

HISTORY  
OF THE  
GREAT CIVIL WAR  
VOL. I.

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HISTORY  
OF THE  
GREAT CIVIL WAR

1642-1649

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## P R E F A C E

THE present edition is substantially the same as the first, but a few slight alterations have been made in consequence of suggestions made by reviewers and friends. The authorities which I have consulted may be ascertained by the references given in the notes. The names of pamphlets in the British Museum Library are followed by the letters or numbers signifying the press mark. Of the inner life of the House of Commons we unfortunately know less during the Civil War than during the first year and a half of the Long Parliament. D'Ewes, dissatisfied with the course of events, grows much more reticent than he had formerly been, and two other diaries, those of Whitacre and Yonge, which I have used, I believe, for the first time, do not fully supply his place. Whitacre reports no speeches, and Yonge does so only occasionally. As Yonge wrote chiefly in symbols—particular marks being employed to represent all the commoner words—it requires a certain amount of preparation to read him, though, as an explanation of these symbols is prefixed to each of his four volumes, there is no real difficulty in the matter.

It is fortunate that since the publication of Warburton's '*Memoirs of Rupert and the Cavaliers*,' a considerable part of the MSS. which he used has been acquired by the Museum Library, not merely because there are letters in the collection of which he made no use, but because he neglected to take the trouble to read ciphered letters, even when the materials for doing so were to be found at the distance of a few pages. It will be seen that a part of a despatch of Digby's, written on the