

THE DEFENCE OF THE REALME

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The Defence of the Realme by Sir Henry Knyvett & Charles Hughes

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SIR HENRY KNYVETT & CHARLES HUGHES

**THE DEFENCE
OF THE REALME**

Tudor & Stuart Library
The Defence of the
Realme

Henry Frowde, M.A.
Publisher to the University of Oxford
London, Edinburgh, New York
and Toronto

The Defence of the Realme

By
SIR HENRY KNYVETT

1596

Now for the first time printed, from a MS. in
the Chetham Library, Manchester

With an Introduction
by Charles Hughes



At the Clarendon Press

MCM VI



Oxford
Printed at the Clarendon Press
By Horace Hart, M.A.
Printer to the University

*This Treatise
in which
An Elizabethan Soldier
advocates
compulsory military training
for all Englishmen
is dedicated by permission
to
Field Marshal
Earl Roberts, K.G., V.C.*

'Tanto nomini nullum par elogium'

167601



INTRODUCTION

THE author of this treatise, which was written in 1596, and is now printed for the first time, was Sir Henry Knyvett, of Charlton, near Malmesbury, Wiltshire. He was descended from a noble family of Buckenham, Norfolk, and his great uncle, Sir Edmund Knyvett, had been Sergeant-Porter to King Henry VIII. His life is not written in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, where, however, a full account is given of his brother Thomas, afterwards Lord Knyvett of Escrick, who took a prominent part in the exposure of the Gunpowder Plot.

In the early days of Queen Elizabeth's reign Henry Knyvett saw active service at the siege of Leith against the French, when he 'lost both lim and blood'. On April 14, 1560, Elizabeth wrote to Lord Grey: 'For our trusty and faithfull servants that be with you, we pray you give them for their Service our comfortable thanks;
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