

**A MEMOIR OF CHARLES MORDAUNT,
EARL OF PETERBOROUGH AND
MONMOUTH: WITH SELECTIONS
FROM HIS CORRESPONDENCE. IN
TWO VOLUMES. VOL. I**

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A Memoir of Charles Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough and Monmouth: With Selections from His Correspondence. In Two Volumes. Vol. I by George Warburton

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GEORGE WARBURTON

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LIFE
OF
THE EARL OF PETERBOROUGH.

VOL. I

A MEMOIR
OF
CHARLES MORDAUNT
EARL OF PETERBOROUGH
AND
MONMOUTH :

WITH
SELECTIONS FROM HIS CORRESPONDENCE.

BY THE AUTHOR OF
"HOCHELAGA," AND "THE CONQUEST OF CANADA."

[George D. Harbison]

"How poor, how rich, how sly, how august,
How complicate, how wonderful is man,
How passing wonder He who made him such !"
Young's Night Thoughts.

IN TWO VOLUMES.—VOL. I.

LONDON:
LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMANS,
1853.

INTRODUCTION.

THE materials for the following work have been collected from a great number and variety of books. It has been judged better to avoid interminable references to the authorities from which each item of information has been obtained; but the writer can conscientiously state, that no circumstance, however minute, is mentioned without, what he conceives to be, sufficient authentication.

Among Lord Peterborough's cotemporaries, there is hardly a writer of any note who does not make mention of him, and hardly a correspondence in which he

does not figure. His name recurs frequently in all Parliamentary and other annals of the time, and many of his manuscript letters are still extant, — a highly interesting series of which, addressed to General Stanhope, are here, by Lord Mahon's kind permission, largely used. A considerable number of his official letters, also, many of them highly characteristic, are to be found in the British Museum.

The writer of these pages was led to search for more ample information on this subject, and finally to embody it in a memoir, by meeting accidentally with a small and rare volume, called "The Triumphs of Her Majesty's Arms, both by Sea and Land, under the conduct of his Excellency Charles, Earl of Peterburgh and Monmouth," published 1707. This cotemporary narrative confirms, in almost

all particulars, those of Dr. Friend and Captain Carleton, and in many respects is more minute, and even more interesting, than either of them.

Some brief but able biographical sketches of Lord Peterborough already exist; they, however, treat almost exclusively of his military career, while the strange events of his political and private life are hardly touched upon.

The curious old book above mentioned was an inducement to the writer of this memoir to seek for more ample information on the subject, from the interest which it excited in his mind. Should he be fortunate enough to communicate a portion of that interest to those whose eyes may meet these pages, his labour will not have been in vain.

L I F E
OF
THE EARL OF PETERBOROUGH.

CHAPTER I.

No writer of fiction would venture to create a character so strange and contradictory as that of Charles, Earl of Peterborough. His extraordinary achievements outvie the inventions of romance, and his follies may almost claim the immunities of insanity. Few men have ever been so strangely gifted, and, at the same time, so strangely deficient. While his splendid capacity and matchless energy were constantly exhibited, they were rarely rendered useful to his country, and never to himself. Amidst the general corruption of the powerful he was irreproachably disinterested, and