

**A CHRONICLE OF THE  
FIRST THIRTEEN YEARS  
OF THE REIGN OF KING  
EDWARD THE FOURTH**

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A Chronicle of the First Thirteen Years of the Reign of King Edward the Fourth by John Warkworth

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**JOHN WARKWORTH**

**A CHRONICLE OF THE  
FIRST THIRTEEN YEARS  
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EDWARD THE FOURTH**



**WARKWORTH'S CHRONICLE**  
**OF THE**  
**FIRST THIRTEEN YEARS OF THE REIGN OF**  
**KING EDWARD THE FOURTH.**

A CHRONICLE  
OF THE  
FIRST THIRTEEN YEARS OF THE REIGN OF  
**KING EDWARD THE FOURTH,**  
BY JOHN WARKWORTH, D.D.  
MASTER OF ST. PETER'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

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EDITED, FROM THE MS. NOW IN THE LIBRARY OF ST. PETER'S COLLEGE,  
BY JAMES ORCHARD HALLIWELL, ESQ. F.R.S., F.S.A.  
OF JESUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE; CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY  
OF ANTIQUARIES OF FRANCE, &c. &c. &c.

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"Oftt eithes it is seeme that dyvers ther arne, the which forseene not the causis  
precedent and subsequent, for the which they fall many tymes into such arroure, that  
they abuse theymeself, and also othir theire sequacis, gheving credence to such as  
wrieten of affeccion, leving the trouth that was in dede."—*Hearne's Fragment*, p. 298.



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OF  
**THE CAMDEN SOCIETY,**  
ELECTED MAY 2, 1839.

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At a Meeting of the Council of THE  
CAMDEN SOCIETY, held at No. 25, Par-  
liament Street, Westminster, on Thursday  
the 3rd day of October 1839,

THOMAS AMYOT, Esq. Director, in the Chair,

IT WAS ORDERED,

THAT the thanks of the Council be given to  
the Master and Fellows of Saint Peter's College, Cam-  
bridge, for the courtesy and kindness with which they  
acceded to the request of the Council to be permitted to  
use the Manuscript Volume which contains the Original  
of the following Chronicle.

By order of the Council,

WILLIAM J. THOMS, *Secretary.*





## INTRODUCTION.

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MR. HUNTER, in the Appendix to the last Report of the Record Commissioners,\* was the first who noticed the existence of a singularly valuable and curious historical document preserved in the library of St. Peter's College, Cambridge, which had been extensively quoted by Leland in his *Collectanea* at the commencement of the sixteenth century. Leland extracts from a MS. volume of *Chronicles* given to the College by John Warkworth, who was then Master, the greater portion of which is a mere copy of Caxton's edition of the *Brute Chronicle*; and although, without the slightest notion of a judicious selection, that industrious transcriber has extracted as largely from the *Brute* as from the other part of the manuscript, yet his *Collectanea* has for three centuries been the only known receptacle † of a portion of the exceed-

\* Fol. Lond. 1837, p. 336, col. 2.

† Previously, however, to Mr. Hunter's notice, the manuscript itself had been mentioned, but not for an historical purpose, in Mr. Hartshorne's *Book Rarities of the University of Cambridge*, p. 300.

ingly curious facts recorded in Warkworth's own Chronicle, and would, perhaps, have been for three centuries longer, had not the antiquarian diligence of Mr. Hunter discovered its latent resting-place, and added one more to the many instances of valuable documents rescued from oblivion by that zealous and able historian.

The following Chronicle comprises a history of the first thirteen years of the reign of Edward the Fourth. "This eventful period," well observes Sir Henry Ellis, "though removed from us scarcely more than three centuries, is still among the darkest on our annals. Its records are confused, mutilated, and disjointed. They who wrote history in it, had no talents for the task; and there was a ferocity abroad among the partizans of both the rival houses, which prevented many from even assembling the materials of history."\* The paucity of documents illustrating this period has, indeed, long † been a matter of regret. To meet with one, then, so minute in particulars, abounding in new facts, and of indisputable authenticity, cannot but be a matter of congratulation to the historian.

It is quite unnecessary here to enlarge on the history of the period to which the following narrative relates. There is, however, one part of this diary, for in many

\* Original Letters. Second Series, vol. i. p. 94.

† Gentleman's Magazine, 1791, vol. 61, Pt. i. p. 222.

instances it is sufficiently minute to be called an occasional one, which must necessarily arrest the attention of every reader,—the account of the mysterious death of King Henry, expressed in such decided terms, and with such apparently perfect knowledge of every part of the transaction, as cannot fail to raise strong doubts of its authenticity. On a question of so dark a nature, no excuse will be needed for another writer entering into the controversy, with the aid of an additional auxiliary of powerful evidence.

Before I proceed further, I will place before the reader a few of the unpublished evidences I have collected relative to this transaction:—

1. "Obitus Regis Henrici Sexti, qui obiit *inter* vicesimum primum diem Maii et xxij<sup>m</sup>. diem Maii." MS. Bib. Reg. 2 B. xv. fol. 1, r<sup>o</sup>.

2. "Rex Henricus Sextus in arce Londoñ ferro transfigitur et occiditur." MS. Cotton. Otho, B. xiv. fol. 221, v<sup>o</sup>.

3. "Et Henricus, nuper Rex, reponitur in Turrim Londoñ, et, in vigiliâ Ascensionis dormiente, ibidem feliciter moriens, per Tamisiam navicula usque ad Abbatiam de Cheltosye deductus, ibi sepultus est." MS. Arundel, (College of Arms) No. 5, fol. 171, v<sup>o</sup>.

4. "Et in vigilia ascensionis moriebatur Rex Henricus Sextus in turri Londoniarum, qui quidem sepultus erat