

**LETTERS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS
ILLUSTRATING THE RELATIONS
BETWEEN ENGLAND AND GERMANY
AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE
THIRTY YEAR'S WAR**

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Letters and Other Documents Illustrating the Relations Between England and Germany at the Commencement of the Thirty Year's War by Samuel Rawson Gardiner

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SAMUEL RAWSON GARDINER

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COMMENCEMENT OF THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR.

FROM THE OUTBREAK OF THE REVOLUTION IN BOHEMIA TO THE
ELECTION OF THE EMPEROR FERDINAND II.

EDITED BY
SAMUEL RAWSON GARDINER,
LATE STUDENT OF CHRISTCHURCH.



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PREFACE.

It is seldom that events which have taken place upon the Continent have affected the course of English history so deeply as the struggle between the two religious parties in Germany which lit up the flames of the Thirty Years' War. The second growth of Puritanism, and the anti-monarchical feeling which reached its culminating point in the reign of Charles I., may be distinctly traced to the dissatisfaction of the nation with the desertion by James of his Protestant allies.

The general character of James's diplomacy has long been one of the common places of history. What it was in detail no one has yet inquired. And yet it would seem to be necessary to the forming of a just estimate of the foreign policy of the Parliaments of 1621 and 1624 to arrive at some correct idea of the real nature of the diplomacy which they denounced.

The present volume is an attempt to fill up to some extent this gap in our history by means of documents which, with three or four exceptions, have been hitherto unpublished. The interesting despatches of Doncaster were consulted by Mrs. Green, and quotations have been introduced by her in her Lives of the Princesses, but she has almost exclusively confined her choice to passages which relate to the personal history of the Electress Palatine.

This volume forms a complete work in itself, carrying down the history of English diplomacy in Germany to a definite period. Materials have however been collected for another series which will

illustrate the missions of Dohna and Buwinckhausen to England, and the vacillation of James consequent upon the acceptance of the Crown of Bohemia by his son-in-law.

I have only to add, that, unless when I have specially noticed the exception, Doncaster's despatches are all in the hand of his Secretary Nethersole, and signed only by himself; and that the marginal notes appended to letters received by Sir Robert Naunton are in his own handwriting. I have only printed them where they seemed to throw light upon the letter on which they were written. Sometimes they had reference to other subjects, or were mere catch-words inserted to direct the reader's eye to certain passages in the text.



INTRODUCTION.

In the history of religious liberty local toleration precedes personal toleration. It was in the nature of things that, before individuals were acknowledged to possess the right of believing and worshipping as they pleased, it must have been decided whether States themselves were to be allowed the right of adopting a religion which was obnoxious to other members of the European commonwealth.

At one time it seemed as if the German States, in the midst of which the Protestant doctrines had been first heard, would also have been the first to establish complete protection to the several states in their own religious developement. By the Peace of Augsburg in 1555 each State of the Empire was acknowledged to have the right of regulating its own religious affairs.

The celebrated maxim *Cujus regio ejus religio* is rarely mentioned now except with obloquy. It is seldom remembered that in truth it was a landmark in the path to freedom. For it was directed not against the individual but against the Emperor. That individual liberty was intolerable was acknowledged by every one. The only question was who the persecutor was to be.

The smallness of the German territories was undoubtedly conducive to theological bitterness. Nowhere were clerical cliques so narrow-minded, nowhere was the circle of orthodoxy fenced about with such careful restrictions, as in the petty states of the Empire. But the same cause which narrowed the creed and soured the temper of the Court divines, rendered the lot of the persecuted