

The Diaries of Charlotte Grove / Diary Notes / Notes & Queries

1811

January 4th. “For 2^d Mourning for the Princess” - Princess Amelia, youngest daughter of George III had died the previous autumn.

February 2nd. “Young Roscius” - Nickname for a famous Roman actor, who died ca 62 BC and who was defended by Cicero in a law-suit.

February 22nd. “Leno” - a type of linen.

September 6th. The comet was visible with the naked eye from April 11th 1811 to August 17th 1812. Popularly known as “Napoleon’s Comet”.

October 31st. “Fatimas” - Presumably some kind of maternity garments.

1812

May 8th. “Ar hydy nos” - A popular Welsh folk melody and hymn, best known in English as “All Through the Night”.

September 4th. “Benjamin’s Mess” - the largest share.

1814

April 15th. “Awkward Squab”. Not, as first thought, “Awkward *Squad*”. Possibly from a Jacobite song?

1816

July 8th. “.....expedition against this Algeirenes” - Once the war in Europe was over, there was a combined campaign to stamp out slave traders operating out of Algiers and enslaving Christians.

1817

Front pages. "Stedman's Surinam" - John Gabriel Stedman, distinguished soldier, son of a Dutch mother and Scottish father, wrote: "Narrative of a Five Years Expedition against the Revolted Negroes of Surinam". Published in 1796.

November 29th. "Princess Caraboo" - Mary Baker, a cobbler's daughter from Devon, posed as a "Polynesian Princess", speaking a strange language and alleging to have escaped from kidnappers. She took in a number of people in and around Bristol before being exposed as a fraud. She eventually went to America. Her story was made into a film in 1994.