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O F  
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By ARTHUR COLLINS, Esq;

IN SEVEN VOLUMES.

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The FOURTH EDITION, carefully Corrected, and continued to the present Time.

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V O L. V.

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MDCCLXVIII.

T H E  
P E E R A G E  
O F  
E N G L A N D.

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*MONTAGU, Earl of Hallifax.*

**T**HE immediate ancestor of this noble family was the honourable George Montagu, of Horton, Esq; eldest son of Henry first Earl of Manchester, by his third wife Margaret, daughter of John Crouch, Esq; as shewn in the account of the family of the Duke of Manchester.

Which George Montagu, Esq; at twenty years of age, was elected a burges, for the town of Huntingdon, to that memorable parliament which met at Westminster, Novem. 3, 1640; and after the restoration of Charles II. by the interest of the Earl of Sandwich, was chosen one of the barons of the Cinque-Port of Dover, in the room of the said Earl, on his taking his seat in the House of Peers. Mr. Montagu was also returned, for the port of Dover, to the parliament which met at Westminster, May 8, 1661, which was continued by several prorogations and adjournments for 17 years, 8 months, and 17 days, being dissolved on Jan. 25, 1678-9. He was seated at Horton in Northamptonshire; and after succeeding his brother the honourable Henry Montagu, Esq; in his place of master of St. Catharine's hospital near the Tower, departed this life at Manchester-house in Channel Row, Westminster, in the 59th year of his age, on July 19, 1681. He was buried in the church of St. Catharine, on Saturday the 23d of the same month; where, on the north side of the altar, is a fine spacious monument of marble, with the following inscription, which shews his eminent endowments.

*Hic requiescit honorabilis Georgius Montacutius,*

*Henrici Manchestræ comitis filius, ex antiquis Salisburie comitibus oriundi, antiqua morum gravitate & candore, iisque animi dotibus, quæ virum vere nobilem deceant, ornatissimus; qui etiam adolefcens in maximo totius Angliæ concessu accerrimi in rebus agendis judicii, ilibatæque erga regem fidei, clara dedit indicia; neque honores ambiebat, aut publica munera, tranquillitati serviens; eoque magis, ut amicorum inserviret commodis; quorum negotia pari semper fide procurabat, ac sua; unum solummodo munus libenter suscepit, hujus scilicet hospitii præfecturam, in eo, nempe,*

*Benefaciendi sibi locum datum existimans.*

*Hoc enim templum vetustate & squalore obrutum (immenso pæne sumptu) ab interitu ruinisque vindicavit; neque hic metam posuit, majora tamen meditantem, & tam pio opere occupatum ad præmium benefactorum Deus evocavit.*

*Uxorem duxit Elizabetham,*

*Antonii Irbi equitis filiam, quorum felices nuptias numerosa proles prædicat; quinque enim filiis & quatuor filiabus, moriturus benedixit. Ætat. suæ 59, obiit 19 Julii 1681.*

By his said wife Elizabeth, only daughter of Sir Anthony Irby of Boston in com. Linc. Knt. and of Frances his wife, daughter of Sir William Wray, Bart. he had issue five sons and four daughters; Elizabeth, married to Sir Christopher Wandesford, ancestor to the present Earl of Wandesford; Anne, to John Lawton, of Lawton-Hall in com. Cestr. Esq; Mary; and Theodosia, married to Robert Mitchell, of Peterfield in com. Southamp. Esq;

His eldest son Edward, born Sept. 25, 1649, succeeded to his estate at Horton, and other possessions in Northamptonshire. He served for Seaford in Suffex in that parliament which met at Oxford 21 Martii 1680-1, and was returned one of the Knights of the Shire for the county of Northampton, to the parliament called by James II. which met at Westminster, May 19, 1685. He married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir John Pelham, of Halland in Suffex, Bart. grandfather of Thomas duke of Newcastle, and by her (who had to her second husband Thomas Woodcock, Esq;) had issue two sons and four daughters.

