



E. Scriven S.

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MEMOIRS
OF
COUNT GRAMMONT,

BY
ANTHONY HAMILTON.

A NEW EDITION.

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED, A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF COUNT HAMILTON, AND A TRANSLATION OF THE EPISTLE
TO COUNT GRAMMONT.

Illustrated with Sixty-four Portraits,

ENGRAVED BY EDWARD SCRIVEN, &c.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON :

PRINTED

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THE justly-acquired popularity of the Memoirs of the COMTE DE GRAMMONT, renders it unnecessary for the Publishers of this impression to say any thing concerning the intrinsic value of the Work.

The principal claim of the present Edition to public favour consists in the extreme beauty of its Typographical Execution, and in the delicacy and truth of the Portraits; which latter have been principally copied from original Paintings; and it is but justice to Mr Scriven, by whom they were executed, to say, that they are finished in a manner which cannot fail to afford general satisfaction.

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Directions for placing the Portraits.

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A
A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
ANTHONY HAMILTON,
AUTHOR OF
THE GRAMMONT MEMOIRS.

A
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
ANTHONY HAMILTON.

OF Anthony Hamilton, the celebrated author of the Grammont* Memoirs, much cannot now be with certainty known. The accounts prefixed to the different editions of his works, down to the year 1805, are very imperfect; in that year, a new, and, in general, far better edition than any of the preceding ones, was published in Paris, to which a sketch of his life was also added; but it contains rather just criticisms on his works, than any very novel or satisfactory anecdote concerning himself. It is not pretended here to gratify literary curiosity as fully as it ought to be, with regard to this singular and very ingenious man: at the distance of almost ninety years, (for so long is it since

* For uniformity's sake, the writer of this sketch has followed the Memoirs in the spelling of this name; but he thinks it necessary to observe, that it should be Gramont, not Grammont.

he died,) this is scarcely possible ; some effort, however, may be made to communicate a few more particulars relative to him, than the public has hitherto, perhaps, been acquainted with.

Anthony Hamilton was of the noble family of that name : Sir George Hamilton, his father, was a younger son of James, Earl of Abercorn, a native of Scotland. His mother was daughter of Lord Thurles, and sister to James, the first Duke of Ormond ; his family and connexions therefore, on the maternal side, were entirely Irish. He was, as well as his brothers and sisters, born in Ireland, it is generally said, about the year 1646 ; but there is some reason to imagine that it was three or four years earlier. The place of his birth, according to the best family accounts, was Roscrea, in the county of Tipperary, the usual residence of his father, when not engaged by military or public business.* It has been always said, that the family migrated to France when Anthony was an infant ; but this is not the fact : “ Sir George Hamilton,” says Carte, “ would have accompanied his brother-in-law, the Marquis of Ormond, to France, in December 1650 ; but, as he was receiver-general in Ireland, he staid to pass his accounts,

* In September, 1646, Owen O’Neale took Roscrea, and, as Carte says, “ put man, woman, and child to the sword, except *Sir George Hamilton’s lady*, sister to the Marquis of Ormond, and some few gentlewomen whom he kept prisoners.” No family suffered more in those disastrous times than the house of Ormond. Lady Hamilton died in August, 1680, as appears from an interesting and affecting letter of her brother, the Duke of Ormond, dated Carrick, August 25th. He had lost his noble son, Lord Ossory, not three weeks before.

which he did, to the satisfaction of all parties, notwithstanding much clamour had been raised against him." When that business was settled, he, in the spring of 1651, took Lady Hamilton and all his family to France, and resided with Lord and Lady Ormond near Caen, in Normandy, * in great poverty and distress, till the Marchioness of Ormond, a lady whose mind was as exalted as her birth, went over to England, and, after much solicitation, obtained two thousand pounds a year from her own and her husband's different estates in Ireland. This favour was granted her by Cromwell, who always professed the greatest respect for her. The Marchioness resided in Ireland, with the younger part of her family, from 1655 till after the Restoration; while the Marquis of Ormond continued for a considerable part of that period with his two sisters, Lady Clancarty and Lady Hamilton, at the Feullatines, in the Fauxbourg St. Jacques, in Paris.

