

The diary of Samuel Medley, butler to the Earl of Kinnoull, British ambassador to Constantinople, covering the dates 16 October, 1733 to 9 November, 1736
PART 1 : 1733

Advice on reading and searching the diary



This document consists of a series of pages each displaying 4 pages of the actual diary. When reading the diary, the researcher is advised to enlarge the page to, say, 150%, and use the scroll bars at the bottom and side of the screen to allow convenient reading. At the top of each page of this document is typed the date range of the page so that the computer's 'Find' facility may be used to reach any month and year required: just request the computer to Find, say, 'October 1734' (thus, without the quotes and with no comma after the month) and you will be taken immediately to the first of the pages covering that month.

Under the Julian calendar, which Samuel Medley was using, the year ran from 25 March to the following 24 March; under the Gregorian, which we use today, from 1 January to 31 December. For convenience, when Medley writes '1735' for dates in what we regard as the new year between, 1 January and 24 March, we give it as 1736 in the page headings.

You cannot search this document for individual words: to do this you need to search the transcription of the diary, also to be found on www.leginipress.co.uk.

Transcription errors

If you are using the transcription of the diary in conjunction with this document, you may find transcription errors: it would be most helpful to the owners of the diary (and authors of *The Earl and his butler in Constantinople* and the text of this website) if you would report these errors to us using the e-mail address butler@leginipress.co.uk

This Diary was kept in Turkey
at Constantinople by my
great Grandfather Sir Sam Medley
Chetham
signed by me Sam Medley
2^d July 1851

a Journal Begun this 16th Day of
October 1733 Tuesday - Being
the Day that Cornpetate 4 years
Since I came on Board Mr Abams
Sloop - at Wapping New Stairs
and Entered into the Rotinne of his
Excellency the Earl of Rintoul
as his Floor Wiper & Chamber Butler
But at this time I was one of the
Chambers - His Ex^{cy} and many
of the family being now at De-
lgrade - I walked wth Mr Math &
Mr Smith to Gallata to buy some
ons and to see Mr Pigeon & another
English woman there forenoon
I went (afternoon) wth Mr Math & Mr Smith to
the preaching of Arang Mad Sultan's
worship of a sect of Turks called
Dervishes - Thunder all last night

17th Wednesday Thunder last night again
a very Rany Day - a fire at offend bell
this night

18th I went wth Math to Mr Pigeon's Morning
Dinner & I did in 1/2 pence - a snow & a fire
in night

19th Friday Keen frosty morning 4th snow
Mr Pigeon came from Gallata & I saw
a lot

20th a keen frosty morning - a snow & a fire
in night returned to Ballgrade

Monday that a small Range at portugal
is Copper which they call counting viz 20
Rays - the penny at delgrade is called a grate
at Panza - a poppich at portugal is
called a double at Turkey is called a peraw

we have news from y^e German &
Dutch papers - that Stanislaus the King
of poland has abdicated the Govern-
ment upon the approach of the Elector
of Saxony - who is now elected
their King in his Room

we are now informed that Gallio
a man that looks shollon here to
keep him from the just punishment due
for his treasonable designs and actions
in England in flanders & Italy where
I see about 8 days ago at Constantin-
ople - he reported the way very Enthu-
siastical or affected to appear so to
the Turks

October 21st 1733 Sunday no meeting
at Chappel this day - a very cold Rany
Day I went in y^e Evening wth Mr Math & Mr
Smith to see Mr Robison & his spouse

22nd I walked wth Mr Smith & Mr Gorman to Gallata
to Popona - who bought a horse & some fish there
was wth me also at Jackoor Tavern after noon
a very cold wet time

23rd Tuesday a very cold Rany time
did not dress to day

24th yet very windy Rany & cold Leon
did not dress to day

25th Thursday - I walked alone to y^e wth Power
th after wth Mr Gorman to Gallata - to buy Pro-
visions for Ballgrade - went wth Mr Smith to
Hillars in y^e Evening

26th I went to Gallata wth Mr Gorman - bought a
Cup of fowls & halfe an oke of Bacon -
for dinner

27th Saturday - went wth Mr Gorman to see
Smith to see the Slicer - viz the German
Smith wth whom was din'd on Mutton & Hake
Briole on y^e 1st floor at 10 o'clock - I walked in the
Evening wth Mr Gorman to y^e Burying Ground

28th at Chappel in Saint Givens a ser-
mon - 3 merchants only at Church - a very
wet time

Memorandum

October 30th 1733 I^o Pomario
all off for Washing - & so for a
over

no 2

we hear now that the french have no
Clame upon warr ag^t the Emperor
of Germany

October 29 1733 Monday - wth Season
3rd not to y^e Pale (this Day)

30th I walked to Pomario - and from thence by
water to Zolmanabach - & so round to the English
Buying Ground - and to Sackoor Torapp Hong
wth J^r Gorman & J^r Smith - King George's
Birth Day - my L^d sent from Bellgrade
a present of Mutton to the family - and
advis to drink the Best wine and to be
Cheerful & merry on the occasion - where
Did perform wth decency in order &c.

