

Ä

TV

H 563
427

MEMOIRS

OF

THE PRINCESS PALATINE

PRINCESS OF BOHEMIA;

INCLUDING HER

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE GREAT MEN OF HER DAY,

AND MEMOIRS OF THE

COURT OF HOLLAND UNDER THE PRINCES OF ORANGE.

BY

THE BARONESS BLAZE DE BURY.

“Cette illustre princesse, par bien des côtés, avait du caractère de son aïeul, Guillaume le Taciturne.”—SORBIERE, *Voyage en Hollande*.

“The race of Nassau,
The world’s great patriots.”

ADDISON.



LONDON :

RICHARD BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET,

Printer in Ordinary to Her Majesty.

1853.

Ä

PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS,
LONDON GAZETTE OFFICE, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

Государственная
Библиотека
СССР
им. В. И. Ленина

U-72435-50

TO
THE COUNTESS OF WESTMORLAND;

LEARNED AS NOBLE, GENTLE AS WISE,

AND,

BY THE LUSTRE OF HER TALENTS

AND GRACE OF HER VIRTUES,

WORTHY

OF THE GLORIOUS RACE WHENCE SHE DESCENDS ;

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED,

IN TOKEN OF THE WRITER'S

DEEP ADMIRATION AND LOVING RESPECT.

P R E F A C E.



AMONG the various events of the great struggle which raged so furiously in Holland and Germany during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, none have a greater interest than the unhappily-renowned war in the Palatinate, as connected with the fortunes of its ruling family; a line not only allied to our own Sovereigns by blood, but deriving a peculiar interest from being one of the most constant supports of the Protestant cause.

One of its members, the Princess Palatine, forms the subject of the following work; and for many reasons is she well worthy of attention. Her noble descent—the blood of the Nassau and Stuart races—might alone render her illustrious; her learning and high intelligence in an age when learning and research were unknown to the fair sex, and to be met with only

among bearded professors, would equally make her name celebrated; but the high esteem in which, both for virtue and genius, she was held by such men as Descartes, Leibnitz, and Malebranche, as well as a host of minor literati, must for ever render her an object of admiration in all lands.

In another point of view the Princess Palatine deserves peculiar notice—namely, for the remarkable degree in which her vigorous mind guided and trained the younger scions of her family—those who in after-years ascended thrones, and whose descendants at the present moment rule the destinies of Europe. How far this was the case will be seen in the following pages; but no fitter place can be found for briefly pointing out the existing personages in the Royal Houses of Europe who have two such remarkable characters as William of Orange and Mary Stuart for progenitors, and the Princess Palatine for ancestress.



The sister of the Princess Palatine, Sophia, was married to ~~Count~~ Augustus, Elector of Hanover: her daughter, Sophia Charlotte, was married to William, first King of Prussia, and thus descends the HOUSE OF BRANDENBURG.

From William of Orange, the Great Stadtholder, descended

collaterally