1. George, 2d Earl of Halifax.

2. Edward Montagu, Esq; who was Colonel of the 11th regiment of foot, a Brigadier-General of his Majesty's forces, Governor of Hull, and a member for the town of Northampton in the parliaments elected in 1722 and 1727. He departed this life at his house in Golden-square, in May 1738; and having married Arabella, daughter to John Trevor, or Trevallin in the county of Flint, Esq; eldest brother of Thomas Lord Trevor, by her (who died at Egham, Oct. 11, 1734)

had

had four sons, George, his heir; Edward, who was lieutenant-colonel of the 31st regiment of foot, and killed at the battle of Fontenoy, May 11, N. S. 1745; Christopher, who was chaplain to a regiment, and died in Flanders; and Charles, who, in December 1755, got the command of the 2d regiment of foot, was promoted on June 25, 1759, to the rank of major-general, and served for the town of Northampton in the parliaments elected in 1747 and 1754, although the list has the name of his brother George. Brigadier Montagu had also four daughters. The four daughters of Edward Montagu of Horton were,

Lucy, born May 15, 1679, married to John Morley Trevor, of Glynd in Suffex, Esq; Elizabeth, born Feb. 9, 1680-1, wedded to Richard Thoresby, of Hanslap in com. Bucks, Esq; Anne, espoused to Christopher Wilmot, of Osmarton in Derbyshire, who had issue by her one son, Montague; and Grace, married to Colonel William Cosby, Governor of New York and New Jersey, who had issue by her two daughters, Elizabeth and Grace, and two sons, William and Henry.

Christopher, second son of the honourable George Montagu, Esq; was elected to parliament for Northampton, in the 7th year of King William, and served for the same borough in four other parliaments. On August 15, 1698, he was constituted one of the Commissioners for managing the revenue of the excise, which he resigned in the year 1699, that he might serve his country in parliament; an act then taking place, which made such, who were commissioners of any part of his Majesty's revenue, incapable of sitting in the House of Commons. On June 6, 1706, he was again constituted one of the Commissioners and Governors of the revenue of the excise. He married the Lady Anne, daughter of Edward Earl of Sandwich, and widow of Sir Richard Edgecumbe, of Mount Edgecumbe, in Devon, Knight of the Bath; but died without issue.

Irby, third son, was a Colonel in the foot guards, and died unmarried.

Charles Montagu, fourth son, first Earl of Hallifax.

James Montagu, youngest son, educated in the study of the laws, was first made Chief Justice of Ely, and after being knighted, was, on April 8, 1707, constituted Solicitor-general to her Majesty Queen Anne; and in October 1708, Attorney-general; but two years after, on the change of the ministry, was removed. On George I's accession to the throne, he was constituted one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and afterwards Lord Chief Baron of the same court; likewise, on the resignation of William first Earl Cowper, A. D. 1718, he was constituted one of the Commissioners for the custody of the Great Seal of England; and departing this life on October 30, 1722, left issue by his wife Tufston, daughter of Sir Wil-

liam Wray, of Ashby in com. Linc. Bart. and sister and heir to Sir Christopher Wray, Bart. one son, Charles Montagu, and one daughter, Elizabeth, married, after his decease, to Sir Clement Wearg, Solicitor-general to George I. Which Charles Montagu, Esq; was member in the parliament summoned to meet June 13, 1734, for St. Germain's, and in June 1738, was appointed auditor of the Prince's revenues and accounts, in the Principality of Wales, and Duchy of Cornwall. In the parliament summoned to meet June 25, 1741, he was chosen for Camelford, and in the next parliament for the town of Northampton; as also in the parliament which met first in 1754.

I now return to Charles Montagu, who, for his eminent abilities and services, was created Earl of Halifax. He was born on April 16, 1661, and having from his childhood shewed a very pregnant genius, was sent to the king's school at Westminster, and from thence to Trinity College in Cambridge, where his learning and excellent parts made him much esteemed. And coming to town soon after the death of King Charles II. he grew into an intimacy with the Earl of Dorset, Sir Charles Sedley, and other wits of the age. Soon after the accession of King William and Queen Mary to the crown, he was sworn one of the Clerks of the Council. He served for the city of Durham, and for the city of Westminster, in the parliaments chosen in 1695, 1698, and 1700-1; and was also returned for the city of Westminster in 1695 and 1698. He distinguished himself by his speeches in the house of commons on several weighty affairs.

He was constituted one of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury on March 21, 1691-2, and soon after was sworn of the Privy Council. In 1694 he was made Chancellor and Under-Treasurer of the Exchequer. In 1695, when the nation was in distress by the ill state of the current coin of this kingdom, he projected the coining of the silver money; and by his great prudence, and indefatigable industry, brought it to bear. He likewise projected the issuing of exchequer bills to supply the great scarcity of money; and on Feb. 16, 1697-8, the house of commons came to this resolution; "That it is the opinion of this house, that the honourable Charles Montagu, Esq; Chancellor of the Exchequer, for his good services to this government, does deserve his Majesty's favour."

