

**WESSEX WORTHIES (DORSET) WITH  
SOME ACCOUNT OF OTHERS  
CONNECTED WITH THE HISTORY OF  
THE COUNTY, AND NUMEROUS  
PORTRAITS AND ILLUSTRATIONS**

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Wessex worthies (Dorset) with some account of others connected with the history of the county, and numerous portraits and illustrations by J. J. Foster

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**J. J. FOSTER**

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Plate I.

**JOHN RUSSELL, 1st Earl of Bedford, K.G.**

[after *H. Holbein*]

By courtesy of the Duke of Bedford, K.G.

"VIRTUS POST FUNERA VIVIT."

# WESSEX WORTHIES

(DORSET)

With some account of others connected with the history  
of the County, and numerous Portraits and Illustrations.

By

J. J. FOSTER, F.S.A.

*Author of "The Stuarts in XVI, XVII and XVIII Century Art,"  
"British Miniature Painters and their Works," "Miniature Painters, British and Foreign,"  
"The True Portraiture of Mary Stuart," "French Art from Watteau to Prud'hon,"  
"Samuel Cooper and the English Miniature Painters  
of the XVII Century," etc., etc.*

WITH AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE BY

THOMAS HARDY, O.M.



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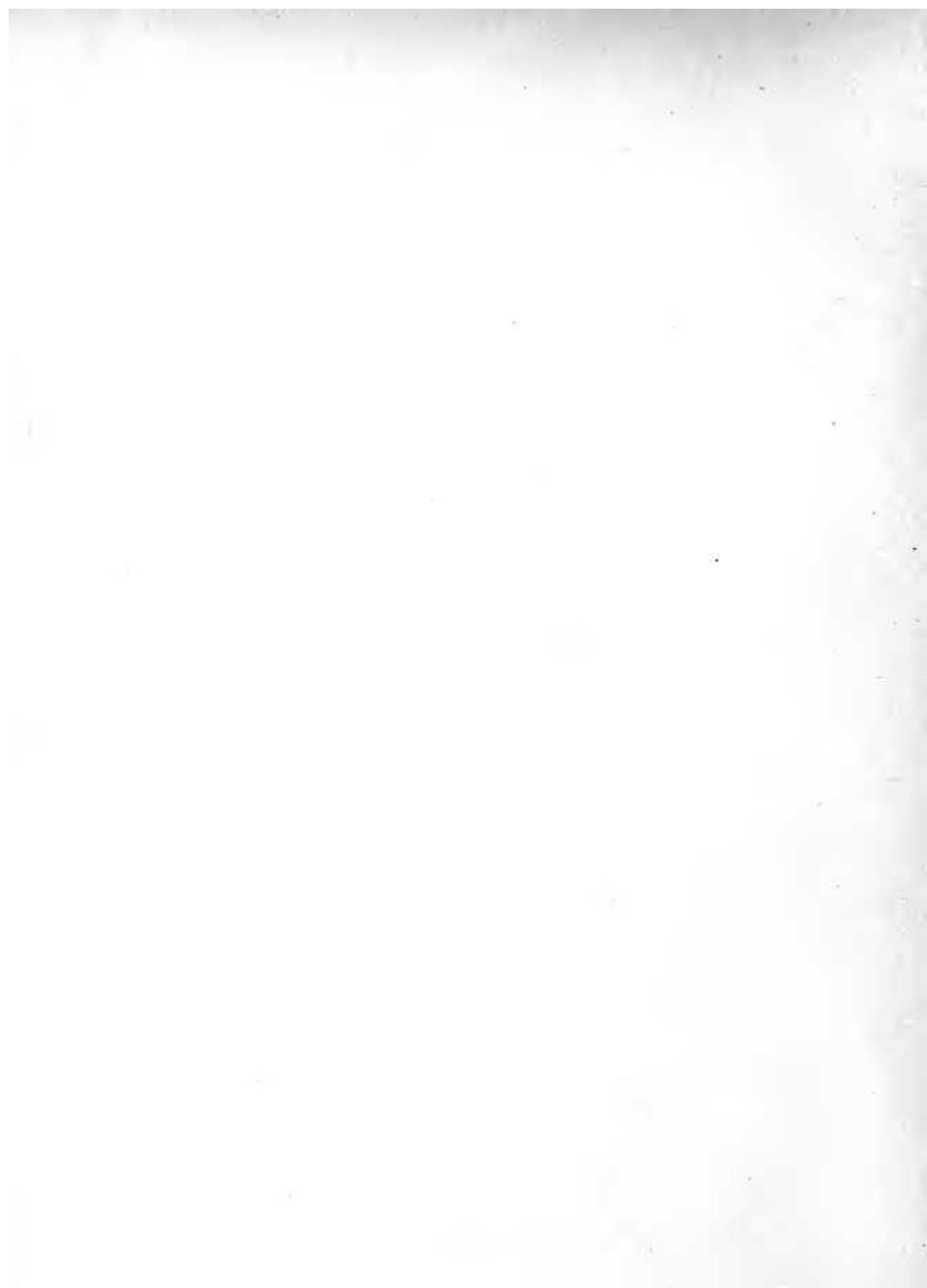


