

Bill Richmond, Negro Pugilist of 1-1790

From "Every Gentleman's Manual", by Pierce Egan (MWI)
pp 105-6

"Bill Richmond, take him for all in all, was rather an extraordinary man in the P.R. He was intellectual, witty, and well-informed. Richmond, quite a boy, was brought from America under the patronage of the late Duke of Northumberland, and placed at a good school in Yorkshire at the Duke's expense. Richmond entered the prize-ring rather late in life for a boxer, having arrived at forty-two years of age. He possessed the good common-sense of his laughing at his being a man of colour. He was never irritated at any remarks of that sort. Besides he had the art of persuasion to get a good-looking white woman for his wife, and several children were the result of that marriage. Richmond was a complete Harlequin in the ring, and who had as many dodges and jumps in the ropes as the party-coloured hero. He had a good knowledge of the science, and hit terrifically with his right hand, was was a very troublesome customer to all who entered the lists with him. He was here - there - and everywhere in a twenty-four foot ring; and no boxer understand what is termed "milling on the retreat" better than the late Bill Richmond.

"In consequence of this style of fighting it took Tom Cribb one hour and ten minutes before the Man of Colour said "No!" I saw Richmond, when he was fifty-five years, enter the lists with a tall, strong, and young navigator, and win

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the battle in twenty minutes. He also beat Shelton in twenty-nine and a half minutes. If there had been that sort of prejudice against men of colour appearing in the P.R. the fancy would never have let Richmond beat some of the best men of his time, and win eleven out of thirteen battles. This is a decided proof that the love of fair play belongs to the P.R., and that country or colour is of no consequence so that a man proves himself a honest man to his backers. Richmond was the first man that contended for the price of £50 given by the P.R., and also within the ropes, given by the above club of gentlemen."

pp 173-4

"Richmond, 'the leary man of colour, and wide-awake upon every move on theboard, by his knowledge of the science, proved so troublesome a customer to Cribb in the battle at Hailsham, in Sussex, October 3, 1805, that twenty minutes passed without a blow of any consequence having occurred between them. Cribb at that period was not so well versed in the tactics of the Ring, or else Richmond must have been beaten off-hand; but the appearance of the Black, his long arms, and his bended knee, gave him anything but a prepossessing look; and the ~~fight~~ fight was spun out till one hour and a half. David had no chance with Richmond.

Pierce Egan

From "Boxiana" (J. Badcock)

Regarding fight between Peter Warren and Dick Curtis on Wednesday, April 16, 1823, at Moulsey-Hurst. Richmond and Hudson seconded Curtis.

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".....Warren, a little wild, bored in upon Dick, and drove him on the ropes. Here ~~Warren~~^{Curtis} was balancing on the ropes, and could not get down; Warren holding him up with his left hand, and with his right pummelling Dick on the back. The crowd rushed in, and the whips of the ring-keepers were exerted to keep the spectators away from the ring. At length Curtis got disentangled from the ropes, and was placed on the knee of his second; and in this situation Warren struck him on the side of his head. "Foul, foul!" and in a moment of irritation, Richmond hit Warren "for acting improperly," he said, "towards his man." Warren went down from the blow, and laid on the ground for some time, a disgraceful spectacle for ~~any~~ anyone to witness who has fairness and the interests of the ring at heart. For this act doth Bill Richmond deserve the cat-o'-nine-tails flogging round the Hurst every 16th of April, during his smutty life. The confusion that ensued beggars description - "Foul" and "fair" being vociferated by each party according as it ~~was~~ suited their betting."