

**MEMOIRS FROM
1754 TO 1758**

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Memoirs from 1754 to 1758 by James Earl Waldegrave

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JAMES EARL WALDEGRAVE

**MEMOIRS FROM
1754 TO 1758**



James Earl of Waldegrave 1762

MEMBER OF THE GARTER.

Engraved from a portrait by Sir Godfrey Kneller

M E M O I R S

FROM 1754 TO 1758

BY

JAMES EARL WALDEGRAVE K G

ONE OF HIS MAJESTY'S PRIVY COUNCIL IN THE REIGN OF GEORGE II

AND GOVERNOR TO THE PRINCE OF WALES

AFTERWARDS GEORGE III

LONDON

JOHN MURRAY ALBEMARLE-STREET

1821

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TO THE READER.

THE author of the following work was James, second Earl Waldegrave. He was descended from a very antient family, and born on 14 March, 1714-15.

His grandfather having married a daughter of James the Second, by Arabella Churchill, sister to the great Duke of Marlborough, was created by that king a baron, but never took his seat in the House of Lords. He was a Roman Catholic, followed his misguided sovereign into exile, and died in Paris in 1689. His son, who was also educated in the church of Rome, married the daughter

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of Sir John Webbe, of Gloucestershire ; but became a Protestant in 1722. The scandal excited among the Jacobites by his abjuration, and the manner in which it was resented by his uncle the Duke of Berwick, dispelled all suspicions of remaining disaffection to the Protestant succession ; and his personal qualities and character, aided by that consideration, recommended him to successive ministers of the House of Hanover. He was accordingly advanced to offices of considerable trust ; and after a mission of compliment to France in 1725, was appointed ambassador to Vienna in 1727 ; and three years afterwards succeeded the brother of Sir Robert Walpole, in the yet more important embassy to the court of Versailles, where he resided till 1740. During these services abroad, he was created a viscount, an earl, and knight

of the garter : he died at Navestock in 1741. His eldest son, the author of these Memoirs, succeeded to his titles and property. He seems at an early period of life to have been well instructed in antient and modern languages ; but we have been hitherto unable to ascertain the place of his education, and the names of those entrusted with the care of it.

Whatever were his attainments, he did not enter the world with all the advantages which hold forth to young men of his rank in life the prospects of power and distinction. With an excellent understanding, an amiable disposition, and no inconsiderable stock of knowledge, his personal appearance was not prepossessing. And though his father had served the crown in foreign missions, the state of parties still rendered Catholic and Jacobite connexions

very formidable barriers to promotion at court. That Lord Waldegrave was enabled to surmount them so rapidly, was owing to the personal favour of George the Second. Great discernment or liberality have seldom been ascribed to that prince by his historians; yet in his conduct to our author, he certainly displayed both. He selected for his private friend, a man of sense, honour, and sincerity, who had few exterior graces to recommend him; and at a period of no unreasonable alarm, he placed him, though a near relation of his competitor for the crown, immediately about his own person. Lord Waldegrave was appointed a lord of the bedchamber in 1743. Such offices were then held in high estimation; they often led to favour and greatness. It was in the spirit of those times to be more greedy of imaginary honours, than obsequious to real power. Noblemen

of the first rank sought with avidity employments which their descendants regard with indifference, or reject with disdain, as badges of dependence, rather than marks of distinction or importance. The situation gave Lord Waldegrave free access to the king; and the changes which shortly ensued, afforded him many opportunities of proving his attachment to his Majesty, of ascertaining the secrets of government, and observing the characters of those who had the chief influence on public affairs.

On the death of Frederick Prince of Wales, the king seized the opportunity of obliging Lord Waldegrave, by making him master of the Stannaries. Lord Orford, in mentioning this appointment, says of him *, that " his complaisance was sufficient to

* *Memoires of 1751*, vol. i. p. 79.