

**THE HOLYROOD SERIES. III:
HISTORIE OF MARY STEWART,
QUEEN OF SCOTS, TO HER
ESCAPE FROM LOCH LEVEN INTO
ENGLAND**

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The Holyrood Series. III: Historie of Mary Stewart, Queen of Scots, to Her Escape from Loch Leven into England by William Strangevege

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WILLIAM STRANGEVAGE

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HISTORIE
OF
Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots.

The Holyrood Series.

III.

HISTORIE

OF

**Mary Stuart,
QUEEN OF SCOTS,**

*TO HER ESCAPE FROM LOCH
LEVEN INTO ENGLAND.*

BY

W. STRANGEVAGE.

1624.

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1891.

TO
THE KINGS
MOST EXCELLENT
MAIESTIE.

Most Dread Soueraigne,

ZENO the Philosopher, being asked how
a man might attaine wisdom, answered,
By drawing neere vnto the dead. O the
Sepulchers of our Ancestors, how much
more doe they teach than all the studie,
bookes and precepts of the learned!

And herein due praise must needs be
ascribed vnto Historie, the life of memorie,
and the mirrour of mans life, making

those Heroick acts to liue againe, which otherwise would be buried in eternall forgetfulnesse, whereby the minde (a greedy hunter after knowledge) is enflamed, by affecting the seuerall perfections of others, to seeke after excellent things, and by feruent imitation to attaine to that glory which is gotten by vertue.

For these causes, (most renowned Soueraigne) when I considered Plutarke, laying aside the studie of Philosophie, to thinke the time well imployed in writing the liues of Theseus, of Aristides, and of other inferiour persons; and knowing how farre the lustre and splendor of Princes shineth beyond the brightnesse of others; every one standing for a million of the common people: And being sensible that it is infused euen by nature, every man to desire, and to be delighted with the relation and story of his owne Ancestors and predecessors:

For these reasons I presumed to present vnto your Highnesse this Treatise of

the life and death of your Royall Mother, the Lady MARY STUART Queene of Scotland; A History most fit for this your Meridian of Great Britaine, and yet neuer published in the English tongue before: Wherein, although I confesse the slenderesse of my skill in the exornation and beautifying of the stile, and thereby may worthily incurre the reproofe of the learned; yet if your Maiesty vouchsafe your gracious and Princely acceptation, all faults therein shall easily bee covered and blotted out. Therefore I become your humble Orator, praying no other thing than the Sunne Diall of the Sunne, *Aspice me vt aspicias*; most humbly beseeching the Almighty to blesse your most Excellent Maiestie, with a long happie and prosperous reigne.

Your Sacred Maiesties
most humble subiect,
WIL. STRANGVAGE.

THE
PREFACE
TO THE
ENSVING HISTORIE.

It is a thing most true, and some finde it by experience, that here below in this world, there is nothing eternall: And how can it be otherwise, when the great Kings and Princes of the earth, who seeme to be created of the most pure substance of the Elements, of a matter, as may bee said, for their excellency incorruptible, of the fine gold of *Euilath*, and of the best mould, to the patterne of the fairest *Ideas*, and beare and carry the

Image and Seale of all puissance, as the chiefe impression of natures worke, in the plaine greatnesse of Maiestie, which engraueth their forehead with a gracious statelinesse. Yet doe we see them euery day, who seeme vnto men to be lasting and durable, as eternity it selfe, to quit the arches of triumph, and to yeeld themselves vnto the triumph of death. And more than that, the most part of them finish their daies, not in the sweet and calme waters, like *Pourcontrells*, but by a death disseasoned, sometimes in their greene youth, and flourishing age, by the stormes and tempests, as doe the *Dolphins*, within the torrents, billowes, or waues of the sea, tossed by diuers factions. And it seemeth that this fatality pursueth ordinarily the most worthy and vertuous persons: so that they finish their liues many times with violence or precipitation; and not to goe vnto their death in a smooth path, but to bee interrupted with some strange accident, which eclipseth