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The Works Of Horatio Walpole, Earl of Orford

In Five Volumes

Walpole, Horace

London, 1798

Irish Peers

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IRISH PEERS.

GERALD FITZGERALD, EARL of
DESMOND;

THE fourth earl of that line, was called *the poet*, and for his skill in the mathematics was thought a magician; three characters seldom united. This was about the year 1370*.

GEORGE CALVERT, LORD BALTIMORE,

WAS brought up under sir Robert Cecil, and in 1619 attained the office of secretary of state, which however he resigned conscientiously † in 1624, on having embraced the Roman catholic religion. He remained privy-counsellor, and was made a baron. He had the grant of Avalon, the first christian settlement in Newfoundland, whither he went, and defended it bravely against the French; and on its being afterwards yielded to them, he obtained the grant of Maryland, of which his family are still proprietors.

* Lodge's Irish Peerage, vol. i. p. 10.

† Archbishop Abbot, in a letter to sir T. Roe, gives a different account of this affair. "Mr. secretary Calvert," saith the prelate, "hath never looked merrily since the prince his coming out of Spain: it was thought that he was much interested in the Spanish affaires: a course was taken to rid him of all employments and negotiations. This made him discontented; and as the saying is, Desperatio facit monachum, so he apparently

did turn papist, which he now professeth, this being the third time that he hath been to blame that way. His majesty, to dismiss him, suffered him to resign his secretary's place to sir Albertus Morten, who paid him 3000*l.* for the same; and the king hath made him baron of Baltimore in Ireland: so he is withdrawn from us; and having bought a ship of 400 tons, he is going to New-England or Newfoundland, where he hath a colony." *Roe's Letters*, p. 372.

We have this list of his works* :

“ *Carmen funebre in dom. Hen. Untonum, ad Gallos bis legatum, ibique nuper fato functum.*” 1596, quarto. The earl of Bristol wrote an elegy on the same occasion †.

“ Speeches in parliament.”

“ Various letters of state ‡.”

“ The answer of Tom Telltroth.”

“ The practice of princes, and lamentation of the kirk.” 1642, quarto.

“ Something about Maryland.” Not printed.

ROGER BOYLE, EARL of ORRERY,

A MAN who never made a bad figure but as an author. As a soldier his bravery was distinguished, his stratagems remarkable §. As a statesman, it is sufficient to say that he had the confidence of Cromwell: as a man, he was grateful, and would have supported the son of his friend: like Cicero and Richelieu, he could not be content without being a poet. The sensible author of a very curious life of this lord in the *Biographia* seems to be as bad a judge of poetry as his lordship or Cicero, when he says that his writings are never flat and trivial.—What does he think of an hundred such lines as these,

“ When to the wars of Aquitaine I went,
I made a friendship with the earl of Kent ||.”

* *Biogr. Brit.* vol. ii. p. 1117: *Wood*, vol. i. manuscripts, N^o 1580.
p. 505.

† See p. 366 of this Work.

§ See his Life in the *Biogr. Brit.*

‡ Fifteen more are among the Harleian ma-

|| The black prince, act v.

One might as soon find the sublime, or the modest, or the harmonious, in this line,

“ O fortunatam natam me consule Romam !”

Lord Orrery wrote

“ The Irish colours displayed ; in a reply of an English protestant to a letter of an Irish Roman catholic.” Lond. 1662.

“ An answer to a scandalous letter lately printed, and subscribed by Peter Walfh, &c.” Dublin, 1662, quarto, and Lond.

“ A poem on his majesty's happy restoration.” MS.

“ A poem on the death of the celebrated Mr. Abraham Cowley *.” Lond. 1667, fol.

“ The history of Henry the fifth, a tragedy.”

“ Mustapha, a tragedy.”

“ The black prince, a tragedy.”

“ Tryphon, a tragedy.”

“ Parthenissa,” a romance in three parts, 1 vol. fol. His biographer says, three volumes folio †, and seems to think that this performance is not read, because it was never completed ; as if three volumes in folio would not content the most heroic appetite that ever existed !

“ A dream, a poem.”

* Cowley had commended his lordship's poetry in a copy of verses. *Vide* vol. iii. p. 544.

† There is another edition in six volumes.

“Verses to the hon. Edward Howard on his poem called *The British princes* ;” prefixed to that poem*.

“*The art of war.*” Lond. 1677, fol. Said to have been much ridiculed, but is applauded by the *Biographia*.

“*Poems on the fasts and festivals of the church.*” Printed, but never finished. I should act with regard to these, as I should about the romance, not read them; not because they were never finished, but because they were ever begun. We are told his lordship always wrote when he had a fit of the gout, which it seems was a very impotent muse.

