STEVEN CRISP AND HIS CORRESPONDENTS, 1657-1692, BEING A SYNOPSIS OF THE LETTERS IN THE "COLCHESTER COLLECTION"

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Steven Crisp and His Correspondents, 1657-1692, Being a Synopsis of the Letters in the "Colchester Collection" by Charlotte Fell Smith

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CHARLOTTE FELL SMITH

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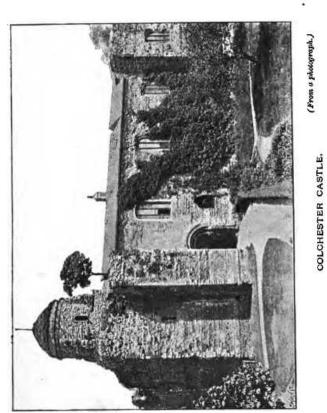
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EDITED, WITH NOTES AND AN INTRODUCTION,

BY C. FELL SMITH.

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PREFACE.

ABOUT two years ago, while preparing the article on John Kendall for The Dictionary of National Biography, I first learned of the existence of the MSS, herein summarized. I at once became anxious that documents of such genuine and historical interest should be rendered more accessible, they being then in a somewhat torn and damp condition. They have now, through the prompt generosity of Mr. Wilson Marriage, Mayor of Colchester, been cleaned, mended, and bound in a handsome folio volume, under the supervision of Mr. F. B. Bickley, of the MSS. Department of the British Museum. To both of these my thanks are due. Mr. Marriage's knowledge of the history of Colchester has also been of much assistance to me.

The future student of early quaker history will now be able to refer to the manuscripts, upon application to the Clerk of the Monthly Meeting of Colchester. To this body of Friends I tender thanks for permission to study them at length; to Mr. J. J. Beuzemacher, B.A. B. Mus., for some assistance with the Dutch MSS., and to my cousin, Mr. Miller Christy, F.L.S., for many valuable suggestions while seeing the work through the press.

With regard to the word "Quaker," which I have frequently used, I trust it will offend no one. In contemporary literature cutside the Society, it is the only one used, and, although originally bestowed in jest, it, and the body bearing it, have long since taken up a position honoured by all classes of society.

Some small portions of the present work have appeared in *The British Friend*, and I here thank the editor, Mr. J. G. Smeal, for permission to republish them.

C. FELL SMITH.

Gt. Saling, Essex,

May, 1892.