31st Wednesday I went as far as m^r
Barkers the Merchants in y^e Morning - a very
Cold Rany time -

November 1st Thursday - m^r Lynwood Com
from Bellgrade for provisions - a Rany Day

2nd m^r Lynwood returned wth provisions to Be
llgrade a very Cold time

3rd Saturday we all kept at home all day
Being very Cold & Rany - Day - the Chimney
in m^r Mores & Rany thapened to take fire
in y^e Evening - but no harm was done Believed
be God - was being only frighted for hope
an hour in putting it out

4th m^r Taine giving a Sermon - & Merchants at
Church - my Self & Batt Road - we Expected
His Ex^{ty} from Bellgrade all this Day
But Did not Come - as this Day King
William landed in England

Memorandum

1733

November 5th 1733 Monday - His Ex^{ty} - y^e
and some of the Ambassadors Com from Bell
grade towards Evening

6th a very Rany Morning & very Cold
His Ex^{ty} dined at the Dutch Palace &
Supt at the french Palace

7th Wednesday Guns fired (this Morning)
round the harbour - Rejoicing (as we suppose)
upon some news from Persia - His Ex^{ty}
entertained a Black-master of horse to the
Spanish am^r at Vienne (now) one some
other Gentlemen of the German Palace
at dinner - my L^d Supt at St. Poranice

8th His Ex^{ty} dined at the German Palace
a very Rany Day

9th Friday - my L^d dined at the Dutch
Palace - & His Ex^{ty} lay at Supper
the Spanish am^r & Master of horse
a Black-master m^r George & some
other Gentlemen - a Merry Entertainment

10th a Great Snow fell Last night - a
Kron frosty Day - the two Ambassadors from
the Republic of Ragousia - vizited my L^d
in their formalities - the french am^r &
vizited His Excellency towards Evening

Novemb^r 11th Sunday - a very keen frost & much snow upon the ground
Mr Pain read prayer - mostly late Merchants
& my self at Church - all the Merchants of
Mr Pain - except Mr Mabered & Mr Goring
I and Mr L^d - the evening from Belland
& all at the Imperiall Resident Mr
Gallman visited His Ex - y in y^e Evening

12th My L^d dined at the Moscovite palace
our new Concillors Mr Blandy dined this
Day - by way of France - Johny Hodge
came into the Harbour this day & is
man of warr & y^e Gallies

13th Tuesday His Ex - y dined at the Venetian
Palace & dined at y^e Dutch Palace

14th His Ex - y dined at y^e French Palace

15th Thursday His Ex - y visited
the German Resident in evening

16th My L^d dined in privat & no
Company

17th Saturday - a fire happened in
the Little hall & Chimney - when his
Ex - y was at dinner in the evening
But God be praised - there was no
great Damage - being timely prevented

Novemb^r 18th Sunday - a very cold
Raney - uncomfortable Season - my L^d
dined - all y^e Merchants - but 2 Mr Pain
& I Prayed & at dinner a very handsome dinner
the Moscovit Residents visited his Ex - y
in the Evening

19th Monday La Bon & some other
Gentlemen dined with His Ex - y - very merry

20th Tuesday - His Ex - y dined in y^e Low
Hall: in the Evening

21st A frosty morning His Ex - y dined in
the Great Dining Room - towards Evening

