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**The Life of Edward Earl of Clarendon, Lord High Chancellor of England,
and Chancellor of the University of Oxford**

**Clarendon, Edward Hyde of
Basil, 1798**

Universitätsbibliothek Basel

Shelf Mark: UBH Rb 1345:1-5

Persistent Link: <https://doi.org/10.3931/e-rara-92828>

Preface

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T H E
P R E F A C E.

*T*HE Reader can desire no better Recommendation of the History now published, than to be assured that it is the genuine Work of the great Earl of Clarendon. The Work itself bears plain Characteristics of its Author. The same Dignity of Sentiment, and Style, which distinguishes THE HISTORY OF THE REBELLION, and all other the Works of this noble Writer, breathes through the whole of this Performance.

THE Reason, why this History has lain so long concealed, will appear from the * Title of it, which shows that his Lordship intended it only for the Information of his Children, But the late Lord Hyde, judging that so faithful and authentic an Account of this interesting Period of our History would be an useful and acceptable Present to the Public, and bearing a grateful Remembrance of this Place of his Education, left by his Will this, and the other Remains of his Great Grandfather, in the Hands of Trustees, to be printed at our Press, and directed that the Profits arising from the Sale should be employed towards the establishing a Riding-School in the

* See Continuation, Page 1.

University, But Lord Hyde dying before his Father, the then Earl of Clarendon, the Property of those Papers never became vested in him, and consequently this Bequest was void. However, the noble Heiresses of the Earl of Clarendon, out of their Regard to the Public, and to this Seat of Learning, have been pleased to fulfil the kind Intentions of Lord Hyde, and adopt a Scheme recommended both by him, * and his Great Grandfather. To this End They have sent to the University this History to be printed at our Press, on Condition that the Profits arising from the Publication or Sale of this Work be applied, as a Beginning for a Fund for supporting a Manage, or Academy for Riding, and other useful Exercises, in Oxford.

THE Work here offered to the Public consists of two Parts. The Second, which is the most important and interesting Part of the Work, is THE HISTORY OF THE EARL OF CLARENDON'S LIFE FROM THE YEAR 1660 TO 1667, from the Restoration to the Time of his Banishment, and includes in it the most memorable Transactions of those Times. It may be therefore considered in two Views. It is a Second Part of LORD CLARENDON'S LIFE: And is also a Continuation of his former History, entitled THE HISTORY OF THE REBELLION, from the Year 1660, where that ends, to the Year 1667. This is carefully printed, without any material Variations, from a Manuscript all of Lord

* See his Dialogue on Education, Page 325, &c.

Clarendon's own Hand-writing, excepting some few Pages in the Hand of his Amanuensis, which are only Transcripts from two Papers, the one, a Letter from the Chancellor to the King on the Subject of his Majesty's declared Displeasure; the other, a Paper containing his Reasons for withdrawing himself, which He left behind him to be presented to the House of Peers.

TO this our noble Benefactresses have thought fit to prefix, as a First Part, THE HISTORY OF THE EARL OF CLARENDON'S LIFE, FROM HIS BIRTH, TO THE YEAR 1660, extracted from another Manuscript of Lord Clarendon's own Hand-writing. This other Manuscript is entitled by his Lordship, THE HISTORY OF HIS OWN LIFE, and contains likewise the Substance of THE HISTORY OF THE REBELLION. However, it is not the Manuscript from whence that History was printed, but appears rather to be the rough Draught from whence that History, or however great Part of it, was afterwards compiled. For although He tells us towards the Close of this Work, that He wrote the first four Books of THE HISTORY OF THE REBELLION in the Island of Jersey, (many Years before the Date of this HISTORY OF HIS LIFE) yet He likewise informs us, that He did not proceed to complete that History till after his Banishment. It is therefore supposed by the Family (and the Supposition seems to carry with it great Probability) that, seeing an unjust and cruel Persecution prevail against him, He was induced at

that Time to extend the original Plan of his Work, by introducing the particular History of his own Life, from his earliest Days down to the Time of his Disgrace, as the most effectual Means of vindicating his Character, wickedly traduced by his Enemies, and artfully misrepresented to a Master, whom He had long and faithfully served, whose Countenance and Favor being transferred to the Authors and Abettors of his Ruin, might probably in the Eyes of the World, give too much Color to their Aspersions. But afterwards, on more mature Thoughts, his great Benevolence, and public Spirit, prevailed on him to drop the Defence of his own private Character, and resume his original Plan of THE HISTORY OF THE REBELLION. However his noble Descendants, willing to do Justice to the Memory of their Great Grandfather, and thinking it might be also of Service to the Public to deliver his Exemplary Life as complete, as They could authentically collect it, have caused such Parts of this Manuscript, as related to the Earl of Clarendon's private Life, to be extracted, and according to their Direction it is printed.

The Directions are as follows.

“ THE LIFE OF LORD CHANCELLOR CLARENDON
 “ FROM HIS BIRTH TO THE RESTORATION OF THE
 “ ROYAL FAMILY, is extracted from a large Manuscript in his own Hand-writing, in which is contained what has already been printed in THE

THE PREFACE.

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“ HISTORY OF THE REBELLION; and therefore
 “ Care has been taken to transcribe only what has
 “ never yet been published: But as those Passages
 “ are often intermixed with the History already
 “ printed, it has been found necessary to preserve
 “ Connexion, by giving * Abstracts of some Parts
 “ of the printed History, with References to the
 “ Pages, where the Reader may be satisfied more
 “ at large. And, as great Pains have been taken to
 “ put this First Part in the Order it now stands, it
 “ is desired that in this first Edition it may be printed
 “ exactly after the Copy to be sent.

“ THE original Manuscript of THE CONTINUA-
 “ TION OF LORD CHANCELLOR CLARENDON’S LIFE
 “ FROM 1660 TO 1667 INCLUSIVE is very incorrect,
 “ many Words being omitted, that must necessarily
 “ be supplied: But it is desired that no other Alter-
 “ ations may be made, except in the Orthography,
 “ or where literal, or grammatical Errors require
 “ it, or where little Inaccuracies may have escaped
 “ the Attention of the Author. The Work must be
 “ printed entire, as it now stands, no Part of it left
 “ out, not an Abstract, nor a Reference omitted.”

*THESE Directions have been punctually observed.
 The Second Part is printed from his Lordship’s Manu-
 scripts entire, without any Omission, or Variation,*

* Those Passages are indented. Those printed in *Italics*, Pages
 134. 185. 201, the Note Page 225, and some others still less material,
 were added with the same View.

except as above. And with Regard to the First Part, the Extraël sent to us has been carefully compared with the Original Manuscript itself, and found to agree: So that the Whole here offered to the Public is the genuine Work of the Lord Chancellor CLARENDON. And both these Valuable Original Manuscripts are given to the Uinversity by our noble Benefactresses, to be deposited in the Public Library.