

Robert Batty

- 1848

Soldier in  
Peninsula

W. Carlos

Ex. R. A.

published

books about

himself

BATTY, Robert, lieut.-colonel; b. 1789; published "French Scenery," 1822; "German Scenery," 1823; d. 20 Nov. 1848. 189. 80. 3

## OBITUARY.

LIEUT.-COLONEL ROBERT BATTY, F.R.S.

IT is with much regret we record the death of this eminent amateur artist, at his residence, Ridgmount Place, Amptill Square, after long suffering, on the 20th of November last. Lieut.-Colonel Batty was formerly of the Grenadier Guards, in which regiment he served during the campaign of the Western Pyrenees and at Waterloo.

Among his military honours may be reckoned his employment as aide-de-camp to Sir William Clinton in Portugal; also on the staff of Count (now Prince) Woronzow, who commanded the Russian forces at Maubeuge. He has recorded the gallant services of his corps in a quarto volume, illustrated with an admirable plan, and views of his own taking, etched by himself.

His historical memoir of Waterloo (where he was wounded by a shell in the hip while in square), met with the decided approbation of the great Commander, the Duke of Wellington.

Lieut.-Colonel Batty was well known in the world of Art for a number of interesting works engraved by eminent men.

The son of an eminent physician, at the age of fifteen he accompanied his cousin, the present Lord Langdale, to Italy, where he probably laid the foundation of a taste for Art, which he afterwards cultivated with so much success.

In the *Somerset House Gazette* of May 1824, there is a very flattering but just notice on the first part of his "Views on the Rhine, Belgium, and Holland." The notice says:—"The family of this gentleman is particularly identified with the Arts. Dr. Batty, M.D., the father of the Captain, long and deservedly esteemed by his own profession, has been equally long known as an amateur artist and encourager of the Arts. The fair daughter of the Doctor too, eminent for her topographical taste, has given to the world a series of Views of Italian Scenery, illustrative of a tour which she made to those classic regions, in an elegant publication, which will perpetuate her fame among the most distinguished of her sex." The venerable Doctor still survives. The daughter, now married to Mr. Philip Martineau of the Court of Chancery, retains her brilliant talents, which served latterly to soothe the suffering invalid, her brother, who, with paralysed limbs, painted within a few weeks of his lamented death.

Lieut.-Colonel Batty was educated at the ancient College of Gonville and Caius; and not long after entering the army, he returned on leave to Cambridge, and took his degree in Medicine, for which profession he had been originally intended, but which he finally relinquished for the army. He again visited Italy, and also made the tour of Spain, alone, with no other protection on his person but the penknife he cut his pencil with. He fortunately met with no molestation, and sketched some wonderfully accurate views of Madrid, and of nearly every place of interest or importance in that country. Of these, a very few years ago, he finished in water-colour a selection for publication, similar to and equalling, if not surpassing, his other works; and we regret that diffidence of success on the part of the publishers to whom it was disposed of, has hitherto prevented its publication.

His other works of Art, all of which have been much esteemed, but which we have not now space to mention more particularly, are the French Scenery, German Scenery, Views of the principal Cities of Europe, and Welch Scenery.

His highly respected father-in-law, Sir John Barrow, Bart., who survived him but three days, died suddenly on the 23rd of November last, at the advanced age of eighty-four, having apparently been, till within the hour of his death, in that health and strength, which, with scarce an exception, he enjoyed during the whole of his life.\*

1. Ridgmount Place  
Amptwell Square  
18<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1845

Dear Sir

Trusting you will excuse the liberty I now  
take of applying to you for your candid opinion of  
my fitness for appointment to the vacant situation  
of Keeper of the Prints & Drawings in the British Museum  
formerly held by the late Mr Josi. I beg to acquaint  
you that I am a candidate for that Office, & believing  
that the Trustees who have the power of conferring the  
appointment will require Testimonials as to the  
qualifications of the Candidates in their general  
& practical knowledge of the Fine Arts, & particularly  
of their knowledge of Engravings.

You are aware that many works on the Scenery  
of different parts of Europe have been published with  
Engravings from my drawings, & that I have been in  
the habit of superintending ~~the~~ & touching upon the  
Engravers

To Abraham Cooper Esq  
M<sup>o</sup> A. S. S. C.

R. B. B. B.

Engravers Proofs. You also know that I have etched & engraved many plates both on Steel & Copper, some published in Murray's Family Library, others as elucidations to my account of the Campaign in the Western Pyrenees & South of France, and some also in a periodical work chiefly embellished by your own characteristic & spirited paintings.

I have made a similar application to Sir Martin Archer Shee, the President of the Royal Academy & to many other gentlemen of eminence in Art. both Painters, Sculptors & Engravers, with the intention of laying before the Trustees of the British Museum these Testimonials as to my qualifications for filling, satisfactorily, the office which I am most anxious to obtain.

I have already had the gratification of receiving a most flattering letter from Sir M. A. Shee of

his considering me "very well qualified to perform the duties attached to the Office in question" — I have also received several other most favourable Testimonials from Members of the Royal Academy & some of the most Eminent Engravers expressive of their Opinions of my full qualification for performing, satisfactorily, the duties of this situation.

An early answer to my queries as to these particulars will greatly oblige

Dear Sir

Your very obedient servant

Robert Batty

To Abraham Cooper Esq.

Print.

no. 100. 100.