

**THE CHRONICLE OF QUEEN
JANE, AND OF TWO YEARS OF
QUEEN MARY, AND ESPECIALLY
OF THE REBELLION OF SIR
THOMAS WYAT**

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The Chronicle of Queen Jane, and of two years of queen Mary, and especially of the Rebellion of Sir Thomas Wyatt by John Gough Nichols

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JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS

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THE
CHRONICLE OF QUEEN JANE,
AND OF
TWO YEARS OF QUEEN MARY,
AND ESPECIALLY OF THE
REBELLION OF SIR THOMAS WYAT.

WRITTEN

BY A RESIDENT IN THE TOWER OF LONDON.

EDITED,

WITH ILLUSTRATIVE DOCUMENTS AND NOTES,

BY

JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS, ESQ. F.S.A.



PRINTED FOR THE CAMDEN SOCIETY.

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P R E F A C E.

THE Harleian MS. 194 is a pocket diary, extending from July 1553 to October 1554. It is written, or rather scribbled, in so bad a hand that even Stowe, who printed some passages from it, has mistaken several words; and to this circumstance perhaps may be partly attributed the neglect it has hitherto received.*

It is the authority for the interesting account given by Stowe, and Holinshed, of the execution of Lord Guilford Dudley and Lady Jane Grey, as well as for the greater part of their narrative of the progress of events whilst the council administered the government of the realm in the name of "JANE THE QUEENE."

In the Harleian Catalogue it is stated, that "This book formerly belonged to Mr. John Stowe, who took from thence many passages which may be found in his Annals, at the reign of Queen Mary, and more yet remain by him untouched."

Mr. Tytler has remarked, "The account given by Holinshed of Northumberland's consent to lead the army, and of his speech to the nobles before leaving the Tower, is interesting, and has some fine touches which seem to stamp its authenticity." Holinshed says in

* The only modern author who has made any use of it is Sir Frederick Madden, who quoted a short passage in his Introduction to the Privy Purse accounts of Queen Mary.

his margin that it was derived "from the report of an eye-witness;" he really received it, through Stowe, from the present Diary.

Stowe affords us no intimation of the name of the writer, except that at one place, the account of the decapitation of Wyat, he has printed in his margin the name of

Row. Lea.

Rowland Lea was the name of a Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, who died lord president of Wales in the year 1543: and the same baptismal name was very probably continued in his family.

That the diarist was a man of no mean condition may be inferred from the fact of his having been admitted to dine at the same table with the lady Jane Grey when in the Tower. The passage describing this incident, which is one of the most interesting in the book, has been unknown to all the lady Jane's biographers, although it was once printed, in the seventeenth century, by sir Simonds D'Ewes, who was then the owner of the manuscript.

It was in master Partridge's house that the lady Jane was lodged, and at his table that this memorable interview took place. Who was master Partridge? was he "Affabel Partriche," goldsmith to queen Mary, to whom the lord treasurer was directed by royal warrant * dated 25th July, 1554, to deliver certain jewels then remaining in the Tower? or in what other capacity had he a residence within that fortress?

But the more important question is, Who was his guest, whom we would now desire to commemorate as the sole chronicler of the Reign of Queen Jane? It may be supposed a person of higher rank or better education than Partridge, as he was invited to enter into familiar conversation with the illustrious prisoner. One of the sheets

* MS. Cotton. Titus B. IV. f. 130.

of paper which form his pocket-book had been previously used for another purpose, and retains this fragment of writing:

To the righ
Peckham
quenes ma
Yt maie please your good
as I have (as it is not v
vertue of the kinges ma
hande and previe Sign

This is *not* in the same handwriting as the Diary itself, but in the formal hand of a clerk. The person to whom it was addressed was doubtless sir Edmund Peckham, who was cofferer of the household at the death of Henry the eighth, who retained that office during the reign of Edward the sixth, and was afterwards treasurer of the mint to queen Mary and queen Elizabeth.

That the diarist was not sir Edmund Peckham himself is shown by the passages in pp. 8 and 12, where the knight, in his capacity of sheriff of Oxfordshire, is mentioned as exerting himself on behalf of the lady Mary in that county, the news of which came to the writer in the Tower of London. But, again, an entry in p. 33 testifies the interest taken by the writer in sir Edmund Peckham's official preferment to be keeper of her majesty's treasure; and other passages in pp. 26, 82, 83, show his acquaintance with the affairs of the mint. It may therefore be conjectured that he was himself an officer of that department of the royal service, which was then conducted within the Tower of London; and if any such person bearing the name of "Rowland Lea" should hereafter be discovered, that name may be safely placed in the title-page.

The documents which form the appendices to this volume are for

the most part printed for the first time. Those which relate to the lady Jane's title to the crown are more carefully edited than before, on account of their very great importance, the only previous copy having been made for bishop Burnet, without that strict accuracy which is now thought desirable. For the privilege of making the present transcripts the Editor is indebted to the Hon. Society of the Inner Temple.

A recent visit to the State Paper Office has been rewarded by the discovery of the true history (given in the Addenda) of the last outbreak of the duke of Suffolk, which was the final cause of the sacrifice of his daughter's life.

The tract of John Elder, forming the Xth Appendix, is one nearly as rare as a manuscript. Its details of the early proceedings of the reign of queen Mary are the more valuable because the protestant chroniclers of the next reign abridged them very materially, in accordance with the altered spirit of the times; and the ecclesiastical historian Foxe describes the same transactions in different terms, as viewed in a totally different light.

In conclusion, the Editor may remark that there still remains unedited in the British Museum a valuable chronicle of this period from which he has made a quotation in Appendix IV. It was kept by one of the ancient faith who lingered about the dissolved house of the Grey Friars in London. As respects religious matters its contents are of much interest, and he looks forward to its being regarded by the Camden Society as an appropriate sequel to the two he has now had the pleasure to present to their perusal.

*Parliament Street,
April 3, 1850.*