951 227 844

TO  
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS  
EDWARD, PRINCE OF WALES,  
DUKE OF CORNWALL, K.G.  
ETC., ETC.  
THIS WORK IS, BY SPECIAL PERMISSION,  
MOST RESPECTFULLY  
DEDICATED.

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## AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

IN discussing the aim of this book with a Dorset Worthy of the first order and happily still amongst us—Thomas Hardy to wit—the question arose: "What constitutes a Worthy? What are the qualifications required to entitle anyone to that name?" It is a question not so easily answered. On the one hand it may be urged that if a certain person has not been born in a given locality, such an one cannot be described as belonging to it. A man born in Durham has no right to be termed a Dorset Worthy, no matter how *worthy* in other respects he may be. On the other hand it may be said that it is not so much having been born in a county or district, as having taken part in its life in some definite way, perhaps to the extent of modifying its history; or of having so identified oneself with its people as to have a just claim to be remembered by them.

Take, for example, the case of Admiral Blake, born at Bridgwater in Somersetshire. It may have been fortuitous that Blake conducted the siege of Lyme Regis, but it proved to be an important thing for Lyme people, and associated him with them in a very intimate way. Thomas Fuller may be quoted as another instance; he was not born in Dorset, but living within its bounds for many years as rector of Broad Windsor, he became linked with the county by his interest and affection for it and its people. Again, Wordsworth wrote the "Borderers" at Racedown, where he lived for two or three years, but he cannot be said to have associated himself in any definite way with the life of the community there. Thus one does not associate Wordsworth with Dorset in any ordinary way, but one cannot think of Lyme Regis without remembering its history and the part which Admiral Blake played in it at a memorable time.

The conclusion would, therefore, seem to the present writer to be that if we are to exclude all those who were not actually born in the county, we should have to pass over some very interesting characters in English history—interesting at least in their fortunes or rather misfortunes—whose fate was bound up with Dorset inasmuch as it was the scene of some of the most vital

events in their career. So, then, the reader is asked to consent to the extension of the term "Wessex Worthy" to the inclusion of some account of such personages as Margaret of Anjou, Sir Walter Raleigh, Charles II and his unhappy son, the Duke of Monmouth, and others. But inasmuch as it is desirable to mark such persons as being only temporarily connected with the county, (and not belonging to its Worthies), the account which I here offer of them is placed separately at the end of the book.

So much for the term "Worthy." The word "Wessex," it may be observed, is a term which has come to have a popular meaning, felicitous and appropriate in itself no doubt, but no longer corresponding with its original use. The Wessex of the Saxon Chronicle comprised the counties of Hants, Dorset, Wilts, Somersetshire, Surrey, Gloucestershire and Bucks, whilst modern writers on the subject, such as Harper and Windle, have extended the borders of ancient Wessex as far as Exeter in the west, Aldershot on the east and Oxford to the north. But for the purposes of the present work let it be understood that the term is restricted to Dorset, and is used without reference to the old Kingdom of the West Saxons.

There remains the pleasant duty of expressing gratitude for assistance kindly afforded me. I am indebted to His Honour the Mayor of Boston, Mass., for information respecting the Rev. John White; and to the late Bishop of Durham for particulars relating to his family. Captain John Acland, F.S.A., Curator of the Dorset Museum; The Master of Balliol; the officials of the British Museum Print Room; the Town Clerk of Coventry; and numerous correspondents have helped me in various ways; to Mrs. C. W. Forster and Miss E. M. Foster I am much beholden for valuable assistance in reading the proofs and making the index—to all of these I tender my thanks, and last, but by no means least, to Mr. Thomas Hardy for valued suggestions, for his introductory note, and for permission to use his "Collected Poems."

Great pains have been taken to seek out subjects to illustrate the book, and, it is hoped, not without success. I desire to express my gratitude to the owners of the originals, for their kind permission to reproduce them. A few particulars in relation to the numerous interesting works here shown (some for the first time) may be given. The frontispiece is a fine portrait of the first Earl Russell, from the original picture at Woburn, ascribed to Holbein. The picturesque Elizabethan mansion, Wolfeton, where the founder of the fortunes of the house of Russell first met the Spanish Prince and Princess, is shewn. The portrait of Margaret of Anjou, the unfortunate Queen who sought refuge