

**BOTHWELL: (JAMES HEPBURN,  
FOURTH EARL OF BOTHWELL,  
THIRD  
HUSBAND OF MARY, QUEEN OF  
SCOTS.); AN HISTORICAL DRAMA**

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Bothwell: (James Hepburn, Fourth Earl of Bothwell, Third Husband of Mary, Queen of Scots.);  
An Historical Drama by John Watts De Peyster

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**JOHN WATTS DE PEYSTER**

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James Hepburn,  
Fourth Earl of Bothwell.  
Third Husband of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scotland.

# BOTHWELL:

(JAMES HEPBURN, FOURTH EARL OF BOTHWELL, THIRD HUSBAND  
OF MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS.)

AN HISTORICAL DRAMA.



Dragsholm.

*"Not myself, but the word that in life I have spoken;  
Not myself, but the deed that in life I have done;  
Shall pass on to ages, all about me forgotten,  
Save the truth I have spoken, the deed I have done."*

H. BONAR.

BY

★ JOHN WATTS DE PEYSTER. ★

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1884.

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II 98 B6

PLEASURES OF THOUGHT.

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"If thou hast thrown a glorious thought  
Upon Life's common ways,  
Should other men the gain have caught,  
*Pret not to lose the praise.*

"GREAT THINKER, often thou shalt find,  
*While Folly plunders Fame,*  
To thy rich store the crowd is blind,  
Nor knows thy very name.

"What matters that, if thou uncoil  
The soul that God has given,  
Not in the world's mean eye to toil,  
But in the sight of Heaven?

"If thou art true, yet in thee lurks  
For Fame a human sigh--  
To Nature go, and see how works,  
That handmaid of the sky.

"Her own deep bounty she forgets  
Is full of germs and seeds;  
Nor glorifies herself, nor sets  
Her flowers above her weeds.

"She hides the modest leaves between,  
She loves untrodden roads;  
*Her richest treasures are not seen  
By any eye but God's.*

"Accept the lesson! *Look not for  
Reward; from out thee chase  
All selfish ends, and ask no more  
Than to fulfil thy place!*"

"DRIFTED SNOW FLAKES."

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Bequest

Albert August Clemons

Aug. 24, 1938

(Not available for exchange)



# BOTHWELL :

AN HISTORICAL DRAMA.

## INTRODUCTION.

"It is difficult to estimate facts delivered under circumstances which deprive the testimony of all moral value ; when falsehood is not an accident, but a property of the speaker's character, and is not the error of a moment or the crime of an individual ; but an organic system." "Nimrod," II., 494 ; HUGO'S "Anacalypsis," II., 42.

Quite a library of works had been already collected and consulted and compared with others almost as numerous in public libraries, before the writer gave to the world the first of his Trilogy, entitled "Mary Queen of Scots : A Study." After that was published, he found that the subject had enlisted the pens of able men all over Europe, whose works were unknown in this country and some of them even in England and Scotland, except to a very small number whose studies led in this particular direction. Orders were immediately sent out to different book-centres and a number of rare as well as recent treatises rewarded the search.

The second of the Trilogy, "James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell : A Vindication," was a work of much less labor than the first. Shortly after this appeared, still farther research revealed new authorities ; and after an examination, analysis and comparison, even more elaborate than the two previous ones, appeared the Third of the Trilogy : "An Inquiry into the Career and Character of Mary Stuart (*"Orux Criticorum"*), ("The puzzle of critics"), and a Justification of Bothwell. (*"Audire est opera Pretium."*) ("What is herein disclosed is worthy of attention.") Scarcely had this been published when a number of catalogues, containing the names of still further authorities, which had escaped previous inquests, were transmitted from various



friends, collectors, librarians and students; and, as the result of all this, the writer's private library on Mary Stuart, which at first required only one large case, would now fill several.

At Edinburgh, Scotland, 1883, was published a very interesting work, by the Reverend Joseph Stevenson, S. J. (Jesuit), entitled "The History of Mary Stuart, from the Murder of Rizzio until her Flight into England. By Claude Nau, her secretary. Now first printed from the original manuscripts, with illustrative papers from the secret archives of the Vatican and other collections in Rome."

