

**QUARTERLY SERIES,
FORTY-THIRD VOLUME; THE
LIFE OF ELISABETH LADY
FALKLAND, 1585-1639**

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Quarterly Series, Forty-third Volume; The Life of Elisabeth Lady Falkland, 1585-1639 by
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GEORGIANA FULLERTON

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#2000

Quarterly Series

FORTY-THIRD VOLUME

THE LIFE OF LADY FALKLAND



THE LIFE OF
ELISABETH LADY FALKLAND //

1585—1639

BY
LADY GEORGIANA FULLERTON //



LONDON
BURNS AND OATES
GRANVILLE MANSIONS W

1883



NOLITE ARBITRARI
QUIA PACEM VENERIM MITTERE IN TERRAM
NON VENI PACEM MITTERE
SED GLADIUM
VENI ENIM SEPARARE
HOMINEM ADVERSUS PATREM SUUM
ET FILIAM ADVERSUS MATREM SUAM
ET NURUM ADVERSUS SOCRUM SUAM
ET INIMICI HOMINIS
DOMESTICI EJUS

ex S. Matthaeo x. 34.

PREFACE.

THE great attraction of works of fiction consists in the fact that they more or less present to their readers a description of trials, struggles, and emotions which they themselves have experienced. When a biography, without transgressing the limits of strict veracity, fulfils the same conditions, it appeals with far greater power to the heart and mind. Thus Lady Falkland's life can hardly fail to interest the very numerous persons who are going through in our day, hardships resembling those she underwent more than two hundred years ago. A different state of society, and the modern absence of penal restrictions as to religion no doubt modify these trials, but their nature remains the same, and many a wife and mother will find in the history of this convert of the seventeenth century, a resemblance with her own. May this record of her sufferings, and of her invincible perseverance take its place among those "footsteps in the sands of time," the sight of which refreshes the wayfarer on his road, long after the pilgrim of other days has entered eternal rest!

In an historical as well as religious point of view, the biography of the famous Lord Falkland's mother

is worthy of note. The times she lived in, the eminent persons she was connected with, her remarkable gifts, and many virtues, unite in making it interesting. She was not a saint; she had faults more detrimental to herself than to others, but as a generous, courageous, noble-hearted woman, who fought a good fight, kept the faith, and continued in it to the end, she may well be honoured and admired, and her example offered to the imitation of all who suffer for justice' sake.

A life of Lady Falkland was written shortly after her death by one of her four daughters, all of whom became nuns in the Benedictine Convent at Cambray, in whose archives it was discovered some years ago. Which of them was the authoress it is impossible to ascertain, though it appears probable that it was the work of Anne, the eldest, in religion, Dame Clementina. Patrick Cary, the youngest brother of these religious ladies revised that manuscript, and added to it some notes and comments of his own. It is from this memoir, published in 1861, by the late Richard Simpson, Esq., and the ample appendices he attached to it, that the materials of the following biography are principally drawn. The original life is written with considerable shrewdness, and a certain amount of force and ability, but the language is so involved, the names of persons and places so frequently left out, as well as the dates of events, that it has been a somewhat difficult task to disentangle the details and present them in consecutive order and connexion. Many literal extracts from the original work, have, however, been embodied in the present narrative. One discrepancy occurs, the

solution of which can only be guessed at. It regards the offering made by Lady Falkland, when still a Protestant, of one of her infant daughters to our Blessed Lady. From the place where it occurs, it would seem that the child thus early consecrated was her third daughter, Mary, but this circumstance is distinctly mentioned later on in reference to Anne, the eldest of the sisters. It may be that Anne's second name was Mary, and that thence arose the confusion. The graphic picture of William Chillingworth's relations with Lady Falkland and her children form not the least remarkable feature in this memoir, exhibiting as it does, the peculiarities of that extraordinary man's character, and the religious condition of England at that period.

G. F.

Ayrfield, Bournemouth :
Feast of St. Cecilia, 1883.

