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Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots :

Her Friends and Her Foes.

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1913



MARY STUART.
From the Morton Collection.

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Mary Stuart, Queen
of Scots: Her Friends
 and her Foes. A Review of her
 Life and Times, including Fourteen
 Years of Captivity in Sheffield. By
 The Rev. W. Odom, *Author of*
"Memories of Archdeacon Blakeney," &c.

LONDON : GEORGE BELL & SONS
 SHEFFIELD : J. W. NORTHEND

Prefatory Note to cheaper Edition.

IN sending forth this work in its present form, I wish to express my warm thanks for the many generous Reviews accorded to it on its first appearance, and to some hundreds of subscribers, as well as for interesting communications from kind readers.

It has been said that, amid varied intellectual changes, two stories endure, and go straight to the hearts of men, turning philosophers into partisans, and all into lovers or haters—the legendary story of Helen of Troy, and the sadly real story of Mary of Scotland. It is certain that the tragic and romantic history of Mary Stuart will long have a strong hold upon the hearts and imaginations of men.

There is continued and abundant evidence that interest in the fascinating but tangled career of the Scottish Queen, thrice a widow, and for nearly nineteen years a captive in England, is undiminished. Literature and Art are constantly paying homage to her strong personality, with its charm and misfortune.

Since the first publication of this work, three years ago, several other books on the subject have been published. Apart from interesting articles in the English and Scottish Historical Reviews may be named—

"Mary, Queen of Scots: her Environment and Tragedy" (T. F. Henderson. Two vols., 24/- net). Comprehensive, but crowded with minute details on disputable points. With many portraits.

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"Mary Stuart" (Florence A. MacCunn, 10/6 net). A sympathetic, well-written biography, with good illustrations.

"Portraits and Jewels of Mary Stuart" (Andrew Lang, 8/6 net). A volume of about 100 pages, with excellent illustrations, including sixteen portraits of the Queen, confirming a statement in the last chapter of the present volume that most of the portraits do not represent the actual Mary Stuart.

"Mary, Queen of Scots" (Walter Wood, with pictures in colour by James Orrock, R.I., and Sir James Linton, R.I., 15/-, and £2/2/- net). This is a picture book, with letter-press of subordinate value.

"The Last Days of Mary Stuart, and the Journal of Bourgoyne, her Physician" (Samuel Cowan, 12/6). This work purports to determine and settle "all doubt of the innocence of Queen Mary of having had any connection with any plot against the life of Elizabeth, or the Babington Conspiracy."

A common defect in these books, as indeed in nearly all others on the subject, is that so few details are given of the unfortunate Queen's captivity in England, extending over nearly nineteen years, of which about fourteen were spent in Sheffield and its neighbourhood. It will be seen that a due proportion of the following pages is devoted to this deeply interesting period.

Another sign of deepening interest in the unfortunate Queen is the very large sums given for certain books and documents relating to her. A few years ago Beza's *"Confessione della Fede Christiana"* (1560), formerly belonging to Mary, sold for £145. In April, 1905, a

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notable library, belonging to the late Mr. John Scott, was sold in London. Mr. Scott was a keen collector of books and documents relating to Mary Stuart, of which the catalogue comprised 392 lots, which realized the large sum of £4,800. For one volume—"A Defence of Marie Quene of Scotland" (1569), £127 was given. Nine folio sheets of an *Official Report at the Trial of Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, 1571*, sold for £126. A volume of original letters and papers relating to Mary Stuart, on thirty-four pages, realized £355. The following item is of special interest—"Copie d'une Lettre de la Royne d'Escosse escripte de sa Prison de Cheifeild [Sheffield] touchant ses Adversitez & le Bannissement de ses fidelez Serviteurs" (Paris, R. Coulombel, 1572). An Autograph Letter, consisting of 14 pages, written by Mary in January, 1562 (which in 1859 was purchased for £40), realized the surprising sum of £900.

In an intricate narrative, with many names and dates, errors are inevitable, but an acute Reviewer in *"The Bookman"* has only been able to discover a few "trifling" ones. The following corrections are, however, needed. Page 75, the initials "I. H." on the Mermaid-Mary placard were Bothwell's, not Darnley's. Borthwick Castle, page 80, is twelve miles from Edinburgh, not two. On page 4 "G. A. Swinburne" should, of course, read "A. C. Swinburne."

W. ODOM.

Heeley Vicarage, Sheffield,
March, 1907.

Preface.

FOR the present volume, which for nearly four years has formed the chief recreation of a busy life, no apology is offered. It is well to have a "hobby," even if leisure hours be scant as with the writer. At odd times, amid constant interruptions, it is possible to work at a subject in which we are specially interested, even when tired out.

The following pages, not a few of which were written under these conditions, make no claim to originality; indeed, as the late Dr. Gatty observes, "all trustworthy history must necessarily be a work of compilation."

Some might deem it too bold a venture to add to the library of books already existing respecting Mary Stuart, Queen of Scotland, in whose chequered life, so strangely and sadly intermingled with romance and tragedy, "there is scarcely an incident that has not been the subject of debate from the date of her birth to the closing scene at Fotheringhay."

My aim has been to arrange, and give to the general reader, a consecutive and trustworthy narrative, unburdened by dry historic documents and interminable controversies, of a supremely romantic and eventful life, which, notwithstanding the lapse of centuries, never fails to arouse keen interest and excite intense sympathy.

With considerable labour, and at times with perplexity, I have gleaned from many fields, and sought to weave from a labyrinth of conflicting opinions as clear a picture