

EARLY DAYS OF ENGLISH PRINCES

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Early Days of English Princes by Mrs. Russell Gray

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MRS. RUSSELL GRAY

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ENGLISH PRINCES**



PRINCE ALFRED.—PAGE 6.

EARLY DAYS
OF
ENGLISH PRINCES.

BY
MRS. RUSSELL GRAY

With Illustrations by John Franklin.

SECOND EDITION, REVISED AND ENLARGED

'Let truth and virtue be their earliest teachers.
Superior rank demands superior worth,
Pre-eminence of valour, justice, mercy.'—MALLEY.

London
GRIFFITH AND FARRAN
SUCCESSORS TO NEWBERRY AND HARRIS
CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD
MDCCLXVI.



EDINBURGH: T. CONSTABLE,
PRINTER TO THE QUEEN, AND TO THE UNIVERSITY.



TO HER GRACE
THE DUCHESS OF ROXBURGHE.

MY DEAR DUCHESS,

IT gave me much pleasure to receive your permission to dedicate this little Book to you. Not only does it gratify me beyond measure to be able, I trust, to contribute in the slightest manner to the improvement or amusement of your Children; but most pleasing is it to my feelings to have it in my power to offer any tribute of regard and respect, however insignificant, to one, whose early friendship and kindness to me, as well as the remembrance of the happy days passed in our childhood together, have left an impression on my heart never to be effaced.

The book is of the most unpretending description. I have only been desirous of rendering the stories as simple as possible, adapted to the capacities of young children. I must state, that the principal works I have consulted in writing the 'early days' of my royal heroes are the following: Rapin's 'History of England,' 'Biographical Dictionary,' Jesse's 'Memoirs of the Court of the Stuarts,' Belsham's 'Court and Family of George III.,' and Miss Strickland's 'Lives of the Queens of England.'

Believe me,

My dear Duchess,

Ever affectionately yours,

M. C. GRAY.



PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

IT has gratified the Author to have been called upon to revise and enlarge this volume for a new edition. So many fuller and far more important works bearing on the same subject have been published since the 'Early Days of English Princes' made its appearance, that she could scarcely have presumed to expect that the little book had not shared the fate of various contemporaries—that of being 'laid on the shelf' and forgotten. But now she is encouraged to hope, that from the small scattered seed some serviceable fruit may have sprung, that the object she had mainly in view whilst recording the youthful days of several of our English princes, may have been in some measure attained ; that

having become interested in the royal heroes as children like themselves, her readers may have been incited to a closer and more extended study of the history of their country and its rulers. Two new chapters have been added, one being on 'Edward of Gloucester,' the other 'Our Present Royal Family,' besides an account of the Tower of London, etc.

The first edition was dedicated to the Duchess of Roxburghe, and to her the little volume is again offered, in its improved form, by the Author; not alone as a token of enduring friendship, but as a slight tribute of respect for one, who has truly and consistently followed the precept contained in the motto on the title page—

'Superior rank demands superior worth;'

and though the family of her Grace have passed out of their 'early days,' it is hoped that the stories may find favour with her 'children's children.'

CHELTENHAM, *Sept.* 1865.