THREE MEN OF THE TUDOR TIME

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Three men of the Tudor time by Frances Bushby

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FRANCES BUSHBY

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EDWARD, FIRST LORD NORTH.

From the collection of the Earl of Guilford.

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LADY FRANCES BUSHBY

LONDON DAVID NUTT, 57-59 LONG ACRE



TO THE MEMORY OF MY DEAR HUSBAND TO WHOSE UNFAILING SYMPATHY, SOUND CRITICISM, AND LITERARY KNOWLEDGE, I OWE SO MUCH

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PREFACE

THESE gleanings of family history, first written in a shorter form, were intended solely for my own kinsfolk. It seemed fitting that such references to the Norths as were to be found scattered among the records of the past, many as yet undiscovered, some unheeded or forgotten, should be garnered up and strung together in some connected form. Thus it came to pass that I set forth upon this pleasant enterprise, and the task finished, the work was laid aside. But as time wore on, it seemed possible that some of the contents of this family scrap-book might prove acceptable to certain readers beyond the narrow limit at first assigned it. For surely no authentic detail of those wonderful times, no matter in what fashion presented to him, can be wholly without interest to the student of Tudor history ; for whose enters upon that fruitful field, enters upon a land of enchantment, a fairyland of fact ; he grows ever more covetous of the treasure within his grasp;

PREFACE

he will not brook the loss of a single grain of gold-dust from that very El Dorado of research. More especially must he feel this when he reaches the reign of Elizabeth; for this was the golden age of high endeavour and of great result, giving the rein to every energy and the spur to every talent. There was work for all then: war for the soldier, the New World for the adventurer, the New Learning for the scholar—above all there were those new aspects of the Faith, those vital questions to which each man must give an answer whether he would or no. There were no sleepy hollows in those strenuous old times.

I have not sought to touch upon the great events, the vast upheavals of the Church and State, with which men's minds were filled, any further than seemed needful to sketch in a slight background for the portraits before me. If I may call to witness so great a name in so small a matter, I will say with Plutarch, 'I will only desire the readers not to blame me, though I do not declare all things at large, but briefly touch divers . . . my intent is not to write histories but only lives.' 1 Aye, and not even lives, for the men of whom I write, rode not always upon the crest of the wave ; they rather show themselves as might some great diving bird-often he is lost beneath the restless sea, yet ever and again he

¹ Plutarch's Lives, Englished by Sir Thomas North. (Alexander the Great.)

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