

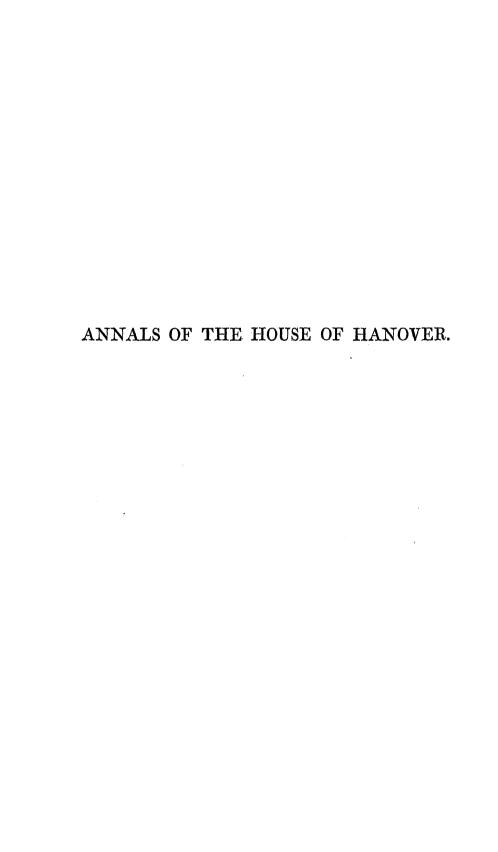
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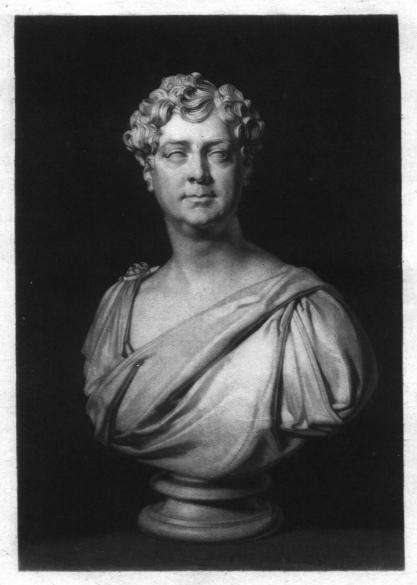
МЕКЛЕНБУРГСКАГО.

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Nº 1253





Chantrey, Sculpsit.

Reynolds, Excudebat.

GEORGIUS QUARTUS.

1258 ANNALS

OF THE

HOUSE OF HANOVER,

COLLECTED AND ARRANGED BY

SIR ANDREW HALLIDAY, M.D., F.R.S.E.,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF GÖTTINGEN, KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF GUELPH, LICENTIATE OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, AND DOMESTIC PHYSICIAN TO H.R.H. THE DURE OF CLARENCE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME I.



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MDCCCXXVI.

LONDON:
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Northumberland-court

To the King.

SIRE,

After six years of unremitting labour and research, I have the honour of laying at your Majesty's feet, a more complete and authentic history of your Majesty's illustrious House than has ever been attempted by any other writer. I may, perhaps, fail in acquiring, by this work, any distinction for my genius, yet I trust that I shall be entitled to some commendation for my industry; and I humbly pray that your Majesty will accept of these Annals, as a sincere, though feeble testimony of my attachment and devotion to your Majesty's person and family.

I have the honour to be, with the most profound respect,

SIRE,
Your Majesty's very humble
And faithful Subject and Servant,
AndREW HALLIDAY.

PREFACE.

A COLLECTION of valuable documents, illustrative of the History of the House of Brunswick and Luneburg, having been made under the immediate auspices of HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CLARENCE, by my friend the Rev. George Gündell, A.M., Chaplain-general of the Hanoverian army, myself, and others, during my residence with His Royal Highness in Germany, I employed my leisure hours, after my return to England, in preparing them for the press; and in order to shew more clearly their various bearings and connexion with general history, was induced to add a brief memoir of the illustrious line of Princes, whose deeds these documents have handed down to posterity.

While occupied with the ancient renown of the Princes of Brunswick, I could not but feel strongly attracted to a consideration of the existing state of their hereditary dominions; and in a supplementary chapter, I brought together the results of my own

observations and inquiries, during my residence at the Court of Hanover.

The volume which was the fruit of these different labours, had the honour of receiving the approbation of our most liberal and enlightened Sovereign, and was presented (with His Majesty's sanction) to the public in December, 1820.

