

Epistolary Curiosities;

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227
SERIES THE SECOND, AND LAST:

CONSISTING OF

UNPUBLISHED LETTERS,

Of the Eighteenth Century,

Illustrative of the HERBERT Family,

And of the latter part of KING WILLIAM's and the earlier
part of QUEEN ANNE's Reigns.

FROM

LORD HERBERT,
KING WILLIAM,
DUKE OF SHREWSBURY,
DUKE OF NEWCASTLE,
QUEEN ANNE,
LORD GODOLPHIN,
SIR ROBERT SUTTON,
LORD SOMERS,

LADY INCHQUIN,
DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH,
JOSEPH ADDISON,
Dr. ROBINSON, Envoy to
Sweden,
WM. GREG,
GEORGE STEPNEY,
&c. &c.

With NOTES.

EDITED BY

REBECCA WARNER,

OF BEECH COTTAGE, BATH.

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Original Letters,

FROM

Richard Baxter, Matthew Prior, Lord Bolingbroke, Alexander Pope, Dr. Cheyne, Dr. Hartley, Dr. Samuel Johnson, Mrs. Montague, Rev. William Gilpin, Rev. John Newton, George Lord Lyttleton, Rev. Dr. Claudius Buchanan, &c. &c.

WITH

BIOGRAPHICAL ILLUSTRATIONS.

EDITED BY

REBECCA WARNER,

Of Beech Cottage, near Bath.

Just published, by the same Editor, price 8s. boards,

Epistolary Curiosities;

SERIES THE FIRST:

CONSISTING OF

UNPUBLISHED LETTERS.

Of the Seventeenth Century,

Illustrative of the HERBERT Family,

And of the Reigns of JAMES I. CHARLES I. CHARLES II.
JAMES II. and WILLIAM III.

FROM

George Herbert; Elizabeth Queen of Bohemia; Edward Lord Herbert of Cherbury; Sir Henry Herbert, knight, master of the Revels; Prince Rupert; Prince Maurice; General Fairfax; Oliver Cromwell; John Selden; General Monk; Arthur Herbert, Lord Torrington; Lord Godolphin; Duke of Shrewsbury; &c. &c.

With NOTES, and an APPENDIX.

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TO THE READER.

AMONG the *desiderata* of English literature, it has often been suggested, that we are still deficient in a *good* history of the years that include the latter end of the reign of King William, and the earlier part of that of Queen Anne; all the annals which we have of this important and highly interesting period, being either dry registers of events, or so distorted by party spirit and political prejudice, as to render the reader hopeless of obtaining a clear and steady view of the *truth*.

If, however, (as seems generally believed to be the case,) Mr. Archdeacon Coxe be now employing his leisure hours in preparing for the press the life of that extraordinary and highly gifted character, John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, there can be little doubt that we shall have this deficiency in our historical records satisfactorily supplied : since the ability and candour of this accomplished and esteemed writer

are sufficient pledges to the public, that, in the life of his hero, (who was intimately connected with all the military and political events of the period above-mentioned,) they will have the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as far as his materials extend, (and they are sufficiently numerous,) adorned with all the graces of a fine style, and illustrated by the perspicacity of a philosophical mind.

In the mean time, it is hoped, that, as far as regards the public, and political measures of this eventful epoch, the correspondence contained in the two "Series" of "Epistolary Curiosities" may be found to afford amusing, interesting, and satisfactory information: since they embrace a considerable number of confidential and official letters, from some of the principal public characters of the time alluded to; and narrate many facts, or throw light upon many events, which are either entirely omitted, or remain unexplained, in our existing English histories.

The British Critic, in its review of the "Original Letters," when speaking of those written by Lord Bolingbroke, having used the term "ASCRIBED to him," (naturally enough, perhaps, from no mention being made in the Preface to that work, of the source from whence they were derived,) the Editor is glad to avail

herself of the present opportunity to observe, that those letters, with the one from M. Prior, were *all* printed from *copies of the originals*, now in the possession of a Noble Family, and making part of one of the finest collections of papers of that description in the kingdom. In justice to herself, also, and as it may prove satisfactory to the public, she begs further to declare, that the originals, or copies from the originals, of all the letters included in the two Series of Epistolary Curiosities, have passed through the hands of Mr. Cruttwell, the printer; and that a large proportion of the letters has been printed from the autographs themselves.

Beech Cottage, March 31, 1818.

Epistolary Curiosities;

SERIES SECOND.

LETTER I.

From Lord HERBERT to the Lord CHANCELLOR.*

Ribbesford, Jan. 2d, 1700.