It appears from a letter of the Marquis to Sir Robert Southwell, that, although he himself was educated in the Protestant religion, not only his father and mother, but all his brothers and sisters, were bred, and always continued Roman Catholics. Sir George Hamilton also, according to Carte, † was a Roman

* Hence possibly Voltaire's mistake, in stating, that Hamilton was born at Caen, in his *Catalogue des Ecrivains du Siècle de Louis XIV.*

† That historian states, that the king (Charles I.) deprived several *papists* of their military commissions, and, among others, Sir George Hamilton, who, notwithstanding, served him with loyalty and unvarying fidelity.

Catholic; Anthony, therefore, was bred in the religion of his family, and conscientiously adhered to it through life. He entered early into the army of Louis XIV. as did his brothers, George, Richard, and John, the former of whom introduced the company of English gens d'armes into France, in 1667, according to Le Pere Daniel, author of the History of the French Army, who adds the following short account of its establishment: Charles II., being restored to his throne, brought over to England several catholic officers and soldiers, who had served abroad with him and his brother, the Duke of York, and incorporated them with his guards; but the parliament having obliged him to dismiss all officers who were Catholics, the king permitted George Hamilton to take such as were willing to accompany him to France, where Louis XIV. formed them into a company of gens d'armes, and being highly pleased with them, became himself their captain, and made George Hamilton their captain-lieutenant.* Whether Anthony belonged to this corps, I know not; but this is certain, that he distinguished himself particularly in his profession, and was advanced to considerable posts in the French service.†

Anthony Hamilton's residence was now almost constantly in France. Some years previous to this, he had been much in England, and, towards the

* They were composed of English, Scotch, and Irish.

† It is not to be forgotten, that, at this time, John Churchill, afterwards Duke of Marlborough, served under Marshal Turenne, in the same army.

close of Charles II.'s reign, in Ireland, where so many of his connexions remained.* When James II. succeeded to the throne, the door being then opened to the Roman Catholics, he entered into the Irish army, where we find him, in 1686, a lieutenant-colonel in Sir Thomas Newcomen's regiment. That he did not immediately hold a higher rank there, may perhaps be attributed to the recent accession of the king, his general absence from Ireland, the advanced age of his uncle, the Duke of Ormond, and, more than all, perhaps, to his Grace's early disapprobation of James's conduct in Ireland, which displayed itself more fully afterwards, especially in the ecclesiastical promotions.

Henry, Earl of Clarendon, son to the lord-chancellor, was at that time lord-lieutenant of Ireland, and appears, notwithstanding his general distrust and dislike of the Catholics, to have held Anthony Hamilton in much estimation: he speaks of his knowledge of, and constant attention to, the duties of his profession; his probity, and the dependence that was to be placed on him, in preference to others of the same religious persuasion, and, in October, 1686, wrote to the Earl of Sunderland respecting him, as follows: "I have only this one thing more to trouble your lordship with at present, concerning Colonel Anthony Hamilton, to get him a commission to command as colonel, though he is but lieutenant-colonel to Sir Thomas

* Hamilton had three sisters: the Countess of Grammont; another married to Matthew Forde, Esq. of the county of Wexford; and another to Sir Donogh O'Brien, ancestor to the present Sir Edward O'Brien,—a branch of the Thomond family.

Newcomen, in regard of the commands *he has had abroad* : and I am told it is often done in France, which makes me hope it will not be counted an unreasonable request. I would likewise humbly recommend to make Colonel Anthony Hamilton a privy-counsellor here." * Lord Clarendon's recommendations were ultimately successful : Hamilton was made a privy-counsellor in Ireland, and had a pension of 200l. a-year on the Irish establishment ; and was appointed governor of Limerick, in the room of Sir William King, notwithstanding he had strongly opposed the new-modelling of the army by the furious Tyrconnell. In the brief accounts which have been given of his life, it is said that he had a regiment of infantry ; but, though this is very probable, there is no mention whatever of his commanding a regiment, in the lists published of King James's army, which are supposed to be very accurate : he is indeed set down among the general officers. Lord Clarendon, in one of his letters to the lord-treasurer, states, " That the news of the day was, that Colonel Russell was to be lieutenant-colonel to the Duke of Ormond's regiment, and that Colonel Anthony Hamilton was to have Russell's regiment, and that Mr Luttrell was to be lieutenant-colonel to Sir Thomas Newcomen, in the place of Anthony Hamilton." †

It is not known whether Anthony was present at the battle of the Boyne, or of Aughrim : his brother John was killed at the latter ; and Richard, who was a lieu-

* Chapel-Izod, July 11, 1686.

† Dublin Castle, October 23, 1686.