

**THE CASE OF SIR JOHN
FASTOLF: AND OTHER
HISTORICAL STUDIES**

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The Case of Sir John Fastolf: And Other Historical Studies by David Wallace Duthie

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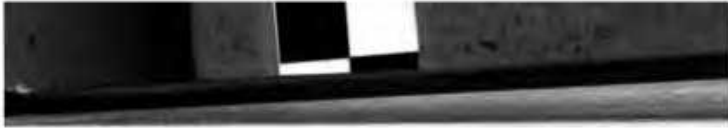


THE CASE OF
SIR JOHN FASTOLF
AND OTHER HISTORICAL
STUDIES

BY
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TO
WILLIAM BOYD CARPENTER
LORD BISHOP OF RIPON
GRATEFULLY

172891



P R E F A C E

THE author is under obligation to the editors of "The Nineteenth Century" and "Cornhill" magazine for their kind permission to reprint the articles on "Sermons and Samuel Pepys" and "Chateaubriand."

He is a debtor also to Mr. G. G. Coulton for the much using of his English version of Salimbene's autobiography as found in the volume "From St. Francis to Dante."

D. WALLACE DUTHIE.

CAISTER RECTORY,
GREAT YARMOUTH.



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THE CASE OF SIR JOHN FASTOLF

WE live in an age when the whitewashing of reputations is a recognised form of literary enterprise. The art of Sir Peter Lely, on whose canvas ladies found themselves to be as beautiful as they had always suspected, has descended to the man of letters. We rub our eyes before the appearing of old friends with faces so new that we may be pardoned if we boggle in the recognition of them. The mask of the monster has been taken from Tiberius, the Roman emperor, and lo! a meek ascetic of singularly humane disposition, and puritanic propriety of morals. Henry VIII., Bluebeard of our schoolboy days, is but a henpecked husband, driven to severity only by intolerable domestic persecutions. The tyrant and murderer has disappeared in Richard III. He now stands

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before us "an unpopular king." Machiavelli had long remained the embodiment of Satanic suggestion: we are assured, if we will but listen intently enough, we may hear the cooing of the dove above the hissing of the serpent. No longer, on the showing of his own people and his own times, is Borgia Simony and Unbridled Licence sitting on the throne of St. Peter: viewed in fairer perspective he is the "gentle and kindly affectioned Shepherd" who overcame the disability of being the father of a family by "exhibiting an illustrious example of paternal virtue." "Bloody Clavers" must henceforth be known as "Bonny Dundee"; the slaughterer of the peaceable, God-fearing Covenanters was but the puppet of a lying legend, "the truth being that he was an honourable gentleman, of a Christian life and lofty ideals." A last example is at our own doors, where the iron visage of Cromwell, cleansed from the blood and tears of three kingdoms, and wearing an aureole from Chelsea, looks out from the Houses of Parliament, whose liberties the Protector despised and overthrew.