THE RELATION OF SYDNAM POYNTZ, 1624-1636, CAMDEN THIRD SERIES, VOL. XIV

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The Relation of Sydnam Poyntz, 1624-1636, Camden Third Series, Vol. XIV by A. T. S. Goodrick

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1624-1636

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THE RELATION OF SYDNAM POYNTZ

1624-1636

EDITED FOR THE

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY BY

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THE REV. A. T. S. GOODRICK M.A.

Formerly Scholar of

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ERRATUM

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Title-page. For 'scholar' of St. John's College, read 'Fellow.'

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CAMDEN THIRD SERIES VOL. XIV

LONDON OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY 6 & 7 SOUTH SQUARE GRAY'S INN 1908

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ERRATUM

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P. 74. Delete last paragraph of Footnote. Lilly's letter was addressed not to Gustaves Adolphus, but to his lather.

ADDENDUM

P. III. Colonel ' Musten ' is almost certainly ' Mostyn' who fought with distinction under Gustavus in Poland,

SYDNAM POYNTZ 1624-1636

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INTRODUCTION.

The fragment of autobiography here published is of two-fold interest. On the one hand it throws a new and not altogether favourable light on the character of one of the Parliamentary leaders in our own civil conflict, and it also embodies one of the very few narratives of the earlier and more stirring period of the Thirty Years' War written by men who actually took part in the events they describe. The student of the history of the War is amazed to find how little of such first-hand authority is available for his use. The Memoirs, the Diaries, the private correspondence which render the history of the English Civil War so lucid are almost entirely lacking. Anyone who will for example critically examine the seventy pages of Bibliography at the end of the volume entitled The Thirty Years' War in the Cambridge Modern History will find that contemporary narrations of actors in the great conflict reduce themselves to two or three. There are plenty of titles it is true like Ausführliche Relation of this or that battle and Extract eines Schreibens from such and such a (possibly fictititious) combatant, but these are plainly the work of mere pamphleteersmere catchpenny publications at the best. And when we seek for personal memoirs we find few indeed. There is one genuine German soldier's diary, first published by Westenrieder a century ago and somewhat unaccountably neglected : and there is the so