His next concern was the taking care of the trade to the East-Indies, the settlement whereof had been long depending, and was looked on as so nice and difficult, that it had been referred to the King and his Council, and by them to the parliament; who (on May 26, 1698) ordered a bill for settling the trade to the East-Indies. Mr. Montagu transacted this whole



whole affair; and by his industry and skill in touching the affections of the people, raised two millions, by only doubling the duty on paper and parchment, and the duty on salt, which to have done by any other ways, was, at that time, a matter of the highest difficulty. Such proofs of affection and zeal to his Majesty's person and government, induced the king to declare him first Lord Commissioner of the Treasury; and on July 16, 1698, he appointed him one of the nine persons, to whose fidelity and honour he reposed the trust of Lords Justices of England for the administration of the government during his absence. In that year, his Lady, daughter of Sir Christopher Yelverton, and widow of Robert Earl of Manchester, died without issue by him, and he continued a widower ever after. The next year he was again continued in the same trust of one of the Lords Justices during the King's absence. In 1700 he resigned his place of first Lord Commissioner of the Treasury, having obtained a grant of the office of Auditor of the Receipt of the Exchequer. And on December 4, the same year, was advanced to the dignity of Baron Halifax in the county of York, with limitation of that honour to George Montagu, Esq; (late Earl of Halifax) eldest son and heir of Edward Montagu, Esq; his elder brother, and the heirs-male of his body, in consideration (as the preamble to the patent sets forth) "That he was descended from a most ancient family  
" of noblemen, which then provided for the ornament and  
" support of the kingdom, three Earls, and eight members of  
" parliament: That he was adorned with those virtues, to  
" which none could envy any increase of honour, and which  
" a just Prince could not but freely offer; having by nature a  
" genius to manage affairs of the highest concern, which he  
" had cultivated by learning, and brought to perfection by a  
" continual practice of speaking well, and the exercise of  
" transacting wisely. That, by experience, his Majesty found  
" him to be strenuous and eloquent in parliament, faithful  
" and prudent in council, and in determining causes relating  
" to the Exchequer, unblameable and penetrating; nor could  
" he pass over in silence his sagacity, in taking care that in  
" the greatest scarcity of money, the publick credit should  
" not sink, by being over-burthened with excessive interest.  
" That he must reckon it a happiness, that he was Chancellor  
" of his Exchequer, at the time, when, to his admiration, he  
" beheld the current money, that had been adulterated and  
" debased, coined a-new, and restored to its intrinsic value  
" in the space of two years, though accounted the work of  
" an age; an attempt as fortunate as bold. And the de-  
" mands of money increasing, by his council and advice, a

“ new and unusual method of establishing of paper credit  
 “ was entered on, whereby the riches of the nation was ad-  
 “ vanced. That for these good offices he gained the love  
 “ and esteem of the people, and for the benefit they re-  
 “ ceived by his means, he had easily obtained the King’s.  
 “ Wherefore, as his Majesty was always inclined to comply  
 “ with the wishes of his good subjects, he willingly, and with  
 “ all cheerfulness, called him to the house of Peers, whom the  
 “ commons, by a public vote for his eminent services, had  
 “ pronounced deserving of his royal favour.”

On the accession of Queen Anne, his Lordship was concerned in vindicating the memory of King William; and on all occasions shewed a disinterested concern in the service of his country. He first projected the equivalent, without which that happy agreement between both nations had never been accomplished. And as his lordship had the honour to be the person that moved for appointing Commissioners to treat of an union between the two kingdoms, so he had not only a great share in bringing that treaty to the desired issue, as one of the Commissioners; but in causing it to be ratified in parliament, answering, with great weight and judgment, all the exceptions made against it.

And further to strengthen the protestant religion, his Lordship proposed the bill, *For the naturalization of the illustrious house of Hanover, and for the better security of the succession of the crown in the protestant line*; which being passed into an act, her Majesty made choice of him to carry that act to our late Sovereign George I. and to invest his son (the electoral prince) with the ensigns of the most noble Order of the Garter.

On his Lordship’s arrival at Hanover, in company with the Earl of Dorset, he was received with extraordinary marks of distinction and honour, the Elector, Electress-dowager, and the whole electoral family, taking all occasions of shewing their intire satisfaction with the choice her Majesty had made of his Lordship, to represent to them her friendship and esteem. During the Lord Halifax’s residence there, the Prince Royal of Prussia was married to his late Majesty’s sister, Sophia Dorothea, and soon after that prince set out with his Lordship for the confederate army; from whence his lordship went to the Hague, where he laid the foundation of a stricter alliance between Great-Britain and the United Provinces, for the better securing the British crown in the protestant line.

On his Lordship’s return to England he was graciously received by the Queen, and continued in her favour till the change of the ministry in 1710. On her Majesty’s demise,  
 August