

**COLLEGE LIFE IN THE TIME OF JAMES
THE FIRST, AS ILLUSTRATED BY AN
UNPUBLISHED DIARY OF SIR SYMONDS
D'EWES, BARONET, AND M.P. FOR SOME
TIME A FELLOW-COMMONER OF ST
JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE**

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College Life in the Time of James the First, as Illustrated by an Unpublished Diary of Sir Symonds D'Ewes, Baronet, and M.P. For Some Time a Fellow-Commoner of St John's College, Cambridge by Sir Symonds D'Ewes

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SIR SYMONDS D'EWES

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FOR SOME TIME A FELLOW-COMMONER OF
ST JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

LONDON:

JOHN W. PARKER AND SON, WEST STRAND.

M.DCCC.LI.

TO

THE REVEREND RALPH TATHAM, D.D.,

MASTER OF ST JOHN'S COLLEGE,

AND TO THE REST BEARING OFFICE THEREIN;

UNDER WHOSE MANAGEMENT

THAT NOBLE FOUNDATION MAINTAINS A CHARACTER

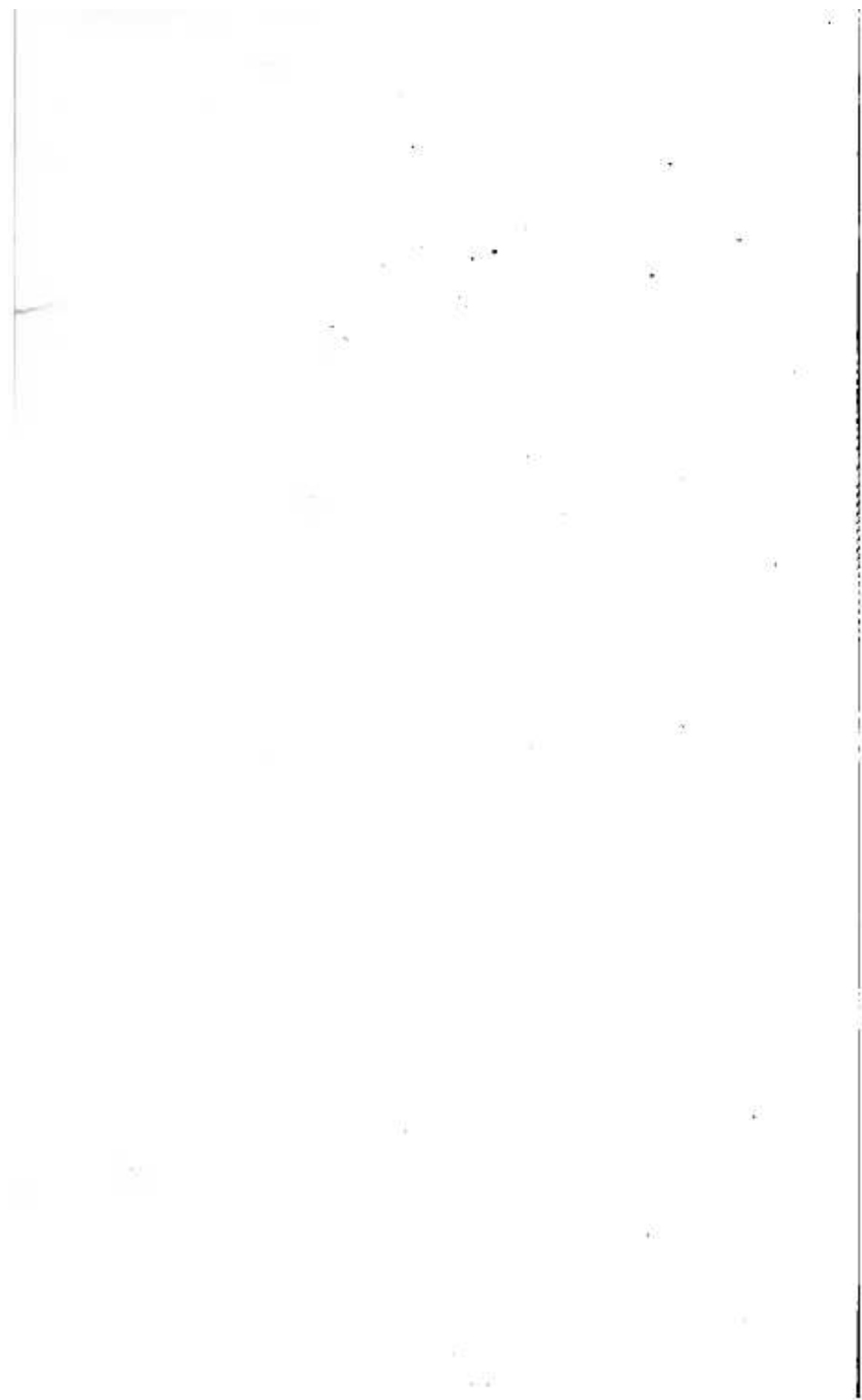
FAR HIGHER THAN IN THE TIME OF JAMES THE FIRST,

AND NOT SURPASSED

AT ANY SUBSEQUENT PERIOD IN ITS ANNALS;

THE FOLLOWING PAGES

ARE VERY RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.



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COLLEGE LIFE

IN THE

TIME OF JAMES THE FIRST.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY EDUCATION OF SYMONDS D'EWES, AND HIS
ENTRANCE AT ST JOHN'S.

IN presenting to our readers a sketch of the college life of an undergraduate of the University of Cambridge, in the early part of the seventeenth century, we must beg leave in the first instance to assist in placing before their mind's eye the hero of the story himself. Let them picture to themselves, therefore, a youth about sixteen years of age, having, as he complacently gives us to understand, a very well favoured and pleasing countenance, with a full and quick black eye. If they have an opportunity of watching him closely, they will find that the ball of the right eye is somewhat dilated, and that he has the misfortune to labour under a slight obliquity of vision. Although belonging to the class whom Parker called Precisians, and their enemies, Puritans, and forbidden, therefore,

CHAP. I.

D'Ewes's
person.

CHAP. I to indulge to any great extent in the 'prevailing taste for rich and costly apparel,' his nether limbs are encased in silk stockings, which, with garters and roses to match, cost the sum of two pounds two shillings. His fellow-commoner's gown cost four pounds seven shillings. And it must be remembered that these sums were equivalent to much more than twice their amount in money of the present day. His father, Paul D'Ewes, Esq., of Stowlangtoft Hall in Suffolk, is a wealthy lawyer, holding a lucrative office in the Court of Chancery: and our hero, being the eldest son, has the prospect of a considerable fortune in right of his mother, whose name of Symonds he inherits as well as her estate.

His parentage.

His diligence at Bury School.

The last year and a half have been spent by him at the school of Bury St Edmund's, and by dint of close application he has made up, in some measure, for the time lost during the earlier period of his somewhat desultory education. His studies have been frequently prolonged while others were in bed. Between eleven and twelve o'clock one night, his father, passing through the town of Bury on his way from London, found only one person stirring therein until he came near his son's lodging, at the house of a certain dame Skinner, and there he espied the glimmering of the midnight lamp. The studious boy was called down to the door, and the father stopped for a few moments to give