Though published in a form too expensive to give it much chance of a very extended circulation, that volume is now, I believe, entirely out of print, and to be found only in the libraries of the curious. It was, necessarily, little more than a collection of historical documents, and, notwithstanding the great labour I had bestowed in arranging, translating, and correcting the multifarious papers of which it was composed, I was by no means disappointed, in finding it received rather as the production of an industrious Antiquary, than the more attractive effort of the methodical historian.

The documents, however, which it contained, were admirably calculated to supply the deficiencies in a branch of European history, no less remarkable for the neglect with which it had hitherto been treated, than for the richness and interest of the materials with which it abounded, and I accordingly

felt the necessity of attempting to give them a more popular form. I was desirous also of correcting the gross errors and absurdities of the only English works that exist on the subject, and very ambitious of rendering familiar to the British nation, the true history of an Illustrious Family whose beneficent sway is identified with every blessing it enjoys.

With these sentiments I continued my labours; and, taking my former Memoir as my guide, have endeavoured to give to the whole the connected form of regular annals, and to impart to them some of that ease and polish necessary to distinguish historical compositions from dry antiquarian researches. The present is, therefore, altogether a new work, enriched, I may safely affirm, by a great many interesting and important facts previously little known, and never before published; and, compared with its predecessor, much improved in literary merit.

In committing these Annals to the press in their present form, I do so without dread, yet not without anxiety. I feel assured that I have at least the praise of meaning well by my attempts to supply the British nation with a record, which had previously no existence in their own or any other language; and if I can but further gain the

commendation of having toiled for six years not wholly in vain, but somewhat to the honour of my Sovereign and his family, and the profit of his people, my fullest ambition will be gratified.

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HISTORY

OF THE

HOUSE OF HANOVER.

BOOK I.

CONTAINING SOME ACCOUNT OF THE PEOPLE AND KINGDOMS ESTABLISHED IN GERMANY, ITALY, AND FRANCE, IN THE EARLY AGES.

IN tracing the origin of any modern European nation, through the dark ages of its history, it is often necessary to search through a thousand pages for a single fact, and to compare the chronicles of several ages, to fix with certainty on particular dates. Until a very advanced period, comparatively speaking, in the history of Greece and Rome, we know very little of the people who dwelt in the most fertile districts of the earth, and absolutely nothing of the savage hordes that inhabited the dreary regions of the north; the origin, there-

BOOK I.

BOOK I.

fore, of the nations who first spread over Germany has been so long involved in obscurity, that it cannot now be traced with any degree of certainty. There are some recent discoveries* which may lead us to suppose that the adventurous Phœnicians had established their colonies in some of the inland provinces, but as the vast continent of Europe must have been peopled long before their day, we can only suppose that its first inhabitants had made their way from that country where the Ark rested after the Flood, and from which, without the aid of boats or ships, the inventions of later times, they could make their daily journeys through the wilds that surrounded them, and penetrate by land to the farthest verge of the western continent. It is not until a very late date in their own annals, that the Roman authors give us any account of the German nations. Their country lay at too great a distance from Italy to be early invaded, and it was only from the invasion of Gaul, and threatened invasion of Italy by two savage tribes, the Cimbri and Teutones, in the century previous to the Christian era, that the

Roman authors the first who give us any account of the northern tribe.,

^{*} Vide Das Magusanische Europa, by FREYHERN von Donor, Sachsen Meiningschen vice-canslar, 2 vols. 8 vo. Meinigen, 1819—21.

Roman historians became aware of the existence of these northern barbarians. These tribes, we are told, had emigrated from the shores of the Baltic, had plundered and laid waste the countries through which they advanced to the south, and after warring against the Gauls and Romans for a period of twelve years, had finally settled on the northern bank of the Rhine.

BOOK I.

Julius Cæsar was the first who led the Roman Julius Cæsar first legions beyond the Rhine, and although his crossed the Rhine. successors made their way through Germany to the river Elbe, and may be said to have conquered the country to that extent, the people were with difficulty kept in subjection. For ages subsequent to the time of Cæsar, many of the nations who dwelt in Germany were still unknown to the Romans, and therefore no account of them has been preserved; while even those with whom the invaders came in contact, being too illiterate, and too much engaged in war and pillage, to have any written memorials of their own, and too jealous of their enemies to admit of any social intercourse, are but imperfectly described. The Romans knew so little of the interior of the country, or its traditions, the only record of its inhabitants, that the