

**SKETCH OF THE
HISTORY OF THE
HOUSE OF RUSSELL**

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Sketch of the History of the House of Russell by David Ross

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DAVID ROSS

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OF THE
HOUSE OF RUSSELL.

BY DAVID ROSS,

OF THE LIVERPOOL CHRONICLE.



LONDON:

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1848.

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TO THE RIGHT HON. LORD JOHN RUSSELL,

FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY,

&c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,

I have received, with the highest pride and satisfaction, your special permission to dedicate this little work to your Lordship—implying, as it does, your approval of its design and execution. I beg to assure your Lordship that I duly appreciate the sanction thus given by so high an authority to my humble labours. I have fixed the price of the publication at a sum so modest as will not much more than cover the cost of printing—my chief object being not so much pecuniary emolument for myself, as a desire to circulate widely among the masses of the people a familiar acquaintance with the history of a family which has done and suffered, and is still doing, so much in their cause. My hope, and my belief also, is, that such an acquaintance with the high-minded sentiments, the noble deeds, and the heroic sufferings of so many of your Lordship's progenitors in the cause of public liberty, will tend in no slight degree to disseminate widely those principles of constitutional freedom and popular privilege of which your Lordship has so long been the most distinguished advocate; and that it will cherish or implant

Those free-born thoughts that league the people with the laws.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your obliged and very humble Servant,

DAVID ROSS.

Chronicle-office, Feb. 2, 1848.

1875

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THE writer of the following pages was induced, some months ago, by circumstances purely accidental, to commence the publication of a series of articles, in the local paper with which he is connected, under the title of "Notes on the Nobility." These, it would seem, have been perused by a numerous class of readers, with some degree of interest. He has consequently been pressed by applications from various quarters, to republish them in a separate and more convenient form. He is so far willing to comply with the request, as to venture upon issuing the following Sketch of the History of the House of Russell, in its present shape. Should the experiment prove successful, he may probably repeat it, at a future time, with others of the series. Should it be otherwise, he may be allowed to express a hope that his present obtrusion on the world of letters, will, by a generous public, be forgiven, or—forgotten.

Chronicle Office, Liverpool,
1st February, 1848.

SKETCH OF THE HISTORY
OF THE
HOUSE OF RUSSELL.

THE house of Russell has long held a distinguished rank among the nobility of this country. The name is derived from one of the fiefs which the first chieftain of that surname possessed, anterior to the conquest of England, in Lower Normandy. The chateau of Rozel stands on a cape, fronting the sea, and the name, according to Roquefort, implies a tower, or bold headland, by the water; from *Roz*, the rook or castle of the chessboard, and *el*, the synonyme for *eau*. The family of the Du Rozels were known by that surname prior to 1066. The immediate foundation, however, of their wealth and honours was laid in the reign of Henry VIII.; but they were lords of the manor of Kingston Russell, in the county of Dorset, early in the thirteenth century. John Russell of that manor, which was held by grand serjeantry that "they should present a cup of beer unto our sovereign lord the king on the four principal feasts of the year," was constable of Corfe Castle in 1221. His son, Sir Ralph, married a daughter of Lord de Newmarch and Derham, descended from Bernard de Newmarch, one of the followers of the Conqueror into England. He had livery of the lands acquired by his marriage. His son, Sir William, had a charter for a fair at Kingston Russell, and