

**THE ADMINISTRATION OF
THE ENGLISH
BORDERS DURING THE
REIGN OF ELIZABETH**

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The Administration of the English Borders During the Reign of Elizabeth by Charles A. Coulomb

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CHARLES A. COULOMB

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THE ADMINISTRATION OF
THE ENGLISH BORDERS
DURING THE REIGN
OF ELIZABETH

A THESIS PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA IN
PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIRE-
MENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

August 11
BY
CHARLES A. COULOMB, Ph. D.



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1911

PREFACE

The history of the borders has heretofore been written with regard chiefly to the picturesque and romantic and with emphasis on those phases of it that tend to leave the reader with the impression that the north of England was an utterly wild and lawless region, the inhabitants of which, when they were not being raided by the Scotch, were taking revenge on their lowland neighbors.

Anarchy and disorder on the borders were, however, exceptional. It is intended, therefore, to give in this essay a brief account of the more orderly and usual administration of government by the properly constituted civil and military authorities, and to outline the various means by which the northern marches of England were protected, as well from domestic violence as from the raids and invasions by the Scotch.

C. A. C.

July, 1911.

BEQUEST OF
A. L. CROSS
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THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ENGLISH BORDERS DURING THE REIGN OF ELIZABETH

CHAPTER I

THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE BORDERS

On November 18, 1558, Sir William Cecil, afterwards Lord Burghley, made a note of matters to be attended to on the entry of the queen to the crown. Very near the top of this list we find mentioned "The Borders of Scotland."

Being, as they were, the frontier of England toward Scotland, at that time a foreign country, the defence of the Borders for several hundred years formed an important part of the military policy of England; the most important of the nobility were called upon to administer their government; they absorbed in their administration and defence a considerable part of the revenues of the crown, and their population, reaching probably one hundred thousand at the time of Elizabeth, were subjected to an extraordinary military government in addition to the civil law of the realm. With the growing strength of government under the Tudors, and the changing relations with Scotland arising from the claim of Mary to the English throne, as well as the progress of the Reformation in Scotland, the administration of the Borders reached its highest development and its greatest importance. It is for this reason Cecil puts "The Borders of Scotland" among the first matters to be brought to the queen's attention.

In this memorandum Cecil probably uses the term with