

**THE LIFE OF MADAME DE
LONGUEVILLE (ANNE-
GENEVIÈVE DE BOURBON)**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649228256

The life of Madame de Longueville (Anne-Geneviève de Bourbon) by Mrs. Alfred Cock

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MRS. ALFRED COCK

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OF
MADAME DE LONGUEVILLE



W. Verelst. del. sculp.

*Anne-Geneviève de Bourbon
Duchesse de Longueville
from the portrait in the Palace of Versailles.*

London: Printed and Sold by J. B. Nichols, in Pall Mall.

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MADAME DE LONGUEVILLE

(ANNE-GENEVIÈVE DE BOURBON)

BY
MRS ALFRED COCK

WITH A PORTRAIT

LONDON
SMITH, ELDER, & CO., 15 WATERLOO PLACE
1899

127997
22/5/13

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MADAME DE LONGUEVILLE

INTRODUCTION

FEW women in history have come down to us with such a living personality as Madame de Longueville. The excellent portraits of her which have been preserved, the admiring and affectionate descriptions to be found in the letters of her numerous friends, in the great memoirs of the period, and in contemporary fiction, her own correspondence and written confession, for religious purposes, and last, not least, the patient researches into her life and biographical tributes to her memory of the brilliant philosopher who styled himself her posthumous lover, have brought her wonderfully near to us. All these things

enable us to feel her personal charm and to love her, in spite of the indiscretions of one portion of her private life and the grave and more far-reaching political mistakes for which she herself thought twenty-five years of the severest penance and self-humiliation but an insufficient atonement.

Victor Cousin died before he had completed the series of social and biographical studies of remarkable seventeenth-century Frenchwomen, of which the Duchesse de Longueville is the central and, in every sense, the greatest figure. Although it is difficult to find among the memoirs and correspondences of her time a book or a manuscript in which the sister of the great Prince de Condé and cousin of Louis XIV. is not referred to, the only life of her ever written is an eighteenth-century publication of very little merit, either literary or biographical, not being the work either of an eyewitness or of an historian familiar with the methods of modern research.

Therefore it has seemed worth while to put together the main facts of her life as they can

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now be known, and to endeavour to glean from so many witnesses the secret of the powerful influence and the irresistible fascination of one of the most delightful women of all times and countries.