The rest of his works were posthumous.

“*Mr. Antony, a comedy.*”

“*Mr. Guzman, a comedy.*”

“*Herod the Great, a tragedy.*”

“*Altemira, a tragedy.*” All his dramatic pieces, but *Mr. Antony*, have been published together in two volumes octavo. Lond. 1739.

“*His State-letters.*” Lond. 1742, fol. †

HENRY HARE, LORD COLERANE.

IN the library of Trinity-college, Cambridge, is a book with this title:

* Lady Mary Wortley Montagu told me, that Vaughan lord Carberry published in miscellanies several little poems profane and satiric. In the third volume of Dryden's *Miscellanies*, p. 165, there is one by the lord V. addressed to a person of honour, Edw. Howard. Perhaps the author

was that Vaughan lord Carberry.

† Richard, called the great earl of Corke, father of this earl of Orrery, wrote memoirs of his own life and times, which he called *True remembrances*. They have been published in doctor Birch's *Life of the hon. Robert Boyle*.

“The ascents of the soul of David’s mount towards God’s house, being paraphrases on the 15 psalms of degrees. Written in Italian by the illustrious Gio. Franc. Loredano, a noble Venetian, 1656: rendered into English anno Dom. 1665.” Lond. 1681, fol. In one of the blank pages is this MS. inscription: *Prænobilis dominus Coleranæ librum hunc à seipso, cum in Italiâ peregrè vixit, Anglicè redditum, coll. Sstæ & individ. Trinitatis Cantab. humillimè offert.* There is a second part, called

“*La scala fanta, or A scale of devotions musical and gradual, being descants on the 15 psalms of degrees in metre, with contemplations and collects upon them in prose, 1670.*” This part is dedicated to the most illustrious and serene Stella; and has a copy of English and another of Latin verses prefixed to the right hon. the learned author. The first part is dedicated to the most honoured Lucinda. They have each an emblematic frontispiece, as unintelligible as the books themselves, designed by the author, having his cypher *LC* design. and baron’s coronet. The first is engraved by Faithorne.

All I can learn more of this lord is, that he was, according to the Irish Peerage, p. 317, edit of 1727, a very great medallist and antiquarian; and that his eldest son Hugh, who died before him, was author of a charge of the quarter-sessions for Surrey; and translated *The history of the conspiracy of count Fieschi at Genoa.*

WILLIAM VISCOUNT BROUNKER,

PRESIDENT of the Royal Society, hath extant, says A. Wood*,

“Experiments of the recoiling of guns, and several letters to archbishop Usher.”

* Bafti, vol. ii. col. 57.

WENTWORTH

WENTWORTH DILLON, EARL of
ROSCOMMON,

ONE of the most renowned writers in the reign of Charles the second, but one of the most careless too. His Essay on translated verse, and his translation of Horace's Art of poetry, have great merit; in the rest of his poems are scarce above four lines that are striking, as these,

"The law appear'd with Maynard at their head,
In legal murder none so deeply read."

And these in the apparition of Tom Rofs to his pupil the duke of Monmouth,

"Like Samuel, at thy necromantic call,
I rise to tell thee, God has left thee, Saul!"

His poems are printed together in the first volume of *The works of the minor poets*. At the desire of the duke of Ormond he translated into French doctor Sherlock's discourse on passive obedience, entitled

"The case of resistance of the supreme powers*." And we are told † that his lordship in conjunction with Dryden projected a society for refining and fixing the standard of our language. It never wanted this care more than at that period; nor could two men have been found more proper to execute most parts of that plan than Dryden, the greatest master of the powers of language, and Roscommon, whose judgment was sufficient to correct the exuberances of his associate. Since them, chaster writers have by degrees refined our tongue. It flowed pure from Addison; was kept within severe bounds by Swift; was ennobled and harmonized by Bolinbroke; was raised to classic elegance and force by doctor Middleton. Such authors fix a standard by their

* See his Life prefixed to his poems in the second volume of a miscellany called *The works of* the earls of Rochester, Roscommon, Dorset, &c.
† See his Life in the *Gen. Dict.*

writings.

writings. Grammarians regulate niceties, and try careles beauties in works, where carelessness often is a beauty, by the same rigorous laws that they have enacted against graver offenders. Such jury-men, no doubt, write their own letters with as much circumspection as their wills; and are ignorant that it is easier to observe some laws, than to violate them with grace. But when an age departs from exact models, it marks the period in which a language was at its point of perfection, as the height of a spring-tide is measured from the line from which the waves begin to ebb. Academies and dictionaries are impotent authorities: who, that thinks Machiavel an incompetent guide, would obey the Crusca?

