow lady whose husband

was murdered at Paris - he
had effected the escape of himself
wife father and Mother from

Orion - They went over to England
The son in Law to recover his
property, and was put to death.

Recd. an official letter from
the Sec^{ry} to the Prison Board
intimating that Humphreys's scheme
for signals will not answer in the
Colon service + wish to D. Tennant

Monday 19th April 1790

B. with Mr. Taylor - son - Hand-
kerchiefs -

+ Mr Bently called - Delivered to him
the paper on the age of the
Surya Suktanta -

+ This last writer who is acknowledged
to be the oldest extant, was the author
of the present system of Guga, Man-
wantaras &c. - It is highly probable
that the old system was then
destroyed, in order to establish more
readily the modern, which was
better calculated to flatter the vanity
of the Hindus, by tracing their
History to periods so remote -

- The Purans are very probably
not so old as the work above
mentioned, for they adopt the same

System

- Mr. Wilford does not think the
Puranas ¹⁰⁰⁰ 400 years old —
Four Vedas are mentioned in
the S. S. S. Now the
Brahmins acknowledge that
there are but three Ancient Vedas
and that the fourth was written
since the Mahomedan conquest
with W. Taylor —
+ N. went at 6 o'clock rain —
— went to the Asiatic Society. The
business done — conversation on
the printing the researches
I proposed that the Bot. should
be published in two parts &
price one gold Mohur each —
— Old Instruments in the Observ.
at Patna are all Arabian

Inscriptions on them are all in
Arabic - A strong Argument in
favor of the Eastern parts of Asia
having borrowed their Astronomi-
cal Science from the West -
- The age of these Instruments
is said by the Jesuits to be 6
or 700 years. It is curious to
remark that this corresponds
nearly with the age of the Sarga
Siddhantah - Two Pechome-
don Missionaries are said
to have arrived in China -
a short time before. They
very probably played the
same part as the European
Missionaries, they merely made

view of Science as an introduction
to Religion —

+ Subscribed to Moffatt's views
on the view — on Gold M.

Friday 20th April 1790

Visit from Mr Harrington -
looked at the model of Wolwich
thinks God should take it -
Brought Fleming's tract on
the fall of the Papacy. It is
~~published~~ ^{published} in the same year but
by a pretty bookseller in Peter-
North Row -

- Iainth at Orings - Several
new books - Translations of the
Greek and Roman writers -
Anacron - Sophocles - Lucian -
Empedocles - &c &c -
Few capable readers in this
country -

Saturday 21st April
+ with Mr C - L at the
Castle of A - y - prevent
from getting out by a
Thunder - till past 7.

- Hard N. wind - The Essay
Office shook from the violence
of the wind - The N. W.
began (the prognosis) with
a dark overcast to the west
no thick cloud - scarce
any wind - at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4
it began to blow from the
west - very violent - not
much rain - This circum-
stance has characterized
all the N. W. ~~we~~ we have
had this season

- Price of a Bengallee cottage -
- A Bengallee should be obliged
by wind or rain to sit up during
the night, he lights his pipe, smokes
his bubble bubble, and should the
storm abate towards the morning
goes to bed and sleeps 'till 10 or 11
o'clock, the time he usually goes
to work - advantage of the Europeans?"

- The natives are fond of potatoes,
would it not tend to prevent
famine to ~~use~~ extend the culti-
vation of this root? Price at
present too high - Soil of Bengal
~~is~~ very well fit for potatoes.

+ Give what will be the principal
consequences of the connection between
the English and the Bengallees? -

Salente
Sunday 22 April 1798

B. and Dinner with Mr. Taylor

Capt. Wright and Mr. Morris

- Splendour of the Roman Empire
in the time of the first Emperor
Means of treating their conquered
provinces - Laws - Language - Roads
The Roman high ways called
them of all other nations -

+ - Conduct of the French - Given ve-
nue to the Emperor - Destroyed Repu-
blics as well as established Repu-
blics -

Monday 23 April 1798

India Gazette - reply to the Post
respecting the Date of Fleming's
Campbell -

+ with Mr. Belli - Dr. and Mr. D. B.
Mr. and Mr. Johnson - Mr. and Mr.
Trist Mr. Robertson - Mr. Lockhart
Logan Johnson and two others
+ On China - Anderson's Narrative

Palmiste

Tuesday 24th April 1790

- Letter from Mr. B -

+ It may be proved that a Hindu
Astronomer living at present
and publishing a System this
System might be applied as well
to the beginning of the Cali-yug
as one living 1000 years ago and
in the same manner.

