

**LETTERS FROM SIR
ROBERT CECIL TO
SIR GEORGE CAREW**

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Letters from Sir Robert Cecil to Sir George Carew by John Maclean

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JOHN MACLEAN

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FROM
SIR ROBERT CECIL
TO
SIR GEORGE CAREW.

"THIS BOOKE CONTAYNETH A REMAYNDER OF MR. SECRETARY CECYLL HIS L'RES,
LEFT VNSHURT, TO THE LO. PRESIDENT OF MOUNTEN DURINGE HIS THREE YEARES
OF GOVERNMENT THERE."—*Lamb. MSS. 604.*

EDITED BY
JOHN MACLEAN,
FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, &c.



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PREFACE.

THE two distinguished Statesmen immediately connected with the Correspondence printed in the following pages are too well known in history to need any introduction to the Members of the Camden Society. The letters, however, are so characteristic of the writer, and throw so much light on the policy pursued by the Court of Queen Elizabeth in the affairs of Ireland during the latter years of her reign, that they cannot fail to be interesting, not only to the student of Irish history of that period, but also, generally, to historical scholars.

When we consider the nature of many of these letters, and the cautious character of the writer, it is not a little surprising that they should remain extant. It is true Sir Robert Cecil did his best to secure their destruction. Many of them were intended to be strictly secret. It will be observed that for the sake of security

Cecil requests his friend Carew as soon as he has perused the letters to return them to the writer, and in other cases he expresses a desire that they may be immediately burnt. This was doubtless the fate of much of the Correspondence, for above the Table of Contents in the volume of MSS. it is written: "This booke containeth a remaynder of M^r Secretary Cecyll his lettres, left vnburnt, to the Lo: President of Mounster duringe his 3 yeares of goverment there."

It is to be regretted that the whole of the Correspondence should not have been preserved. The replies to these letters would have possessed peculiar interest. Knowing Sir George Carew's acquisitive habits I long entertained a hope of being able to find copies of his letters to Cecil, either at Lambeth or in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. As Carew preserved the originals, notwithstanding the injunctions of the writer that they should be destroyed, it seemed to me exceedingly probable that he would have retained a record of the replies. After a careful search, however, in both the depositories mentioned, the Editor fears no such record exists, unless the originals shall have been preserved

by Cecil, and be hereafter found among the treasures at Hatfield.

Sir George Carew on his death bequeathed his MSS. and printed books to Sir Thomas Stafford, from whom they passed to Archbishop Laud. In what manner that prelate acquired them, whether by bequest or otherwise, is unknown. Sir Thomas Stafford's will is not traced in the Registry of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. By Laud the documents, which extend to some forty volumes, were deposited in the Library at Lambeth, with the exception of four volumes, which are preserved in the Laudian Collection in the Bodleian.

J. M.