

THE
FIRST TWO STUARTS
AND THE
PURITAN REVOLUTION

1603—1660

BY
SAMUEL RAWSON GARDINER

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LECTURER ON MODERN HISTORY AT KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.

WITH FOUR MAPS

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CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

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PREFACE.

THE present volume is a companion to the one on the "Thirty Years' War," and it has therefore been unnecessary to break the course of the narrative by constant references to events passing on the Continent, which will be easily brought before the reader who consults the chronological contents at the beginning of the two books.

In England, happier than France or Germany, the problem of religious liberty was worked out in close connection with the problem of parliamentary government. England did not, even temporarily, cease to be a nation, as Germany did; nor did it, like France, surrender its power to control events into the hands of a single man. The interest of its history in the seventeenth century lies in the efforts made to secure a double object—the control of the nation over its own destinies, and the liberty of the public expression of thought, without which parliamentary government is only a refined form of tyranny.

The present volume only professes to recount a part

of this struggle. The epoch comes to its proper end in the volume which is to follow it in the series. Even of this first part, too, I can only profess to tell a portion from the results of personal investigation. After the year 1634 I have to depend upon the researches of others, and I have very little doubt that in many cases the opinions expressed would be modified by fuller knowledge, and that even the facts would turn out not to be altogether in accordance with my statements.

Those who wish to consult histories on a larger scale, will find by far the best general history of the period in Ranke's "History of England principally in the Seventeenth Century," which has recently been translated. In even greater detail are Mr. Spedding's "Letters and Life of Lord Bacon," Mr. Forster's "Life of Sir John Eliot," his essays on "The Grand Remonstrance," and the "Arrest of the Five Members," Professor Masson's "Life of Milton," Mr. Sanford's "Studies of the Great Rebellion," and Mr. Carlyle's "Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell." Those who care to see what I may have to say on the earlier part of the period will find in three books—"A History of England from the Accession of James I. to the Disgrace of Chief Justice Coke;" "Prince Charles and the Spanish Marriage;" and "A History of England under the Duke of Buckingham and Charles I."—a connected history from 1603 to 1628, which will, I hope, be carried on further, before any unreasonably long time elapses.

The maps have been constructed from Clarendon and other familiar sources, and, though they may be incorrect in some points, I hope they will give a clearer idea of the course of the war than is to be gathered from any written narrative. The first will show how far the statement is true that the wealthiest portion of England attached itself to the Parliament, and brings out distinctly the enormous comparative wealth of London. The calculations on which it is founded are derived from a statement in Rushworth, corrected in the instance of the County of Durham, from the original entry in the Privy Council Register. The second map may be said to express the natural strength of the King's party; for, though Oxford was not held by him at the actual commencement of the war, it took his side too vigorously to be counted as a mere enforced accession of strength. The third map shows the King's fortunes at their highest point, just before the Scottish army invaded England, and the fourth gives the position just before the New Model army set out to combat the King.

The dates, unlike those in the volume on "The Thirty Years' War," are given according to the old style.

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