

**THE
AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF
ANNE LADY HALKETT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649487035

The Autobiography of Anne Lady Halkett by John Gough Nichols

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JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS

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Murray
ANNE LADY HALKETT.

EDITED BY
JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS, F.S.A., &c.



PRINTED FOR THE CAMDEN SOCIETY.

M.DCCC.LXXV.

1875

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Br 73.4.75.2
~~Eng. Lit. 390~~

1875. Nov. 22,
Hollie Arnold.

WESTMINSTER :
PRINTED BY NICHOLS AND SONS,
25, PARLIAMENT STREET.

[NEW SERIES XIII.]

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INTRODUCTION.

NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR.—Where there are obvious mistakes in the text I have made the correction which Mr. Nichols would have made in revising his MS. noting at the foot his original words. I have also added a few words at the end, founded on the Life published at Edinburgh. Mr. Nichols has left a large number of notes, of which he would doubtless have made ample use, and he had collected a number of Lady Halkett's Meditations, of which a few specimens are printed in the Appendix.

This fragment of Lady Halkett's autobiography having been printed without comment, it appears to the Editor the most convenient course to take a review of its contents, and to combine with a summary thereof such other particulars derived from collateral sources as may at once enlighten the obscurity in which Lady Halkett studiously wrote, and also enable the reader to appreciate more thoroughly the value of the historical information which she actually imparts.

Lady Halkett is already known in the catalogue of female authors from the publication of some of her religious writings which was made in the year 1701, and from the "Life" which is prefixed to them. That life was derived in part from the a[uto-biography] now printed. [It was re-published in 1778]^a and it appears in an abridged shape in Ballard's *Memoirs of Learned Ladies*, 4to. 17[52], and 8vo. 17[75].

Anne Murray was born in London on the 4th of January, 1622, the younger daughter of Thomas Murray,^b the preceptor and sub-

^a In MS. "and pu in 1778." Amongst Mr. Nichols's notes there is the copy of the title-page of the "Meditations on the twenty-fifth Psalm." But I have not seen it, and as it is not mentioned here I conclude that it does not contain the title.—S. R. G.

^b From some unaccountable misapprehension the biographer of 1701 calls him "Mr. Robert Murray" instead of Thomas; an error which is followed by Ballard and his copyists.

sequently Secretary to Prince Charles (afterwards King Charles I.), by Jane Drummond. In the memoirs now printed she commences her narrative by allusion to her parents, of whose extraction she declares she had no reason to be ashamed, as her father was descended from the family of the Earl of Tillebardine, and her mother from that of the Earl of Perth. The former dignity was conferred only in 1606, and the latter in 1605, therefore it was only collaterally that her parents could be related to those earls, nor has the degree of Lady Halkett's consanguinity to them been ascertained.

Her father, Thomas Murray, was already tutor to Charles Duke of York in 1605, when that prince was [in his fifth year].^a An annuity of two hundred marks was granted to him on the 28th June in that year,^b the patent for which he surrendered on the 27th Jan. 1613-14.

Little more than a twelvemonth after, Anne Murray lost her mother. There was probably some notice of this event in the leaf now lost from the manuscript,^c which will be partially supplied by the following passage from the printed Life of 1701:

— Her mother's affections who ——— ever after treated her more as a friend than a child, and sometime before her death made over to her, by assignation, a bond of the Earl of Kianoul of 2,000 *lib. ster.*, which she received with all gratitude, as a new obligation to be more dutiful and diligent in attending upon her, especially being now more infirm and sickly; which, with great care and concern, she performed, ministering to her all the spiritual and bodily help she was capable to afford. This made a very comfortable and indearing impression upon her dying mother, and filled her heart with joy in finding not only the tender affection of her daughter, but much more, the

^a Five (?) years of age.—MS.

^b Rymer's *Fœdera*, xvi. 681.

^c See p. 19.

refreshing fruits of her piety and devotion. She died the 28 August, 1647, and was buried near her husband in the Savoy church.

On the 4th January, 160[9?], Mr. Murray received an additional reward in the sinecure office of Master of Sherburn Hospital, near Durham, to which "he was collated by dispensation, contrary to the statute;"^a but he retained the position until his death.

In August, 1621, he was involved in temporary disgrace in consequence of his having allowed his royal pupil to receive and peruse, without the King's knowledge, a treatise which had been written by Dr. George Hakewill,^b one of the Prince's chaplains, in opposition to the suggested match of his Highness with the Infanta of Spain. The doctor, William Hakewill his brother, Mr. Murray, and others who were privy to this business, were sent to the Tower of London.

By this well-intentioned but injudicious effort Dr. Hakewill's promotion was effectually checked, for he never attained higher preferment than that of the Archdeaconry of Surrey, which he held previously, and he was dismissed the Prince's service; but Mr. Murray probably substantiated his non-complicity to the King's satisfaction, for, within a very few months, he received the important favour of being nominated to the Provostship of Eton upon the death of the learned Sir Henry Saville. His election to that office was made on the 23rd February, 1621-2.

In 1622, only a twelvemonth after his temporary disgrace, we find him feasting the Marquis of Buckingham at Eton College, the Spanish match being then publicly acknowledged and regarded as likely^c to be accomplished. But Mr. Murray's enjoyment of his good fortune was short. He died on the 9th April, 1623, at the

^a Surtees's *History of Durham*, i. 142. [The date is not given here, but it is stated that his predecessor died in Dec. 1608].

^b See the *Life of Hakewill* in Wood, *Athenae Oxon.* (edit. Bliss) lii. 254.

^c Letter of Mr. Chamberlain to Sir Dudley Carleton [Aug. 10, 1622] in *Court and Times of James I.* ii. 325.