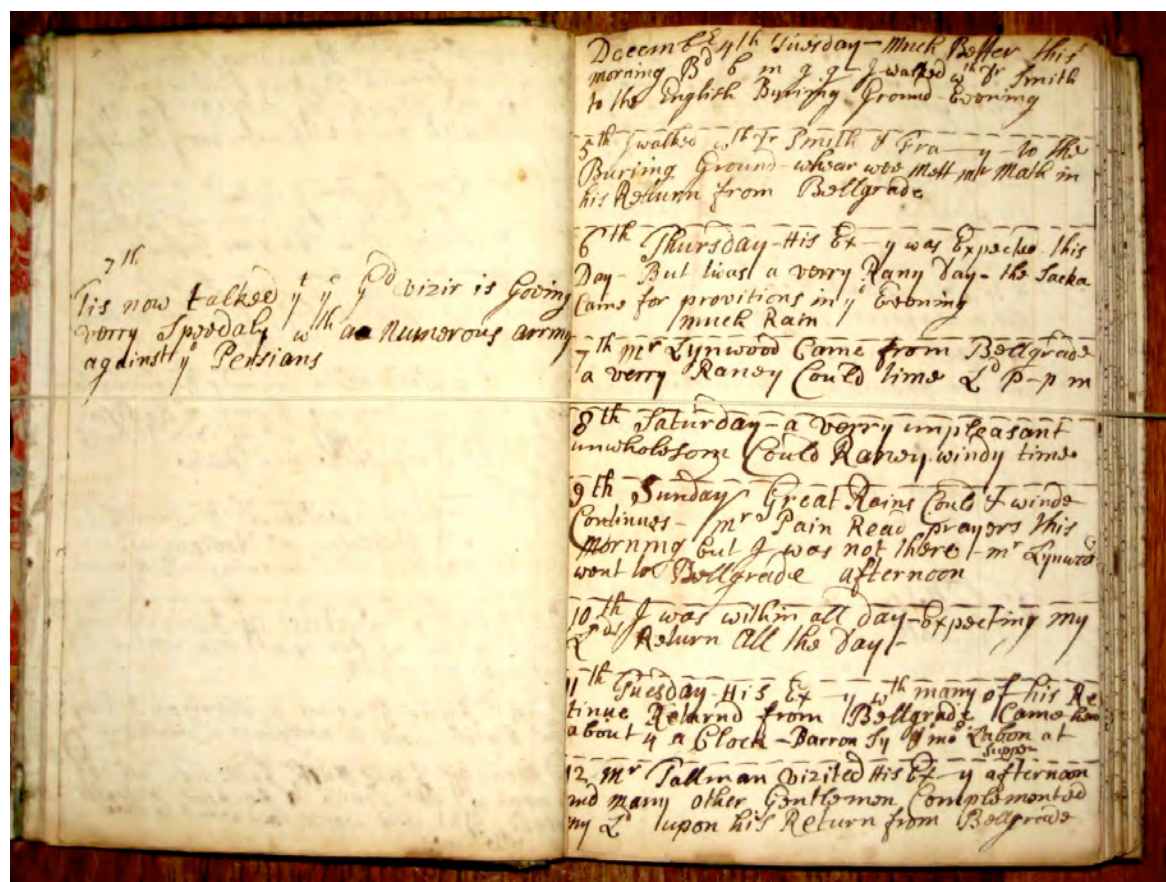
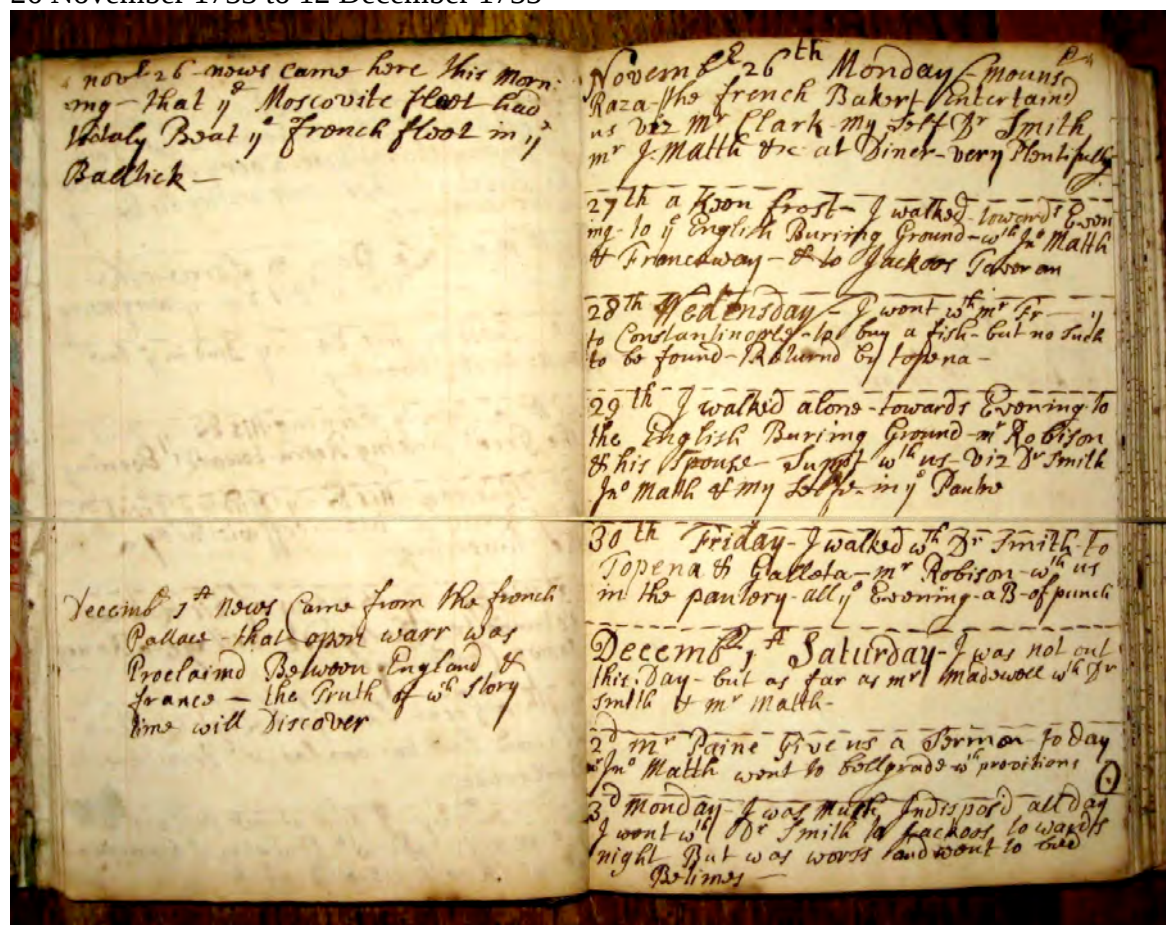
22nd Thursday - His Ex - y dined in y^e Great Din
ing Room Mr Biznicoff visited my L^d in
the Evening

