

**THE HAMILTON PAPERS: BEING
SELECTIONS FROM ORIGINAL LETTER
IN THE POSSESSION OF HIS GRACE THE
DUKE OF HAMILTON AND BRANDON,
RELATING TO THE YEARS 1638-1650**

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The Hamilton papers: being selections from original letter in the possession of His Grace the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, relating to the years 1638-1650 by Samuel Rawson Gardiner

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SAMUEL RAWSON GARDINER

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ORIGINAL LETTERS

IN THE POSSESSION OF
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF HAMILTON AND BRANDON,
RELATING TO THE YEARS 1638—1650.

EDITED BY
SAMUEL RAWSON GARDINER.



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PREFACE.

THE present volume is the result of the permission kindly accorded to me by his Grace the Duke of Hamilton to examine and take copies of any papers at Hamilton Castle which might be useful to me in the composition of the *History of the Puritan Revolution*, on which I have now been for some years engaged. As soon as I looked into these papers it struck me that it would be a pity not to utilise for the benefit of the Camden Society the permission which I had obtained, and I set to work to make copies as well as the limited time at my disposal would allow. The whole of the present volume, with the exception of Letter 51 and the document given in the Appendix, which have been added from the State Papers, was copied in the thirteen days, which were all that I had to spare for the purpose. It is, therefore, possible that some future inquirer with more leisure may find that some errors have crept in; but it does not follow that many of the almost unintelligible sentences in the half-cyphered notes at the end of the volume were incorrectly copied. From marks in my manuscript I see that in most of these cases I read the sentences more than once to assure myself that they really were as I have given them. Probably the original writer confused himself in writing so largely in cypher, and the ungrammatical forms were the natural result.

In the early part of the volume the letters of Charles I. are omitted, as already printed in Burnet's biography of the Dukes of Hamilton. Hamilton's own correspondence is given completely

as having only been printed in Burnet's abstracts. Sir Robert Murray's letters from Newcastle during the King's imprisonment will doubtless be read with interest. The whole of these, as well as of Lauderdale's able correspondence, are given. The Royalist letters towards the end are but examples of a large number. I was obliged to leave out from want of time many which appeared to me to be of no special importance, and also those which were either altogether or partly in cypher, without any key being appended. The decyphered portions are printed in italics.

I am quite aware that these letters need more complete editing than I have been able to give them. Of the proceedings of the Royalist Court in France I am entirely ignorant; and, though there are probably in existence persons who could have given me help, I have not known to whom to apply. There was some difficulty in distinguishing between the dates of letters written as if the year began in January and of letters written as if it began on March 1. Fortunately, whenever the King is mentioned, there is a pretty clear indication whether the letter was written in 1648 or 1649.

Even with whatever drawbacks, however, I feel quite sure that the volume will be welcomed as an important contribution to the history of both England and Scotland.

At page 229, line 21, occurs the curious modern expression, "waxy" for "angry," and at page 238, line 5 from the bottom, "A Bull" for a falsehood. I am told, however, that neither of these are unknown expressions of the period.

ERRATA.

- Page 1, heading, *for 1648 read 1652.*
" 156, line 13, *for London read London.*
" 216, line 3, *dele [?].*
" 223, line 2, *for drectine read drectine.*
" 225, heading to Letter 150, *for Blaxton read Blakiston.*
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