

**RUTLAND PAPERS. ORIGINAL  
DOCUMENTS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE  
COURTS AND TIMES OF HENRY  
VII. AND HENRY VIII. SELECTED FROM  
THE PRIVATE ARCHIVES OF HIS GRACE  
THE DUKE OF RUTLAND**

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Rutland Papers. Original Documents Illustrative of the Courts and Times of Henry VII. And Henry VIII. Selected from the Private Archives of His Grace the Duke of Rutland by William Jerdan & John Henry Manners Rutland

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**WILLIAM JERDAN & JOHN HENRY MANNERS RUTLAND**

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HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF RUTLAND, &c. &c. &c.

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BY

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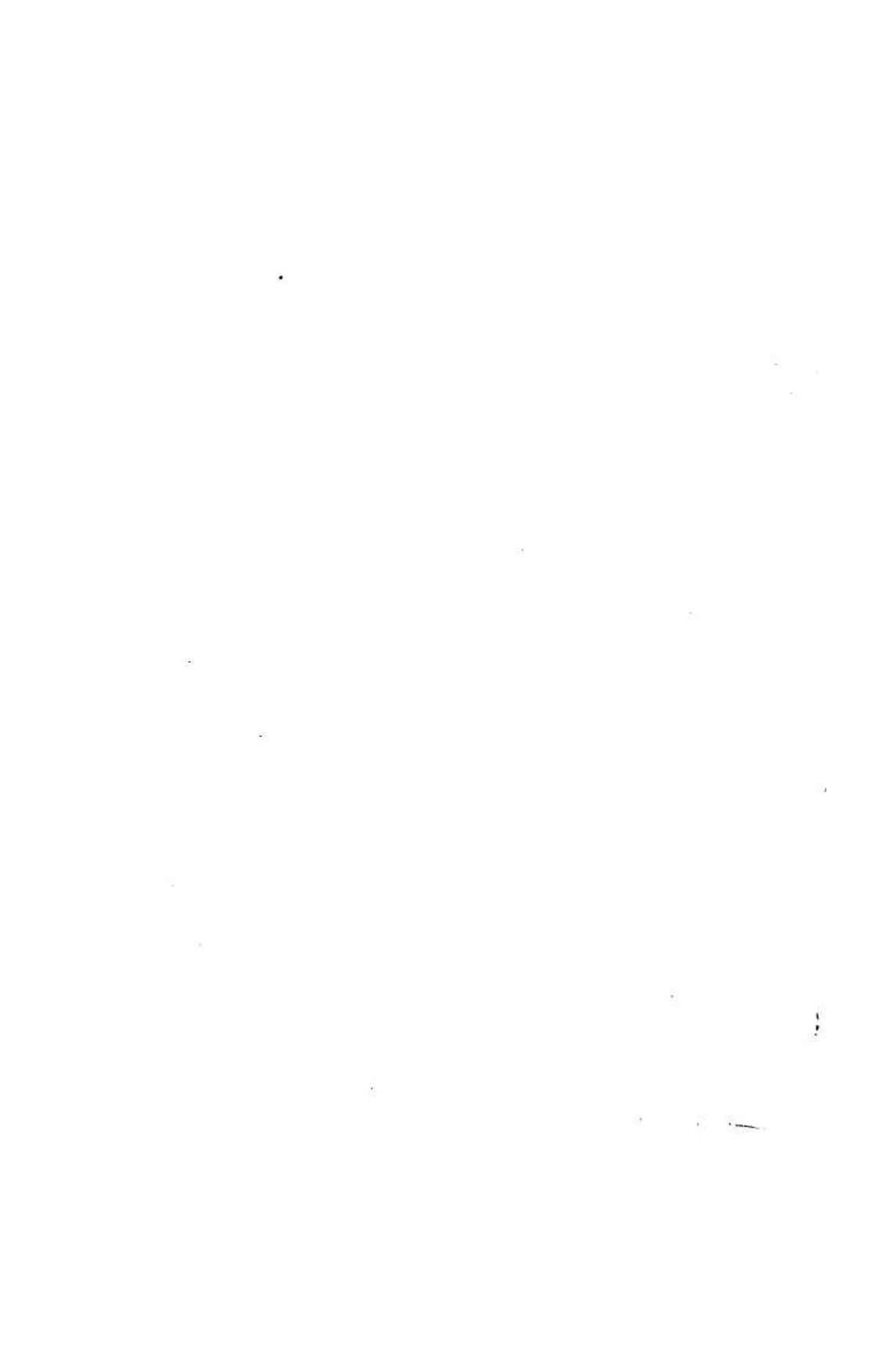
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## P R E F A C E.

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I AM indebted to the condescension of the Duke of Rutland for the pleasure of offering these interesting historical Papers to the public, through the medium of the Camden Society. My thanks to His Grace for enabling me to do so, will be best expressed by the care and pains taken in editing them; a task, however easy it may appear, not to be properly accomplished without bestowing much attention on every doubtful word in the ancient manuscripts, and collating the whole with documents relating to the same period, both such as are already known and such as are unknown to the world of letters, —the former by publication, and the latter by conservation in private and national Repositories.

The laborious nature of my pursuits, in connexion with literature, might fairly lead to the presumption that an apology was deeply demanded for the manner in which I have performed this duty; but I rejoice to say I have none to offer. Among the most gratifying circumstances attending the formation of such Societies as the

Camden, the Shakspeare, the Percy, the Spalding, and others of the same kind, it is not one of the least that members of the highest gifts and acquirements in the various walks of study and research are the most willing to lend their aid to the humblest of their brethren. I have thus had the benefit of the assistance of Mr. John Bruce, and such assistance as would make me ashamed of being thought a principal in the work; and Mr. Thomas Wright, another eminent scholar, has also conferred on me a similar obligation; and both have relieved my anxiety to have these specimens of Rutland Papers produced in a style worthy of their character.

I may be permitted to add that this anxiety was not confined to the present volume, but spread itself over a wider future hope. I believe that the Muniment Room of the illustrious owner of Belvoir Castle is rich in documents transmitted through a long line of distinguished ancestry, which are calculated to throw an important light on those topics of bygone ages which possess so irresistible a charm for every intelligent mind; and I feel that our national history and *manners* (I cannot help the nominal jingle of the word) may receive much delightful illustration from the family records preserved by the race of Manners. I was therefore, on general as well as personal grounds, extremely desirous that this first work,

from that source, should not be altogether undeserving of being a pioneer to better things in better hands.

The brief introductory notices to the various Papers preclude the necessity for offering any extended remarks upon the whole in this place. I may observe, however, that they chiefly relate to the grand ceremonies which characterise the intercourse of Sovereign Princes during the period to which they refer. It was, in fact, the age of pomp and gorgeous pageantry; and the intercourse between Henry VIII. and Francis I., and the Emperor Charles V., was marked by the greatest splendour of any of those memorable occasions, respecting which several diligent authors have complained that so little has been published. I trust that the present volume may, therefore, be considered as supplying this desideratum to a very considerable extent; and throwing a new light on those public shows, which appear to have been the outward demonstrations of the chivalrous spirit that animated the contemporaries Francis the First and Henry the Eighth. At jousts, tournaments, and magnificent exhibitions and entertainments, these Princes vied with each other; and though the Chronicles of Hall, Holinshed, and others, contain long descriptions of many of them, I am not aware of any collection of official documents yet seen that has presented so much curious information, and so brilliant a picture of them, as the "Rutland Papers" now published.