Doubtless, besides this manuscript of Nau, others of equal importance, perhaps, lie hidden among the uncollated documents of some of the public libraries in Rome, Spain, Paris, England and Scotland, or among the family archives of prominent Scottish families, whose ancestors were connected with events transpiring during the reign of Mary Stuart. Such documents may also exist in the collections left by the descendants of the envoys or agents sent over by the French Government to the Court of Mary. Careful search might even discover something contemporary among the papers left behind by the different representatives of England, in Scotland, between the dates of the birth of Mary and the accession of James, her son, to the crowns of Scotland and England. There should be documents of the highest importance relating to Bothwell in the appropriate public depositories at Copenhagen or some of the Royal Residences—although so many of the latter have been destroyed by fire that it would be very easy to account for the absence of such authorities. Nor should the possibility of solving problems of the greatest interest, now involved in mystery, in regard to the last years of Bothwell, be abandoned until the last scrap of parchment or paper preserved by the families of the nobility of Scania, has been scrutinized with extreme care. Something might even be found at Stockholm or Upsala, whither so many old collections gradually found their way; or at Skokloster, that castle-mine<sup>or</sup> bonanza of the secrets and curiosities of the past, since the fingers of the Wrangels seem to have been like those of Jack Sheppard, perfect "lime twigs," to which everything remarkable that came in contact with them was almost sure to adhere.

The names of the works obtained, as well as of those examined (if

the latter are not too numerous), will be appended to complete the "List of Authorities," published at pages 209, 210, 211, of Number Three of the Trilogy previously referred to.

The fact is, that the investigation of the careers and characters of Mary Stuart and of Bothwell, which at first was an amusement or an occupation, has become almost a passion; because the deeper that the writer has plunged into historical research, the more convincing has become the proof that in these, as in very many other cases, political, personal and religious prejudices and partialities, falsehood, not truth, have painted the portraits of the unfortunate Queen, and the still more unfortunate Bothwell, her third husband—the latter the most unhappy in life as well as in death,—seeing that Mary has found a multitude of defenders; whereas those who champion her cause vie with her worst enemies in striving to blacken the character of Bothwell; seeming to be convinced within themselves that one among the surest methods to rehabilitate her character is to demonstrate that she was the victim of a villain, Bothwell; whereas he, in fact, was victim of her, as well as of her bastard brother, the Earl of Murray, finally Regent of Scotland—than whom a falsar man and in many respects a greater political villain never lived: except in so far that, in a period of barbarism and sensuality, he found sufficient employment in accomplishing the ruin of Mary, Bothwell, Darnley, in fact whoever stood in his way; to let the three German W's, "*Wein, Weibern und Wurfel*,"—Wine or was-sail, women and gambling; especially women, as paramours, of whom to his sorrow his father, James V., was so fond, severely alone.

Among the many curious books on this subject obtained from Germany, is one entitled "*Maria, Königin von Schottland*, von Friedrich Gentz. Braunschweig, 1799."

It is a diminutive quarto and presents, together with a certainly unique portrait, two other engravings, one of the Murder of Rizzio, and the other of Mary taking leave of her servants before execution:—but the most curious feature of it is, that few of the pages are of equal size—some are quarto shape, some duodecimo, and some even more irregular in shape.

Another even more curious work, entitled "*La Cour Sainte De. R. Pere Nicolas Caussin de la compagnie de Jesus*. Mise en vu Bel

Ordre. Avec une notable augmentation des Vies des personnes illustres de la Cour, tant du vieil que du nouveau Testament. Et augmentée en cette dernière Edition de la vie de l'Auteur et de diverses Histoires. [Two volumes in one. Folio, large.] A Paris, chez Jean. Dr. Bray, rue Sainte Iaques, aux Espics meurs et au Chapelier (?) M.DC.LIII. avec privilege, et approbation."

The likeness of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, attached to this book very much resembles a number in the possession of the writer (who has collected perhaps a hundred different engravings, &c.), and presents an additional proof that Mary's fascination lay more in her "marvelous agreableness," her grace, accomplishments, language, manner and expression, than in the mere physical beauties of form, face and features, by which the vast majorities of the male sex are completely carried away.

Without putting much faith in the statements of a member of the Society of Jesus—a Jesuit; nevertheless, on the principle, that the devil may quote Scripture appositely—Father Caussin is not far out of the way in his estimate of the Earl of Murray. He says (II. 308), "that he was a dangerous and dissolute man." If by "dissolute" he means a man whose ambition knew no restraint of morals, he is perfectly correct, and especially when he adds that Murray was a mere instrument in the hands of Queen Elizabeth, and scattered the seeds that germinated and produced a harvest of tragedies. After having filled his lungs with breath of a furious and turbulent ambition, which was breathed into them by Knox, the patriarch of the Scottish Reformers, Murray never ceased to assume the quality of Regent and aspire to the authority of King without sparing any detestable wickedness by which he could arrive at the goal of his desires. To avert Mary's marriage with a foreign prince, which might have buttressed her own with a sufficient power to assert her authority, he managed to throw her into the arms of Darnley, hoping thereby to insure the real administration to himself. Finding that, in consequence of Mary's passion for her boy-husband, he, Murray, was likely to fail of his object, he determined to get rid of the latter. Murray possessed at the Court of Scotland an agent in the Earl of Morton, who was nothing more than his *Alter Ego*. To him he confided the commission of throw-