ROGER PALMER, EARL of CASTLEMALIN,

AUTHOR of several pieces; but better known by having been the husband of the duchess of Cleveland, and by being sent ambassador from James the second to the Pope, who treated him with as little ceremony as his wife had done. While her grace was producing dukes for the state, the earl was busied in controversial divinity, and in defending the *religion* of a prince who was so gracious to his lady.

Of this lord's composition I have found,

“An account of the present war between the Venetians and the Turks, with the state of Candie; in a letter to the king from Venice.” Lond. 1666; small twelves, with a print of the earl before it. In the dedication he discovers that the Turk is the great Leviathan, and that renegades lose their talent for sea affairs.

“A short and true account of the material passages in the late war between the English and Dutch. Written by the right honourable the earl of Castlemalin; and now published by Thomas Price, gent.” In the Savoy, 1671. The editor, as wise as his author, observes that the earl had visited Palestine, to which he had a particular relation by his name *Palmer* or *Pilgrim*: and he acquaints the world, that the earl's great-grandfather had three sons born for three Sundays successively; and that another of his ancestors

with the same wife kept sixty open Christmases in one house, without ever breaking up house.

“The earl of Castlemain’s manifesto.” 1689. This is a defence of himself from being concerned in the popish plot, of which he was accused by Turberville.

“An apology in behalf of the papists.” This piece has not his name. It was answered by Lloyd, bishop of Saint Asaph, in 1667, and was re-printed with the answer in 1746. Lord Castlemain, and Robert Pugh a secular priest, his assistant, published a reply to the bishop, entitled

“A reply to The answer of the catholic apology, or a clear vindication of the catholics of England from all matters of fact charged against them by their enemies. Lond. 1668. Both the pamphlets of the earl were seized by order of the house of commons*.” Bishop Lloyd in 1673 publishing another tract against popery, called A seasonable discourse, &c. lord Castlemain answered that too in a piece entitled

“A full answer and confutation of a scandalous pamphlet, called A seasonable discourse, &c. Antwerp, alias Lond. quarto.” Doctor Lloyd replied in another piece, which he styled A reasonable defence of The seasonable discourse, &c. and the earl wrote observations on it †. His lordship published besides

“The English globe, being a stabl and immobil one, performing what the ordinary globes do, and much more. Invented and described by the right honourable the earl of Castlemain.” 1679, thin quarto.

“The compendium, or a short view of the trials in relation to the present plot, &c.” Lond. 1679. This piece is likewise anonymous, is ascribed to him, but I cannot affirm it to be of his writing. I believe he wrote other things, but I have not met with them.

A splendid book of his embassy, with cuts, was published in folio, both in English and Italian.

* Vide Biogr. Brit. vol. v. 2987.*

† Ibid.

JOHN

JOHN LORD CUTTS,

A SOLDIER of most hardy bravery * in king William's wars, was son of Richard Cutts, esq. of Matching in Essex, where the family was settled about the time of Henry the sixth, and had a great estate †. Our author was made baron of Gowran in Ireland, one of the lords justices general, general of the forces in that kingdom, and governor of the isle of Wight. He died at Dublin in January 1706, and is buried there in the cathedral of Christchurch ‡.

I have been favoured by a near relation of his lordship with the sight of a very scarce volume of poems of his writing, entitled

“Poetical exercises written upon several occasions, and dedicated to her royal highness mary princess of Orange; licensed March 23, 1686-7, Roger L'Estrange. Lond. printed for R. Bentley and S. Magnes, in Ruffel-street in Covent-garden, 1687.” It contains, besides the dedication, signed J. Cutts, verses to that princess; a poem on Wisdom; another to Mr. Waller on his commending it; seven more copies of verses and eleven songs. The whole composing but a very thin volume. The author speaks of having more pieces by him: one I have found in vol. i. part 2d, of State-poems, p. 199; it is on the death of queen Mary.

ROBERT VISCOUNT MOLESWORTH,

AUTHOR of that sensible and free-spirited work

* Swift's epigram on a salamander alludes to this lord, who was called by the duke of Marlborough the salamander, on his always being in the thickest of the fire. The conclusion of the epigram alludes to his marrying a widow who suffered by the consequences of his former amours; and in some of the State-poems of that time was this line upon him:

VOL. I.

As brave and brainless as the sword he wears.

His motto was, *With labour and blood.* For a farther account of him see *Memoirs for the curious*, 1708, p. 46.

† Vide *Hist. and antiq. of Essex*, p. 79.

