

S I R,

THE account Mr Percy has given us of *Robin Hood*\*, is such as may in general be very well acquiesced in, for I can readily agree with him that he was never Earl of *Huntington* and that the epitaph he there adduces is not genuine; however, in justice to Mr *Tboresby*, I would observe, that if he be the person meant by a late *Antiquary*, who pretends the epitaph was formerly legible on his tombstone, that author is misrepresented, for he only asserts, *there was an inscription*, and that what he gives us was found amongst the papers of the learned Dr *Gale*. I think it probable, the epitaph was given to Dr *Gale* by some person that had been trying to imitate the stile of the age wherein *Robin* is supposed to have lived. Or perhaps the epigraphic might have been put on the stone in after times, when it was commonly believed *Robin* had been Earl of *Huntington*.

'Tis the general opinion, that *Robin* was the most generous of all robbers, plundering & despoiling the rich, and distributing their wealth most liberally amongst the poor; hence we have the proverb, noticed by Dr *Fuller* †, of *Robin Hood's Penn'worths*, spoken of things that are bought cheap.

*Robin* is supposed to live in the reign of *Richard I* ‡, but his death is placed in the epitaph 48 years after, viz, 1247 in *Henry III's* time. But we cannot expect exactness in this matter, and indeed some bring him as low as the reign of *Edward* §.

It is most surprizing how far the fame of this man extended; There are memorials of him all over *Yorkshire*; as his *Well* between *Burwailis* and *Skulbroke* the seat of *Henry Brown*, Esq; || his *Bay* on the eastern coast so called, says *Camden*, from that famous out-law *Robin Hood*. His *Butts*, † for *Bishop Gibson* writes 'upon the adjacent moor (to the bay) are two little hills, a quarter of a mile asunder, which are called his butts'. His *Pricks*, another word for *Butts* ‡, which are two stone lows, near the turnpike road leading from *Sheffield* to *Grindleford* bridge; and lastly his *tomb*, for as the *Bishop* again writes, 'this noted robber lies buried in the

' park *Warwick-Lees-Nunnery* in the west riding, under a monument which remains to this day †.'

We have remains also of him in *Derbyshire*, as a *Well* named from him, in descending from *Millstone Edge* to *Hathersage*, not far from the *pricks* above mentioned §. And on *Hartley moor*, near *Stanton*, there is a ledge of rocks, which are called his *Prick*. Also on *Winbill*, in *Hope Dale*, there is a rude natural rock, which they call *Robin Hood's Chair*.

But the principal scene of this hero's exploits, according to the ballads, was the forest of *Sherwood* in *Nottinghamshire*, and the parts adjacent, though it seems his renown had extended into more southern districts ||.

I make no doubt but there was such a person as *Robin Hood*, and that he was the head or chief of a band of robbers or outlaws. I take *Hood*, or *Hode*, as he is more anciently written †, to have been his whole name, and that he got the name of *Robin*, by which he is most commonly called, from his occupation, which was that of *Robbing*. *Hood* otherwise must have been his surname, whereas those were but rare in the time of *Richard I*. especially amongst the yeomanry. And since the old orthography is *Hode*, I quere if his name were not the same with *Odo* or *Eudo*, both which were very common in *England*. And whereas some make him Earl of *Huntington*, as mentioned above, a main part of his employment in the forest of *Sherwood* was hunting, and from thence the vulgar, by an obvious strain of invention, created him Earl of *Huntingdon*. Mr *Percy* indeed observes, 'it is not impossible, but our hero, to gain the more respect from his followers, or they, to derive the more credit to their profession, may have given rise to such a report themselves.' But the conjecture above may be thought more probable, as he is so commonly called *Robin* by authors that precede *Stowe*\*. Indeed, it must be confessed, that *Robin* in the ballads, is the familiar name of *Robert*, for he is there called *Robin* alone; but then these compositions are but recent compared to his times †,

I am, Sir, &c. T. Row.

\* *Percy's Ancient songs* V. I p. 74 seq.  
† *Fuller's* worthies in *Nottinghamshire*.  
*Drayton's Polyolb.* † *Percy* p. 76.  
§ *Fuller*, by mistake, has 1100 for 1190.  
|| See *Dickinson's* map of the *West Riding*.  
‡ *Camden* col. 605 and *Fuller* l. c.  
‡ *Gibson* in *Camden*. † *Ibid.*

† *Percy* V. l. p. 81. 82.  
§ Quere whether the *Pricks* be not in this county? || *Gunton* p. 4.  
† *Lective* against *Wolsey*. *Percy* p. 76.  
\* See Mr *Percy* p. 74.  
† Quere, if not by all, except the epitaph, whose age may be doubted.