

**JOURNAL OF THE LADY
BEATRIX
GRAHAM, SISTER OF THE
MARQUIS OF MONTROSE**

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Journal of the Lady Beatrix Graham, sister of the Marquis of Montrose by Jane Mary Fowler Smith

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JANE MARY FOWLER SMITH

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JOURNAL OF THE
LADY BEATRIX GRAHAM.



JOURNAL OF THE
LADY BEATRIX GRAHAM,

SISTER OF THE MARQUIS OF
MONTROSE.

a novel, by Jane Mary Smith-Dampier



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PREFACE.

TO give the true history of this little book will perhaps be the best way of introducing it to the public.

Strange as it may seem in these days, it was not written for publication, but was the delight of years of loving labour, laid aside and resumed as other avocations permitted, written and re-written as a labour of pure love, pruned down from excrescences and details that the writer believes in while omitting them, printed for family reading, and finally, on family verdict launched into the world.

Some characters have a sort of fascination that leads to their contemplation till there arises a longing on the part of the imagination to throw itself into the times, and assume, as it were, an individuality, whence to contemplate the image at leisure. And thus for the

convenience of hero worship towards the great Montrose, the personality of his sister Beatrix was taken up, and her character lived in for years, while her supposed diary was made to record all that (to borrow a favourite term of Fouqué) "seemed as if it must be so."

It will be understood from this that whatever history has recorded respecting the Great Marquess and his family has been adhered to, not so much out of scrupulosity, as because these were the stand points whence the web was constructed, the foundations of the fabric, somewhat as in the case of Lady Georgiana Fullerton's work, "*La Comtesse de Bonneval*," where, on the foundation of the veritable letters, a wonderfully touching character has been built up by the deductions of sympathetic genius and fancy.

Whether the outline of history has been satisfactorily filled up, the opinion of the public must decide. All that here needs to be said is that all, except a few merely accessory personages, are historical—or at least genealogical verities—as indeed is testified by the complicated relationships that no one would have taken the trouble to invent. Dr. Wishart's *Life of Montrose*, or the more full and modern memoir by Mr. Mark Napier, will shew the correctness with which the Mar-

quess's various journeys and adventures have been followed, while readers of French and English memoirs of the time will recognise the authority for more than one anecdote and trait of the society in which Lady Beatrix and her brother moved at Paris and in Holland.

It may be as well to state that the Introductory Remarks, purporting to be by the Editor, profess to be no more than the narratives of the discovery of MSS. in ancient cabinets, which used to be the fashionable introduction to old world romances. So much of the story is told in the character of the said Editor and finder, abridging and collating the diary (as was true of its rough copy) that it has been found expedient to leave this introduction, and surely ever since the time of Cervantes it has been lawful for a story-teller to have a Cid Hamet Benen Geli; or at least, a Jedediah Cleishbotham.

There have been many books of late written on this diary plan, but if writing out of the fulness of the heart be the means of giving true interest and pleasure then Lady Beatrix Graham's diary ought to succeed.

C. M. YONGE,

August 22nd, 1870.

