

HISTORY OF ENGLAND

1603-1642

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HISTORY OF ENGLAND

FROM THE

ACCESSION OF JAMES I.

TO

THE OUTBREAK OF THE CIVIL WAR

1603—1642

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PREFACE
TO
THE SEVENTH VOLUME.



SINCE the greater part of this volume was printed off, Mr. JAMES CHRISTIE, in addition to the information about Alexander Leighton to which I have referred in a note to p. 145, has been so good as to place at my disposal the result of his further investigations. It appears from the answer to an inquiry addressed by him to Dr. Du Rieu, the librarian of the University of Leyden, that the following entry occurs in the books under the date of September 9, 1617 :—“Alexander Lichton Anglus, Londiniensis, candidatus medicinæ.” From this it follows that I was quite wrong in saying, as I have done at p. 143, that ‘it is probable that he fled’ from Scotland ‘like Calderwood, to avoid submission to the innovations of James,’ if these words are taken, as I intended, to imply a flight in consequence of the Articles of Perth, which were only voted in 1618. The description of Leighton as an Englishman of London implies that he had left Scotland for some time before 1617. Mr. CHRISTIE has also pointed out to me another piece of evidence which shows that this was the case. In *Harl. MSS.* 700 4, Art. 71, is an undated petition from Leighton, not

earlier than 1606 and not later than 1612, addressed to Adam Newton, Dean of Durham, and tutor to Prince Henry. In this petition he asks for a small church preferment in the gift of the Dean and Chapter, 'donativum nomine St. Iles,' *i.e.*, possibly, St. Giles. He here says that, after taking his Master's degree at St. Andrews, he had occupied himself 'docendo et prædicando borealibus hisce partibus Anglicanis.' It was therefore with the English and not with the Scottish Church that Leighton became dissatisfied.

On Leighton's subsequent career Mr. CHRISTIE has also something to say; as he has acquired from Dr. PITMAN, the Registrar of the College of Physicians, the information that Leighton appeared before the Censors' Board on four occasions: September 24, 1619, July 7, 1626, January 5, 1627—when he was fined 30*l.*—and February 18, 1634. The latter date goes far to strengthen a suspicion which Mr. CHRISTIE tells me he has reason to entertain, that Leighton was released on parole, and was not therefore detained in prison, as is usually supposed, till the Long Parliament met.