23rd His Ex - y & many of his Robins
Returned to Bellgrade Village - a Raney
Snowy Cold Day -

24th A Great Snow fell Last Night - Mr
Linwood sent two awabas wth Provisions - to
Bellgrade

25th Sunday - I dined at Mr Willars with
Mr Malk - and with him in y^e Evening
at Mr Robisons - a B of punch

news came again (about this time)
that the Turks army - was entirely
Routed - & scarce any escaped the
Persians having in complete vic
tory - & Topped 22 men: their Gen
orall killed



If it seem good to us, to put our necks
once more under that yoke, w^{ch} our
fathers were not a ble to bear;
If it be Really a preformant to a
Prince to hold y^e popes Stirrup,
and aprivilege to be Yposed by him at
his pleasur, and a caire to be
Killed at his Command:
If to pray without understanding,
to obey without Reason, to be
believe against sense;
If Ignorance, and Implicit faith,
and an Inquisition, be in good Earnest
Such charming & desirable things.
Then welcome poverty:
w^{ch} wherever thou comest, dost Infall-
ibly bring all these wonderful
priviledges & blessings along wth thee
Dr Pittotson sermon before y^e King
all w^{ch} shall 1680 - Joshua 24:15

December 13th Thursday The
French am^b vizited His Ex^{ty}
towards Evening
14th This is Christmas day wth the
French & the Dutch am^b &
vizited My L^d In y^e Evening
15th Saturday news came of Capⁿ
Lyles arrivall at Singora -
16th Captin Lyle is expected
this Day - and before noon came m^o
the Harker - His Ex^{ty} was at Church
and m^r Pains gave us a sermon - three
of the Merchants old m^r Pezany and
many other Gentlemen dyd wth My L^d
Captin Lyle & his Brother came to wait
on His Ex^{ty} - My L^d vizited the Ger-
man & moscovite pallaces in y^e Evening
17th Monday m^r Tallman the Imp^{er}
orials am^b vizited my L^d In y^e
Evening
18th the Moscovit Envoy & m^r 2
vizicoft came to wait on my L^d &
Late at night I Brokfasted at y^e
French pallace wth m^r Matthe