- A conjunction of all the planets
is supposed to have happened at
the beginning of the Cali-yug
no matter whether true or false
then from the best modern tables
or observations the places of the
planets are found for the time in
which the author lives, the Difference
of Longitude is then divided by
the years elapsed of the Cali-yug

The result is the mean motions
or positions, but not the mean posi-
tions at the time the author lived
as generally supposed in the World.
Astronomy —

— Several learned Arabians had vi-
sited India and probably China
as early as the 8th Century —

The Chinese did not at the arrival
of the first missionaries in China,
know the use of their astro-
nomic instruments, gave the
the pretence that they were Chinese?
What account did they give of the
Arabic inscriptions on them? That
it was the primitive language of
China? —

— The passengers it is reported
are to leave town tomorrow
to go on board the ship for England

+ both Mr. Sheparding - Mr. Mackay
- The Company has reduced Mr. y
Salary to near one half what it
has hitherto been -
- After Dinner went to Keddapon
Spent the Evening - Mr. y
S - y - A - y - S - n - Mack - h
- Songs -

1798

Wednesday 25 April
Examined the magnetic appa-
ratus -

- B^d with Mr. Farley - His Bangor
has gone off with earth it is said
to some amount -

+ The Commander in Chief at
Madras has suspended General
Geith and some other officers
of Military whose names are men-
tioned in publick orders &c.

Genl. Geith has obliged his two
sons to resign the service, tho'
both promising young men and
are high in the service, he
threatned to disinherit them if they
would not

+ with Mr. Farley -

- Evening at Capt. Amable -
- Great complaints against G.
with respect the Shipping -
- Value influence increasing -
- British Indian possessions not
so secure as is probably imagined
- Report of Zimmamun Shawi being
at Lahore -
- Chronometer - Capt. J. - y -
- + Capt. J. expects to be in town
on Friday -

At Calcutta

Monday 26 April 1798

B with Mr Fairlie - Capt
Brook who goes to Europe
on the Phoenix commanded
by his brother -

- Calcutta Exchange Coffee House
+ with Mr McDonald - Miss
Jessie Fracke -

+ visit from Mr Bentley -
Mr Fair has carried his paper
into the country as I supposed -

++ Suppose the moon was in the
conjunction with the 1st point of
Aries in the Mundie Sphere at
the beginning of the Caligae
and that in the 4900/yr 17999
her plan was found 10. 16' along
of the Mundie Sphere from the

175	
07. 0	
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0. 4	

D. B. B. B.

1 M

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140	150
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P. A. D. [unclear]

1 M

~~112
 25
 140~~

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 150
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 1200~~

Dear Sir

Give a receipt to say
 Do not forget that we
 agree however

Yours sincerely

Thurs 18th

✓

Calcutta -

Friday 27 April 1790 -

+ Employed in writing letters
to London gave one in to Capt.
Smeth Clerk to Deliver to Mr. Dawson
contained a letter to Mr. Munn
with an acc^t of four Experi-
ments on Cochineal - Sent also
a packet of Cochineal -

- A requis from Mr. Burroughs
he wants vit. acid = 500 Lt
in quantities of 100 Lt each
Mr. B. thinks the company
ought to take the trade of West
India -

- with Mr. Fancie - Two Miss Rob:
Ten and Cards - Commerce -

- Mr. Taylor called in the Evening
+ The King's late manifesto one of
the best ever published -

29. April

My dear Doctor
Will you favour me with your company at Dinner
on Friday the 5. May and oblige your sincerely
Wm M^r

D. Dinwiddie -

Dr. Dinwiddie -

1790
Saturday 20 April

B^o with Mr. Fairlie - looked at
the stock of Lead - Soil sedi-
ment -

- Cloudy from 8 a.m. at 10
sky much variegated - Deep
black ~~to the~~ from N. to west

11 Began to thunder - Cloudy
w^h but saw any rain -

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ Still thunder but saw 7"
a few drops of rain -

+ U. M.'s account of thunder &
lightning - (a more particular
account of the Indian method
of explaining this phenomenon
afterwards).

