EDITORIAL PRINCIPLES

In transcribing the materials in this edition our aim has been to remain faithful to Upcott's text, while keeping it relatively uncluttered. We have transcribed the whole of the texts, with the exception of a set of accounts linked to 1809, which we lack the space to include.

Punctuation in the MS is *very* erratic. The handwriting is often cramped and it is difficult to distinguish stops and commas, and stops and dashes are often used together and in odd places, without being followed by the use of the upper case. Upcott's apostrophes are similarly erratic and we have inserted them silently only when it is clear that his dashes are intended to indicate possession. We have followed the original except where the stops and dashes interfere with the reading. Insertions are indicated with square brackets [ ].

Upcott begins most of his entries with the day's date, but these are variously written and accentuated. A number are followed by a bracket to emphasize the division between the date and the following text. We have removed these and rendered the font consistent.

Paragraphing has been preserved, as has underlining and we have largely retained Upcott's spelling, except where this would be badly confusing for the reader, or where it is clear that he intended a correction (there is a case where he writes 'inclinination', where his crossing of an earlier version failed to carry over to remove the additional 'in'). In cases where we have made corrections, we have commented on this in the footnotes. Misspellings of place names and people are corrected in notes or in the more common cases in square brackets as in 'E[y]nsham' on their first appearance but not thereafter.

When Upcott abbreviates names, we have accompanied the first abbreviation with the rest of the name in square brackets such as 'Mr H[umphrys]' or 'E[van]s' – and repeat this in subsequent cases where the reader may be unclear. When Upcott refers to people by initials, he is inconsistent in his use of stops, so we have followed every capital with a stop unless we provide the full name in square brackets. Thus, EP becomes E.P.

References to historical or famous people are identified in the footnotes. References to family members and contemporaries are briefly noted, but fuller details (dates and relationship) are given in the Index to reduce repetition in the footnotes.

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For the most part we have not preserved deletions in the text – unless they are both legible and significant, when they are commented on in a footnote.

Upcott's representation of 'o'clock' varies in its use of capitals and apostrophes, and these we have rendered consistently as o'clock.

Where we have identified superscript letters, we have followed Upcott – as in North^{n} for Northampton.

The very few cases where Upcott's writing is indecipherable are indicated in the notes.

In identifying texts referred to by Upcott we have cited the date and place of publication of the earliest edition we could find. Publishers' details are often very complex, and we are unable to be certain as to the precise edition to which Upcott may have had access, and so have not included these details unless specifically referred to in the text.

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