EDITORIAL RATIONALE AND CONVENTIONS

John Rastrick hoped that his narrative would be published, but he was also aware that doing so would inevitably change the nature and appearance of his life story. While I have not followed his instructions to change the account into a third-person narrative and to remove his prayers, devotions, letters, and 'whatsoever may be thought indecent, and of no use' (fo. 1v), some changes have been made in preparing this printed edition. These are worth describing both in terms of overall strategy and in matters of detail.

The purpose of this book is to provide an *edition* of John Rastrick's manuscript. It does *not* seek to replicate the exact form of the manuscript in printed form. Such an ambition seems to me to be misplaced, for two main reasons. First, print is a different technology from manuscript and, although this edition will remain faithful to the manuscript's spelling, punctuation, and capitalization, scholars particularly interested in technical aspects of the manuscript will always be best served by recourse to the original. Second, this edition aims to be readable. So I have avoided, where possible, scattering the text with all sorts of different types of brackets or designating the expansion of abbreviations with the use of italics. As a general rule, the text has been expanded but not modernized. Particular issues are addressed below.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations have been silently expanded as a matter of course; this includes abbreviations of proper names and books of the Bible. This edition does not retain the superscript of the original, since such usage is closely associated with the technology of writing. There are two exceptions to this rule, regarding numbers, where superscript has been retained because its usage is customary, convenient, and not liable to misinterpretation: the use of '8°' for octavo on one occasion (fo. 5r); and the retention of ordinal numbers expressed as '1st', '2nd', etc. where they have been rendered this way in the manuscript. For the same reason '&' and '&c.' have been retained and not expanded to 'and' and 'et cetera'. Common abbreviations such as 'Dr' have been retained,

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excepting those instances where an abbreviation was clearly signalled through the use of superscript, and the abbreviation thus expanded. Hence, 'S^{r}' has been expanded to 'Sir', but not 'Mr' to 'Mister'.

Spelling, punctuation, and capitalization

Original spelling, punctuation, and capitalization have been retained. Like so many early modern writers, Rastrick was no lover of unnecessary punctuation. He did not routinely start sentences with capital letters or finish them with full stops, or any other form of punctuation. To render the text more readable without inserting extra punctuation, an extra space has been inserted at the end of the sentence, regardless of whether Rastrick indicated the end of the sentence with punctuation. In many (but not all) cases, such a decision is not an editorial intervention but merely following the manuscript, where the spaces between sentences are longer than those between individual words. However, Rastrick did write in paragraphs, in which he indented the first word, and the paragraphing of the edited text replicates that of the manuscript.

Although original capitalization has been retained, there is one particular problem with the manuscript that is not easily resolved: the initial letter 's'. In part because of the exceptionally small hand, deciding without doubt in which instances the manuscript employed a capital 's' is problematic. Although there are clear instances of the use of the capital and lower-case 's' as an initial letter in the manuscript, a very large proportion might be interpreted as either. Such issues are frequently in the eye of the beholder. To that end, I have taken the uncomfortable decision of using the capital 's' (as a rule) for the initial letter of nouns and words at the beginning of sentences. This means that many of the most obviously capitalized s-words retain their initial capitalized letter, while avoiding the capitalization of adjectives, conjunctions, etc., where the 's' might be rendered as a capital or a lower-case letter, and ensuring a degree of consistency.

Rastrick used 'i' and 'j' and 'u' and 'v' much as they would be used today and his use has been retained. He did not use archaic letter-forms such as the long 's' or 'ss'. For the titles of books in the footnotes, 'w' has been used in place of 'vv'; 'i' and 'u' are always used for vowels and 'j' and v' for consonants.

Additions and deletions

Interlineations are placed within < >. All other sets of brackets follow those used in the original manuscript, except in those instances where '[*sic*]' denotes a spelling or formulation that might otherwise be taken

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as a mistake in transcription. Footnotes indicate where text has been deleted. The use of the formulation 'replacing [. . .] above the line' indicates that the original text has been cancelled. Where a word has been written above the text as a revision to the original but the original word has not been cancelled, this has been indicated in the notes.

Illegible words in the text (only at fo. 23r) are represented by ellipses. Words rendered illegible through cancellation, and illegible words in marginal notes, are described in footnotes.

Foliation and gatherings

Folio numbers are recorded without breaking the text, in the manner '/fo. 17r/'. Catchwords have not been reproduced. Rastrick's irregular numbered gatherings have not been reproduced in the edited text but are described in the introduction on p. 16 above.

The appearance of the text

Rastrick was not only an elegant writer but also, to adopt Robert Darnton's phrase, possessed of a developed typographical consciousness. His manuscript is obsessively neat and small. Rastrick deliberately used variations in the size and style of his hand to indicate how a published text might look. Such variations are recorded in the footnotes, along with variations in ink and pens. Rastrick's section headings have been retained.

The account of the births and deaths in the Rastrick family (fo. 89r) has been reproduced as a table, imposing an orderliness that is less evident in the manuscript. The aesthetics of this page, and of the title page and dedicatory epistle, can be seen in Figures 1 and 2.

It has not been practical to reproduce Rastrick's marginal notes as marginal notes in this edition, even though it is likely that he would have intended a printed edition to carry such notes, as was customary in the early eighteenth century. Instead, these marginal notes have been reproduced as a second layer of footnotes, with the marginalia signalled in the body of the text by an asterisk. In the many instances where Rastrick himself used an asterisk (or other symbol) to denote a marginal note, these are indicated at the start of the marginal note itself.

Dates

For the most part, Rastrick gives both years for dates between 1 January and 24 March, with the final two digits one above the other, resembling a fraction. They are reproduced here as, for example, 1708/9. In a

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very few cases, where the year is taken to finish on 24 March, the notes record the date in the style 1708/9 as above.

For dates in the footnotes, I have taken the year to begin on January 1.

Annotation

Where necessary and possible, footnotes identify places, individuals, and editions of printed books. Footnotes on relatively well-known individuals include a short reference to a standard source, frequently the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. For those not included in such resources, the identification is often slightly fuller, including more detailed relevant material such as the dates that a clergyman was in post. Annotation is brief and not intended to be extensive or comprehensive. Although Rastrick's narrative throws light on a wide range of subjects, I have not attempted to provide references to current scholarly literature or debates.

Those books cited in the narrative and its marginal notes have been identified in the footnotes, using short bibliographical references but including, where possible, details of the precise edition to which Rastrick referred. Where he cites precise passages of particular works, these references have been verified and any discrepancies noted.

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