

Cal 34

LETTERS AND PAPERS

q 1-67  
1308

OF

# THE VERNEY FAMILY

DOWN TO THE END OF THE YEAR 1639.

PRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL MSS.

IN THE POSSESSION OF

SIR HARRY VERNEY, BART.

EDITED BY JOHN BRUCE, ESQ.

HV 3  
Q 111



Q 111 - 305

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE CAMDEN SOCIETY,

BY JOHN BOWYER NICHOLS AND SONS, PARLIAMENT STREET.

M.DCCC.LIII. 1853

Cal 3  
34

A  
LETTERS AND PAPERS

p 1-67  
1308

OF

# THE VERNEY FAMILY

DOWN TO THE END OF THE YEAR 1639.

PRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL MSS.

IN THE POSSESSION OF

SIR HARRY VERNEY, BART.

EDITED BY JOHN BRUCE, ESQ.

HV 3  
Q 111



ixm - 3005

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE CAMDEN SOCIETY,

BY JOHN BOWYER NICHOLS AND SONS, PARLIAMENT STREET.

M.DCCC.LIII. 1633

LONDON :  
J. B. NICHOLS AND SONS, PRINTERS,  
PARLIAMENT STREET.

[NO. LVI.]

COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CAMDEN SOCIETY  
FOR THE YEAR 1852-3.

---

*President,*  
THE RIGHT HON. LORD BRAYBROOKE, F.S.A.  
WILLIAM HENRY BLAAUW, ESQ. M.A. F.S.A.  
JOHN BRUCE, ESQ. Treas. S.A. *Director.*  
JOHN PAYNE COLLIER, ESQ. V.P.S.A. *Treasurer.*  
C. PURTON COOPER, ESQ. Q.C., D.C.L., F.R.S., F.S.A.  
WILLIAM DURRANT COOPER, ESQ. F.S.A.  
BOLTON CORNEY, ESQ. M.R.S.L.  
WILLIAM RICHARD DRAKE, ESQ. F.S.A.  
SIR HENRY ELLIS, K.H., F.R.S., Sec. S.A.  
EDWARD FOSS, ESQ. F.S.A.  
THE REV. JOSEPH HUNTER, F.S.A.  
THE REV. LAMBERT B. LARKING, M.A.  
PETER LEVESQUE, ESQ. F.S.A.  
FREDERIC OUVRY, ESQ. F.S.A.  
THE RT. HON. LORD VISCOUNT STRANGFORD, F.R.S. Dir.S.A.  
WILLIAM J. THOMS, ESQ. F.S.A., *Secretary.*

A

The COUNCIL of the CAMDEN SOCIETY desire it to be understood that they are not answerable for any opinions or observations that may appear in the Society's publications; the Editors of the several works being alone responsible for the same.

## INTRODUCTION.

---

THE Members of the Camden Society are aware that the collection of original papers from which the following pages are derived is extensive and miscellaneous. Its most important contents possess not only an interest directly historical, in the ordinary sense of that word, that is, as connected with public events of the periods to which they belong; they have also a separate and personal interest, in relation to the fortunes of a particular family. In editing the present selection I have thought it right to keep this double interest of the papers in mind. I have, therefore, not sent forth the book merely as containing a body of historical papers, which would tell their own tale without comment or connection. I have sketched the history of the family, and have introduced the papers in the places into which they fall naturally as illustrations of the fortunes of the Verneys.

This is a course which will meet, I hope, with general approval. The most valuable materials, even for general

A

history, are to be found among the records of private and personal experience. More true knowledge of the spirit of an age, more real acquaintance with the feelings and actual circumstances of a people, may be gleaned from a delineation of the affairs of a single family than from studied historical composition. The one is the expression of contemporary and spontaneous feeling, and, although limited, is unquestionably genuine; the other is a deduction from knowledge, imperfect even when most extensive, and too frequently coloured by the feelings and prejudices of a subsequent and altered period. I have given an account of the descent of the Verneys, not from a mere antiquary's love of resuscitating everything that belongs to the past, but because, without a knowledge of the history of the family, it would have been impossible to judge correctly of the character and value of their papers. For my own part, I venture to think that it would be a great excellence in our literature, and would make publications of this description far more valuable than they generally are, if attention were more frequently given to the precise circumstances and social position of the persons from whom original papers emanated, or to whom they relate. It is an erroneous, although among antiquaries by no means an uncommon notion, that unofficial papers are only of importance when they can be connected with the most interesting events or the most noble families. I should contend, on the contrary, that the value of such papers is to be esti-

mated by the degree in which they give an insight into the feelings and opinions, the real inner life, and not the mere outside appearance, of the men and women, whatever their station, to whom they relate.

In adopting the course which I have described, I have endeavoured not at all to overlook the public events to which these papers relate, or in which the Verneys were involved. In the reigns of Henry VI. and Edward IV. I have unfolded the clever management by which sir Ralph Verney, the Yorkist lord mayor, was able to recover for his son the lands of the Lancastrian sir Robert Whittingham (pp. 12—22). In the reign of Henry VII. I have indicated the gay life led by the courtier sir Ralph, the chamberlain of princess Margaret, and one of her attendants into Scotland (pp. 29—34). I have also been able to establish his marriage with lady Eleanor Pole (p. 31), and have identified as his a tomb at King's Langley traditionally reported to be that of Piers Gavestone (p. 47).

In the reign of queen Mary I have unravelled the details of Dudley's conspiracy, in which two of the Verneys were implicated, and in respect to which our historians have been much at fault (pp. 59—76).

In the reign of Elizabeth the documents I have selected may be properly said to begin. The table which follows these observations will be found to indicate their general character.

Under James I. the fortunes of sir Francis Verney