SINCE your Lordship has been pleased to
caste your eyes on the proceedings that relate

* Lord Somers. Burnet's testimony to the excellence of this great and wise character is short, but forcible. "He was," says he, "in all respects, the greatest man I had ever known in that post," viz. Lord High Chancellor, from which he was removed 21st May, 1700. Lord Orford, also, commemorates him as "one of those divine men, who, like a chapel in a palace, remains unprophaned, when all the rest is tyranny, corruption, and folly."—*Nob. Auth. v. i. p.* 107. He was made solicitor-general in 1689; attorney-general 1692; and lord-keeper early in the ensuing year. In 1695, when William went abroad, he constituted Sir John Somers one of the lords justices, during his absence; to which were added, in 1697, the dignities of the lord-chancellor, and the title of baron of Evesham. Having been deprived of the seals in 1700, the spirit of party pursued him; and he was impeached by the Commons, but acquitted. In the fluctuations of the ever-varying politics of the times in which he lived, he was again called to dignity and public business, being made president of the Council by Queen Anne in 1708; but was removed from it through the intrigues of Harley and Mrs. Marsham in 1710. George the First knew his value, and received him to his confidence. He died the 26th April, 1716; and Addison embalmed his memory, in "an elegant and forcible character, in 'The Freeholder.'"

to the restoring to Bewdly their old Charter, the validity of which surrender is to be tried this terme, I thought it very proper to informe you of the inclos'd, and the proceeding thereupon at Mr. Aturney's, on Wensday last, where I sent up two of the burgesses to attend at my charge, as I have all along in this matter don, because I think 'twill be for the King's service. I'm preparing matters for a tryall, which hinders me from kisseing the King's hand so soon as I would, and makes me now desire your Lordship to remind his Majesty of his promise to you on my behalfe, just before he went for Holland; and if Mr. Montagu layes down in the Treasury to recommend me there. My Lord, I've neither been ambitious or pressing, as others have been and are; but if I'm to be the only one, who have continued in the same warmth for this Government as I brought over with me at the P. of Orange's landing, without any personall profit, (especially when enemies to our Government have step'd over me into most advantageous places,) I shall retire. I confess my principall will never let me act, as some do, in opposition to the Government I've venter'd my all for, and desire may have long continuance; but that's no reason I should be forgot. Pardon me, therefore, if I come to confession to you, since I've long known your worth, and that entire confidence may be placed in you by, my Lord, your most obedient servant,

HERBERT.

If any thing here requires an answer, I desire it may be sent to my house in Leicester fields, and 'twill come safe to me.

LETTER II.

From King WILLIAM to the King of the Romans.*

MONSIEUR MON FRERE,—Ayant trouvé à propos de dépêcher le Sieur Stepney en qualité de mon envoyé extraordinaire auprès de l'Empereur, Monsieur mon frere, non seulement pour maintenir la bonne correspondance qui est entre nous, mais aussi pour rendre notre amitié plus parfaite, et nôtre alliance plus étroite, je l'ay très expressement chargé de vous temoigner, dans toutes les occasions, l'amitié sincere et l'estime particuliere que j'ay pour vôtre personne et pour vôtre merite, aussi bien que pour toute la Maison d'Autriche. Je vous prie d'ajouter une entiere creance à ce qu' il vous dira sur ce sujet; et de croire que je suis avec verité, Monsieur mon frere, vôtre bon frere,

WILLIAM R.

A Kensington, le 9 Mars, 1701.

A mon frere le Roy des Romains.†

* Joseph, King of the Romans; and eldest son of Leopold Emperor of Germany. He succeeded his father (who died in May 1705) in the imperial dignity; and died himself in 1711.

† (*Translation.*) MONSIEUR MY BROTHER,—Having thought fit to dispatch the *Sieur* Stepney in quality of envoy extraordinary to the Emperor my brother, not only to maintain the good correspondence existing between us, but to render our friendship

LETTER III.

King WILLIAM to the Empress.*

MADAME MA SŒUR,—Ayant fait choix du Sieur Stepney pour aller en qualité de mon envoyé extraordinaire auprès de l'Empereur, Monsieur mon frere, je n'ay pas voulu le laisser partir, sans le charger de fortes assurances de l'estime particuliere que je fais de vôtre personne, dont je serois bien aise de vous donner des preuves plus eclatantes, si par bonheur je pouvois trouver des occasions de vous temoigner que je suis avec beaucoup de sincerité, Madame ma sœur, vôtre très affectionné frere,

WILLIAM R.

A Kensington, le 9me Mars, 1701.

A Madame ma Sœur l'Imperatrice†.

still more perfect, and our union still more strict, I have expressly charged him to assure you, on all occasions, of my sincere friendship, and great esteem, both for your person and merit, as well as for all the house of Austria. I beg you to give full credit to every thing he says to you on this subject, and to believe that I am with truth, Sir, my brother, your good brother,

WILLIAM R.

Kensington, March 9th, 1701.

To my brother the King of the Romans.

* Eleonora Magdalene, of Newbourg, third wife of the Emperor Leopold.

† (*Translation.*) MADAME MY SISTER,—Having made choice of the Sieur Stepney in quality of envoy extraordinary to the Emperor Monsieur my brother, I am unwilling to let him go without charging him with the strongest assurances of my great esteem for you, of which I shall rejoice to give you the most convincing proof, should I ever be so happy as to find an opportunity of shewing