Now consider. So many Constituent parts
in y^e set of man. all admirably contri-
buted to so noble an Engine; in Each of y^e
very fingers. for Ex^{am}ple. there are Bones,
& Ligam^{ts}. the Ligan^{ts}. the Membranes, and
muscles, & tendons & nerves & arteries and
veins, & skin, & Cuticle, & nails: - together
wth marrow, & fat, & Blood, & other nutritious
Juices; & all these solid parts of a deter-
minate size, & figure, & texture, and
situation, & each of them made up of
myriads of little fibres. & filaments
not discoverable by y^e naked eye
Dr Bentley - Sermon 3^d on Boyls Lect^{re}

December 19th Wednesday His Excellency
Entertaind Captin Lyle & his Brother who came
from Eng^{land} & m^r Lyles Merchant & other Gent
at dinner - My L^d vizited some of y^e Pallaces Evening
20th I walked wth m^r Matthe In y^e Morning
to Seⁿ Pezany to Sen Lukas & to Rap-
listas the Pa-^r - m^r I have had
this two days - a smart of the Gout in
my foot my L^d something indisposed all day
21st Friday the Gout seized me last night
very violently in my foot - but a little better
this morning 10 m^o - His Ex^{ty} dined in the
Bedchamber - I kept my Chamber all day - very
Lame
22nd much pain in my foot In Bed this Morn-
ing - & yet very Lame & continued all day
m^r P Suppt at y^e French pallace
23rd Sunday Something better in my foot 10 m^o
m^r Pains preacht my L^d at Church
I was not there being Lame - the Captin
m^r Pells & some of y^e Merchants dined
His Ex^{ty} - My L^d vizited the German am^b
Baradour - m^r Tallman In y^e Evening
24th m^r at home all day: dined in y^e Las
Hall towards Evening - yet Lame but
I hope to be going off - Romovd to
my other foot in the night

As in those Nations where they yet adore
Marble & ~~Carve~~ Cedar & other and implore
his not the workman, nor the precious wood
But his the worshipp of the maker God
to us.

St Charles Dooly

It is not Felia in our Power
to say how long our love will last
It may be we within this Year
may lose those joys we now so last
The Blessed that immortals be
from Change in Love are only free
Then since we mortal live we
ask not how long our love will last;
But while it lasts, let us take Care
Each Minute to with Pleasure pass
Were it not Madmen to deny
to live, because we are sure to die
St J. Theresia -

December 25th & mas Day Mr Pains &
Some of the Merchants at Church - all
the Merchants - Captn Lytle & his other
two Brothers - Baron Zy - Mr Pains
& many other Gent^l - I find all his Ex-
cellency a very good Entertainment
Both my feet much worse since morn-
ing - the Moscovite Resident vizited my
Room in Evening *

26th Wednesday - the Gent^l continues
in the very same way my Bed in privet
I kept my Room all day

27th My L^d find in privet some thing
indisposed - I kept my Chamber all day
very lame: Capⁿ Lytle said away (O)

28th Friday very lame yet to go in my
Room - His Ex^{ty} find towards Evening

29th a Snowy Day His Ex^{ty} find in
privet - I kept my Chamber all day

30th Sunday - a Great Snow on Ground
Something better in my foot B B B
the merchant find in my L^d and His Ex^{ty}
went to Church afternoon - a very Snowy
wet day - I kept my Chamber all day

December 31st 1733 Monday - all the
Gentlemen & others under my L^ds protection
Come to pay a visit to His Ex^{ty} - and all
the officers of all the palaces - at is the
Custom here to wish my L^d a happy new
Year - all Lady's & Gentlewomen attend
to the same - the Orders p^r h priests

January 1st Tuesday - 1733 - a very
Ranoy Snowy - unpleasant Season
I am much better in my foot B
B m g g - Mr Pains & all the Merchants
except Mr Madewell find in his Ex^{ty}

2nd Mr Pallman - the Inn I am the
French amb^l - the Moscovite Envoy &c
all vizited His Ex^{ty} - afternoon - much
better in my foot B B g

3rd Thursday His Ex^{ty} - in his Chamber
all day - a very Ranoy time - I am better
walker

4th - My L^d in privet all day

5th Saturday a frosty Morning - His Ex^{ty}
find towards Evening - I am better in
his Ex^{ty} - Afternoon

6th Mr Pains preacht - he & all the Mer-
chants except Mr Madewell find in
His Ex^{ty} - my L^d vizited the French
Palace in Evening - Madame Pallman
brought to bed of a Son

Samuel Medley's diary