

**POEMS AND SONGS RELATING
TO GEORGE VILLIERS, DUKE OF
BUCKINGHAM; AND HIS
ASSASSINATION BY JOHN
FELTON, AUGUST 23, 1628**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649673964

Poems and Songs Relating to George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham; And His Assassination by
John Felton, August 23, 1628 by Frederick W. Fairholt

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FREDERICK W. FAIRHOLT

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AND HIS

Assassination by John Felton,

AUGUST 23, 1628.

EDITED, WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES,

BY

FREDERICK W. FAIRHOLT, F.S.A.

MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND.

WHO RULES THE KINGDOM? THE KING!
WHO RULES THE KING? THE DUKE!!
WHO RULES THE DUKE? THE DEVIL!!!

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE PERCY SOCIETY,

BY RICHARDS, 100, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

No. XC.

OCTOBER 1850.



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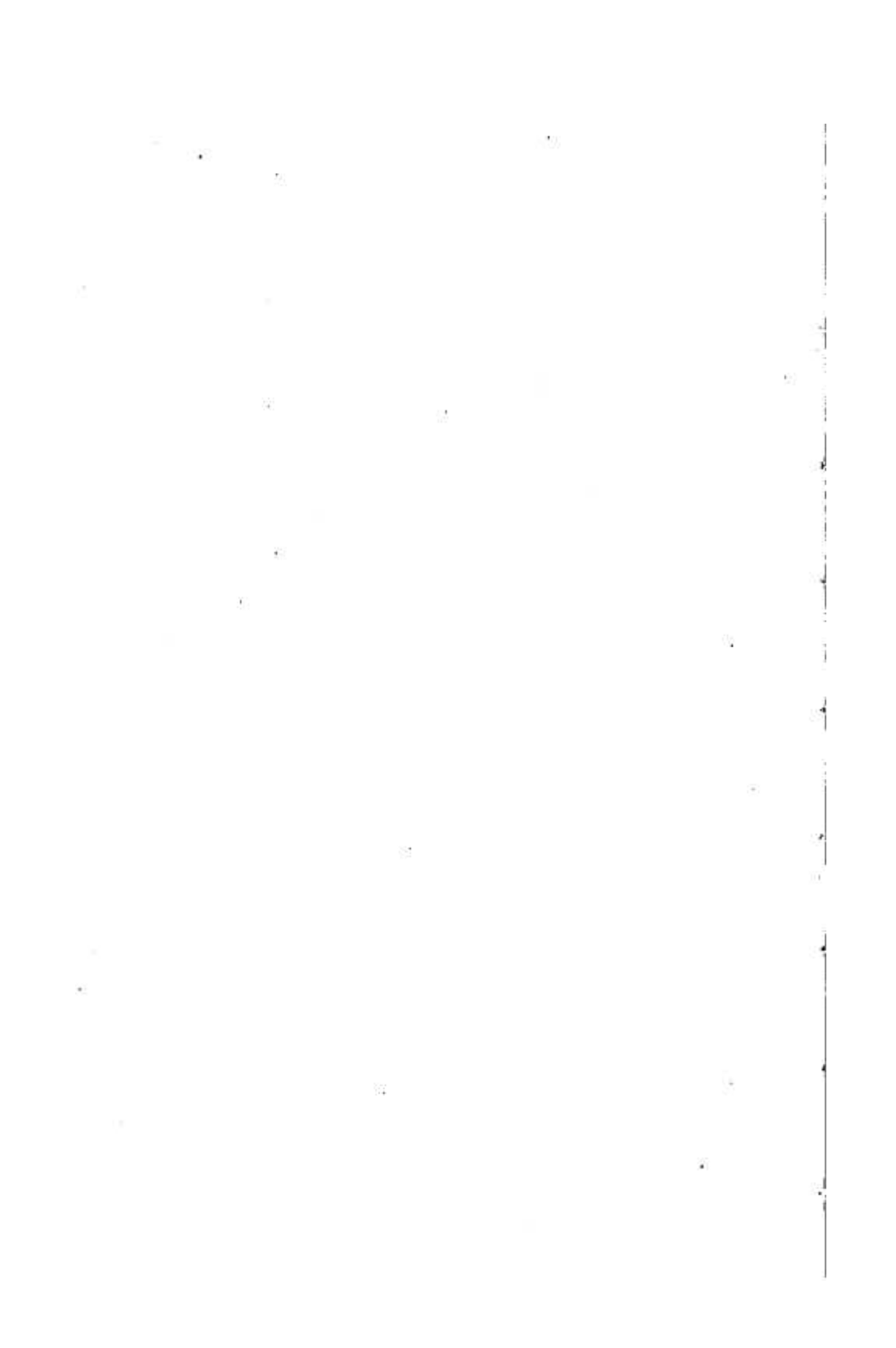
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INTRODUCTION.

POLITICAL POEMS, like "straws thrown up to show which way the wind blows", are especially valuable for the insight they give us to the state of party or popular feeling at the period when they were written. In the early satires levelled against the excesses of the nobles and the unrighteousness of the clergy, we can trace fully that strong pent-up, never-varying desire for civil and religious liberty, which through the middle ages never slept, and ultimately triumphed. Again, what so vividly brings to the imagination of the student, the men and measures of the great civil war in England, as the plain outspoken biting satires and ballads of the time, with all their coarse vigour and unmistakable *vraisemblances*? The pages of the historian may gravely state facts more or less tinged by partizanship; but the ballads and satires of the day bring us personally acquainted with the men, in all their most minute peculiarity of habit and appearance, and furnish us with a clue