

**LIVES OF THE CARDINAL DE
RICHELIEU, COUNT OXENSTIERN-
COUNT OLIVAREZ AND
CARDINAL MAZARIN, VOL. II**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649154845

Lives of the Cardinal de Richelieu, Count Oxenstiern-Count Olivarez and Cardinal Mazarin,
Vol. II by G. P. R. James

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

G. P. R. JAMES

**LIVES OF THE CARDINAL DE
RICHELIEU, COUNT OXENSTIERN-
COUNT OLIVAREZ AND
CARDINAL MAZARIN, VOL. II**

LIVES

OF



THE CARDINAL DE RICHELIEU.

COUNT OXENSTIERN—COUNT OLIVAREZ.

AND

CARDINAL MAZARIN.

BY G. P. R. JAMES.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

PHILADELPHIA:

CAREY, LEA & BLANCHARD.

1836.

024.4

523

2

14. U. 1.
LIFE

OF

THE CARDINAL DE RICHELIEU.

BORN, 1585—DIED, 1642.

At length, after a great deal of delay and agitation, the monarch consented; but Cinq Mars had rendered himself so much beloved by the soldiers, that it appeared dangerous to attempt to seize him in the camp at Perpignan; and Louis, under the pretence of illness, retired to Narbonne. There Cinq Mars received more than one direct intimation that his schemes were discovered, and that the cardinal had again gained the ascendancy: but he would not take warning till it was too late; and when he at length determined upon attempting to escape, he found that the gates of Narbonne were shut. After an ineffectual endeavour to conceal himself, he was arrested,* and conveyed first to Montpellier and then to Lyons. He was carried thither, we are assured by some writers,† in a small boat, towed

* June 14, 1642.

† Such is the account of madame de Motteville, who, though not an eye-witness to this barbarous spectacle, seems to have received her information from those who were.

at the stern of the magnificent barge in which Richelieu, in a dying state, but surrounded by more than royal splendour, proceeded to Lyons, after having regained a degree of temporary strength. Other accounts, however, make it appear that the minister was borne by his own guards all the way from Tarascon to Paris in a magnificent litter, rendered so large that the gates of almost all the towns through which he passed were obliged to be thrown down to give it room. A person sat beside him, on a low seat in the litter itself, to amuse him with tales and anecdotes as he proceeded; and thus, with eastern pomp and luxury, he made his progress back to the capital from an expedition which had nearly ended in his utter ruin. As far as there are any means of judging between these two accounts, it would seem that part of the journey was performed on the water, the litter in which Richelieu reclined being placed in a barge and towed slowly up the Rhone, with the victims destined to satisfy his vengeance following. A considerable part we know to have been accomplished by land; but there can be no doubt that, in his state at the time, the cardinal must have been anxious to save himself from such fatigue as far as possible.

It was long, however, ere Richelieu was able to undertake the journey; and before that period he obliged the king to come to him at Tarascon, where, lying on two beds side by side, they held the first conference which had taken place between them for many weeks. Richelieu reproached the monarch for having listened to the insinuations of his enemies; and Louis, with tears, avowed his fault like a chidden school-boy, pro-

missing obedience for the future. The king then returned to Paris; and after a considerable delay Richelieu followed, as we have seen, in triumph. The garrison of Perpignan surrendered on the 7th of September, having exhausted every sort of provision which the place contained; and its fall was immediately succeeded by that of Salces,* which had also been left, by the negligence of Spain, without the means of resisting a long or a vigorous siege.

In the mean while the duke of Bouillon was arrested in Italy, and De Thou, Chavagnac, and several other persons, were also placed in custody. The duke of Orleans, as usual, no sooner heard that the conspiracy had been discovered than he at once abandoned his friends, without making an effort to save them, and sent messengers to the king and the cardinal beseeching forgiveness and pity. Richelieu, however, kept the fear of punishment hanging over his head, to induce him to give evidence against his accomplices; and, without remorse, that ungenerous prince made a declaration which brought their heads to the scaffold. He was induced, by his own pusillanimous apprehensions, to write down all he knew; and it would seem that at one time the cardinal was so convinced of his utter undignified baseness, that he proposed to confront him with his former friends as a witness against them. This, however, was more than he would perform; not that abhorrence of the act deterred him, but that he feared to meet the eyes of those whom he had betrayed and ruined, and slunk from the pointing finger of

* Sept. 30.

public scorn. He obtained from the cardinal, who rarely favoured such scruples, a promise that he should be indulged with merely a private interrogatory, which was accordingly pursued by the chancellor in presence of six commissioners; and the will of Richelieu pronounced that this testimony was to be held good in law.

As soon as this was concluded, the trial of the prisoners by a special commission proceeded; but the duke of Bouillon, in whose favour the most powerful interest was made, was saved by the wise and prudent conduct of his wife, who held up before the eyes of the cardinal, as the price of her husband's life, the long desired principality of Sedan, which was possessed by the house of La Tour independent of the crown of France. Cinq Mars, De Thou, and Chavagnac, were alone brought to trial; and it would have been difficult to convict either of the three, even by one of Richelieu's iniquitous tribunals, had they not been betrayed both by the duke of Orleans and themselves. The treaty, which in the hands of the cardinal afforded the basis of the accusation against them, and formed the principal feature of their crime, was, in fact, but a copy; and though undoubtedly genuine, might have been altogether fictitious. Richelieu, we are told, could not even prove whence it came, and thus it might have been either manufactured by himself or by some other enemy of the accused. The duke of Orleans, however, established its genuineness; and lest his testimony should not be sufficient, the prisoners were induced by the basest means to criminate each other. Cinq Mars was informed that De Thou had given evidence against

him, and, there can be no doubt, was also offered his own life on the condition of making a full confession. He was thus brought to avow all, acknowledging that De Thou had known the treaty entered into with Spain; but adding many particulars, which proved the innocence of his unfortunate friend in every other respect. This was sufficient: De Thou, confronted with Cinq Mars, and fearing the torture with which he was threatened, acknowledged that he had known the existence of such a treaty, but declared, as his friend had done before, that he had used every means in his power to dissuade the conspirators from every criminal proceeding. Of the guilt of Cinq Mars there could be no doubt, and his doom had been fixed by his own confession; but in regard to De Thou much difficulty arose, even amongst the creatures of Richelieu, who had been appointed to judge him. The attorney-general, however, discovered a law of Louis XI. by which every one who did not divulge any treasonable matter which they heard were to be held guilty of treason themselves, and upon it De Thou was condemned, as well as Cinq Mars.

Of course, no regard was paid to the promises by which the grand ecuyer had been beguiled; and, without any delay, the unhappy men were brought to the block in the great square of Lyons. Both died very generally regretted, for Cinq Mars, by personal graces and popular accomplishments, had won the hearts of the multitude during his continuance in favour; and De Thou possessed those higher qualities of the mind which command respect during life, and win reverential love to dwell with the memory of the dead in the