4
12. Thur — 00° 0

Wyd. New — 30° —

Sky much — several different
currents — in long cloud, black
below and white above from N.E. to S.

14
2 p.m. Thur — 01

Wyd New — 22 M —

Clear up — no rain

+ sent to Mr. Fankler a bill for
rent and returned to him 24 June

1797 and 175 lbs 262.50
6 bottles 36
to my credit — 290.0

+ with Mr. Taylor — after dinner
Mr. Johnson — Robertson and Taylor

+ Snowing in Persim and Woyat
is a bad omen — if a man sneezes when

another is about to leave the coast;
the latter sits down for a short time —
— may you be safe, or God bless you
is the common expression in Greece on
a person's sneezing, same as in England
‡ Shall I help you to some bread?
first help your self, and then if there
is any remaining. I will thank you
for a little —

1790
Sunday 29th April

W with Mr. Harrington -

- gave first lesson on G. and Astro-
nomy - proposed a lesson every
Sunday morning -

9 cloudy no. 3.

10 $\frac{1}{2}$ Thunder - heavy shower

11. Clear up - Therm. - 79° 11
Hyg. new - 4 Dry

+ with Mr. Farley -

+ Evening Mus. J. 2 and K. - 1
called -

+ Measurably cool all this day -

Calcutta

Monday 30th April 1790
B^d with W. Taylor —

Morning cool —

10. $\frac{1}{2}$ Thunder storm very black
wind from the West — little
rain —

11. Ther ————— 77°
Hyg. old ————— 7 D.

+ with Mr. Fausli — Long Company
at D. Dicks —

Calcutta

Tuesday 1st May 1798

Reviewed all my books unsold
at Mr. Hoban's 120 Volt -

- began to arrange them for a
Catalogue

- with Mr. Taylor - at 5

heavens cloudy - lightning
flashes very frequent - little rain
during the morning no very black
clouds - thin haze overspread
the sky -

- It is affirmed by some that a
r.e. happens within an hour
either before or after sun set -

Wednesday 2 May 1790

- B^d with M. Fink

Heavy Snow - Thunder - wind

3 p.m. Therm ————— 79°

Clear - wind N^o little

+ with M. Taylor

Calcutta -
Thursday 3 May 1790
Employed in taking a list of
my books -

+ with Mr Harrington - Dr G.
Mr. B. Buntley - C-9
S-r - Bell -

What has the Madras Gov.
to do with the Nabob's provided
he pays the stipulated sum to
the Company - The Nabob allows
Lady only 7000 Rs ann -
read to Mr. H. of the letter from
the Prince of Wales with the
Prince's petition - "I have sent
" you a ~~copy~~ sword which I have
" worn at the head of my Regt.
" with a mark of a conqueror. I wish
" I wish you to ~~write~~ a Dep't for
" your guards" answer "I have done"

The Nobles of Great Britain
thru a pension which he refused.
Sir John is said to be created a peer
(probably Irish) by the title of
Tinnmouth, a small town where
Lady Anne was born -

+ Arctic Society in the Evening
- Resolved that the Resolutions proposed
to be printed in Justice and at
the expense of the Society - And that
the sole management of publishing
and selling be committed to the
Committee for the time being
- Conversation between Mr. B. and
Mr. F. - respecting the paper
on the age of the Surgeon Latham
which Mr. F. had condemned
read - He was requested by Mr.
Bentley to give his reasons in
writing - This he has done. see p. 111

- Wrangle about with drawing
a motion without giving a
reason for his conduct -