

**THE DRAMATIC WORKS OF
SHACKERLEY MARMION.
WITH PREFATORY MEMOIR,
INTRODUCTION AND NOTES**

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The Dramatic Works of Shackerley Marmion. With Prefatory Memoir, Introduction and Notes
by Shackerley Marmion

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AND NOTES.



MDCCLXXV.

EDINBURGH: WILLIAM PATERSON.
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TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

John Duke, Lord Coleridge,

OF OTTERY ST. MARY,

DEVON,

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,

ONE OF A FAMILY EMINENT IN LITERATURE,

A DISTINGUISHED LAWYER AND AN UPRIGHT JUDGE,

THIS VOLUME IS INSCRIBED

BY

HIS OBLIGED AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS

THE EDITORS,

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PREFATORY NOTICE.

THE name of the author of the following plays, three in number, has been variously spelt and its correct pronunciation consequently rendered doubtful. On the title-page of the first play, printed in 1632, he is called "Schackerley Marmyon, Master of Arts;" next year, on the second, he is entered as "Shakerley Marmyon;" and, thirdly, in 1641, he appears as "Shackerly Mermion, Gent." Although Mr Singer, in his elegant reprint of this author's Poem of Cupid and Psyche, which emanated from the Chiswick Press in 1820, inclines to call him Shakerley Marmion, our bias, guided by the preponderance of authority, is in favour of his being designated "Shackerley Marmion."

Shakerly, however, was an ancient family name in England. Francis, fifth Earl of Shrewsbury, who died on 25th September 1560, according to Collins,* took as his second wife "Grace, daughter of Robert Shakerley of Little Longdon in Derbyshire, Esq., but had no issue by her." Lodge says she was the widow of Robert Shakerley of Holme in Cheshire.

The name was territorial, and the chief of the family was Sir Jeffrey Shakerly of Shakerly, in the county of Lancaster. His eldest son George married Anne, youngest daughter of Sir Walter Bagot of Bagot, who died 15th February 1704, in the sixtieth year of his age.

Shackerley Marmion, it is surmized by Singer, "was descended from the ancient and noble family of the Marmions of Scrivelsby," in whom was

* Collins' Peerage by Sir E. Brydges, Vol. III., page 23.

vested the hereditary right to appear at the coronation of the Sovereigns of England as Champion. Of Mr Singer's assertion there is no legal evidence, but it is certainly true that the Office of King's Champion was inherited by the Marmions of Scrivelsby.

The Marmions, Lords of Fontney in Normandy, came over with William the Conqueror, being represented in the person of Robert de Marmion, who obtained a grant of the castle and town of Tamworth, in the county of Warwick, as well as of the manor of Scrivelsby in Lincolnshire, the tenure of the latter being hereditary service as Royal Champion, at coronations; an office which it is said his ancestors had exercised in relation to the Dukes of Normandy. The family became extinct in the 20th Edward I, Philip de Marmion, the fifth Baron, having died without male issue. His grand-daughter, Mazera, having been married to Alexander de Freville, he, in right of his wife, succeeded to Tamworth Castle. At the coronation of Richard II., Sir Baldwin de Freville, Knight, their grandson, then holding Tamworth Castle, appeared in virtue of the tenure to perform the duty of Royal Champion—that is, to ride, completely armed, into Westminster Hall, upon a barbed steed, and there to challenge the combat with whomsoever should dare to oppose the King's title to the Crown, a service which the Barons de Marmion, his ancestors, had theretofore performed; but the preference was given to Sir John Dymoke, to whom the Manor of Scrivelsby had descended by an heir female of Sir Thomas Ludlowe, Knt., by Joane, youngest daughter and coheir of the said Philip, the last Baron Marmion of Tamworth. The representative of that family is till the present day Hereditary Champion of England. The Earls

Ferrers are the descendants, and possess the estates of the family of Freville.

The form and ceremony observed in introducing the Champion on the day of the Coronation of James II. is given in a History of his Coronation, "illustrated with exquisite Sculptures, and published by his Majesty's especial command, by Francis Sandford, Lancaster Herald of Arms, anno 1687:"—

"Before the second course was brought in, Sir Charles Dymoke, Knt., the King's Champion—son and heir of Sir Edward Dymoke, Knt., who performed the like service at the coronation of his Majesty Charles II.—completely armed in one of his majesty's best suits of white armour, mounted on a goodly white horse, richly caparisoned, entered the hall in manner following, viz. :—

"Two trumpets, with the champion's arms on their banner.

"The Serjeant trumpet, with his mace on his shoulder; two serjeants at arms, with their maces on their shoulders.

"The champion's two esquires, richly habited; one on the right hand, with the champion's lance carried upright; the other on the left hand, with his target, and the champion's arms depicted thereon.

"York Herald, with a paper in his hand, containing the words of the challenge.

"The champion on horseback, with a gauntlet in his right hand, his helmet on his head, adorned with a great plume of feathers, white, blue, and red.

On his right "The Earl Marshall in his robes and coronet on horseback, with marshall's staff in his hand." On his left "The Lord High Constable in his robes and coronet on horseback, with the constable's staff."

“ Four pages, richly apparelled, attendants on the Champion.

“ The passage to their Majesties' table being cleared by the Knight Marshall, York herald, with a loud voice, proclaimed the Champion's challenge, viz. :—

“ ‘ If any person, of what degree soever, high or low, shall deny or gainsay our Sovereign Lord King, &c., &c., &c., to be right heir to the imperial crown of this realm of England, or that he ought not to enjoy the same, here is his Champion, who saith that he lieth, and is a false traitor, being ready in person to combat with him ; and in this quarrel will adventure his life against him on what day soever he shall be appointed.’

“ And then the Champion threw down his gauntlet. The gauntlet having lain some short time, the said York herald took it up, and delivered it again to the Champion.

“ Then advancing in the same order to the middle of the hall, the said herald made proclamation as before, and the Champion threw down his gauntlet ; which, after having lain a little time, was taken up by the herald and delivered to him again.

“ Lastly, advancing to the foot of the steps, York herald, and those who preceded him, going to the top of the steps, made proclamation a third time, at the end whereof the Champion again cast down his gauntlet, which after some time being taken up and redelivered to him by the herald, he made a low obeisance to his Majesty. Whereupon his Majesty's Cup-bearer bringing to the King a gilt bowl of wine, with a cover, his Majesty drank to the Champion, and sent him the said bowl by the cup-bearer, accompanied with his assistants, which the Champion—having put on his gauntlet—