‡ Leneve's *Monum. Anglicana*, vol. iv. p. 120.

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“An

“An account of Denmark.”

And of these pieces,

“An address to the house of commons for the encouragement of agriculture.”

“Translation of Hottoman’s Franco-Gallia.”

“A dedication to the princess of Wales, of Marinda,” a collection of poems and translations by his lordship’s daughter, Mrs. Monk*.

And he is reported to have written other tracts in defence of liberty, of his country, of mankind. I have heard that the last lord Molesworth drew up rules for the army, which have been published.

*MURROUGH BOYLE, VISCOUNT
BLESSINGTON,*

WROTE a play called “The lost princess †.”

CHARLES LORD WHITWORTH,

EMBASSADOR to several courts, was author of a very ingenious

“Account of Russia, as it was in the year 1710 ‡.”

* See Ballard’s Memoirs, p. 418.

† Vide Companion to the playhouse, vol. ii. ‡ This piece, with an account of the author,

was printed at Strawberry-hill in 1758.

JOHN

JOHN SHUTE, VISCOUNT BARRINGTON,

WAS reckoned the head of the presbyterian party, in whose behalf he wrote several pamphlets; and was author of some other pieces, called

“The rights of the protestant dissenters, in answer to sir Humphrey Mackworth;” two parts, quarto, 1704, 1705.

“An essay on the several dispensations of God to mankind*.”

“Miscellanea sacra;” two volumes octavo, 1725.

“An account of the late proceedings of the dissenting ministers at Salter’s-hall, &c. in a letter to the reverend doctor Gale; with a postscript to Mr. Bradbury;” 1719. There were several controversial pamphlets on this occasion.

JOHN LORD FORTESCUE,

ONE of the judges of the Common-pleas in England, wrote remarks on the works of his ancestor Fortescue, entitled

“The difference between an absolute and limited monarchy.” Printed in 1714, reprinted since with additions.

JOHN PERCEVAL, EARL of EGMONT,

WROTE several pieces on various subjects, chiefly religious and moral, several of which still remain in manuscript. Among others published, though to all his works his lordship modestly declined prefixing his name, were

* Lodge’s Peerage of Ireland, vol. iii. p. 276.

“The great importance of a religious life.” It has gone through several editions*.

“A dialogue between a member of the church of England and a protestant dissenter concerning a repeal of the test-act.” 1732.

“The question of the precedency of the peers of Ireland in England,” 1739. Part only of this book was written by the late earl, which was in consequence of a memorial presented by his lordship to his majesty, November the 2d, 1733, upon occasion of the solemnity of the marriage of the princess royal with the prince of Orange.

“Remarks upon a scandalous piece, entitled, A brief account of the causes that have retarded the progress of the colony of Georgia in America:” 1743. His lordship published several other tracts about that time relating to that colony.

“Many letters and essays upon moral subjects in a paper called The weekly miscellany.”

He wrote a considerable part of a genealogical history of his own family, which was afterwards enlarged and methodized by Anderson, author of The royal genealogies, and by Mr. Whiston of the Tally-court †.

His lordship composed too a very great collection of

“Lives and characters of eminent men in England from very ancient to very modern times,” in which work he was indefatigably employed till disabled by the paralytic disorder of which he died.

* This list was communicated to me by his son the present earl; but the first piece has been ascribed to Mr. Melmoth, father of the translator.

† This was the famous history of the house of

Yvery, of which his son and successor was supposed to write a large part. It consists of two thick volumes in octavo, and was suppressed as far as possible soon after its publication.

WILLIAM

WILLIAM VISCOUNT *GRIMSTON*

IS only mentioned here to vindicate him from being an author. Having when a boy written a play called

“The lawyer’s fortune, or Love in a hollow tree,” to be acted with his school-fellows, the duchess of Marlborough many years afterwards procured a copy, and printed it, at a time that she had a dispute with him about the borough of saint Albans. Lord Grimston buying up the impression, the duchess sent the copy to Holland to be reprinted. She made his lordship ample reparation afterwards by printing her own Memoirs, not written in her childhood.

GERALD DE COURCY,
Twenty-fourth LORD KINGSALE,

WAS never publicly known to have attempted poetry, till after his death. His library being sold by auction in 1762, there appeared among his common-place books, a thin MS. containing some Jacobite ballads against the house of Hanover, panegyrics to and upon doctor Swift, some gallant rebuses and odes, and a few other things, all in very plebeian numbers; and an epistle on redeeming our precious time, addressed to his father-in-law John Eslington, esq. But if his lordship had lost his time before, he by no means employed it better on this essay.

PIECES