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## P R E F A C E.

SINCE the publication of "The Life and Times of Montrose," in 1840, the author of the present more complete biography of that great Scottish worthy edited a voluminous collection of original documents, entitled "Memorials of Montrose and his Times," which were printed under the auspices of that very liberal institution of letters the MATTLAND CLUB. Of this important historical repertory, affording the most authentic materials for a history of "the Troubles" in Scotland which led to the fall of the Monarchy, the first volume was completed in 1848, and the second in 1850. The nature of the original documents thus preserved, and rendered tangible for the benefit both of History and Biography, and their value especially to a fuller illustration than has hitherto appeared of the life and actions of the maligned Marquis of Montrose, will be best explained by some extracts from the editorial prefaces.

"The first intention of these MEMORIALS OF MONTROSE was, simply, to preserve in a tangible form certain original papers referred to, or partially extracted, in two successive publications of his Life and Times;<sup>1</sup> but which suitable appendices to those works were found inadequate to contain. These papers were part of the materials obtained from the Montrose and Napier charter-chests. They consisted of various letters to the great Marquis from different members of the royal family; some docu-

<sup>1</sup> "Montrose and the Covenanters," 1838. "Life and Times of Montrose," 1840.

ments connected with his last unfortunate descent upon Scotland in the year 1650 ; and also the most important papers relating to the nefarious criminal process raised against him by the prevailing faction in 1641, for the purpose of crushing his conservative movement in favour of the Throne. While this plan was in contemplation, under the liberal auspices of the Maitland Club of Scotland, various new acquisitions came very unexpectedly into my possession, and from different quarters unconnected with each other. Twelve original letters from Montrose to his loyal though perverse rival Huntly, hitherto quite unknown, were most obligingly placed at my disposal by the Duke of Richmond. These all relate to the period of the hero's extraordinary exertions to restore the fortunes of the Standard in Scotland, in 1645, after the fatal disaster at Philiphaugh. Some interesting and important papers, including a " REMONSTRANCE" by Montrose, written during the period between his last victory at Kilsyth and the defeat above mentioned, and which I discovered to be in the handwriting of his friend and relative, Archibald first Lord Napier, were no less opportunely than unexpectedly communicated by an intelligent antiquary, Mr Mackinlay of Whitehaven. These documents had never been in possession of the Montrose or Napier families, and had remained in abeyance until now. Not to enumerate at present minor acquisitions, —as all will be found duly acknowledged in the Introductions to the separate Parts of these MEMORIALS,—the Montrose papers found in the charter-chest of Sir James Carnegie of Southesk,<sup>1</sup> the existence of which was also unknown until very recently, only came to light after some sheets of the MEMORIALS had gone to press. Yet

<sup>1</sup> Father to the present Earl of Southesk, in whose person the forfeited Earldom has been recently restored.

the papers last mentioned, which compose Part II. of the first volume of the collection, have added a new and most interesting chapter to the Life of Montrose ; the history, namely, of his boyhood and education.”<sup>1</sup>

“ A renewed search in the Duke of Montrose’s charter-room, for which his Grace afforded every facility, brought to light the depositions before the Committee of Estates of a number of individuals, some of them persons of distinction and others ordinary prisoners of war, whose evidence abounds in minute and curious details. These serve to illustrate Montrose’s campaigns, both at the outset of his career in 1644 when he distinguished himself against the rebels in the north of England, and also throughout the whole series of those surprising victories by which he more than fulfilled his desperate mission from the King.

“ Other original documents were at the same time recovered, from the charter-room at Buchanan, which evince the vindictive spirit of the clerical government of Scotland, and justify the severest comments that can be passed upon those chiefs of the *covenanting* clergy, who hardened their hearts against the fact that the Almighty’s throne is the throne of mercy.

“ To his Grace the Duke of Hamilton the Collection is indebted for a few letters and documents of great interest, which are duly acknowledged where they occur. But I must be allowed here to express my grateful sense of the courtesy displayed by his Grace in our correspondence on the subject.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Preface to the first volume of MEMORIALS OF MONTROSE, printed for the Maitland Club, 1848.

<sup>2</sup> Preface to the second volume of MEMORIALS OF MONTROSE, printed for the Maitland Club, 1850. It may be necessary to add, that the

Many other minor, but not unimportant contributions to that voluminous and original Collection printed for the Maitland Club, were obtained while the work was in progress. All of these are duly acknowledged in the editorial prefaces and notes; and also in the present volumes, where they happen to be extracted or referred to.

Having engaged in this arduous undertaking entirely as a labour of love, and not having any pretensions to acquire a distinguished, or, so to speak, a professional position in authorship, I have made no attempt to dress by the purists in historical composition. Neither, when submitting to the close and constant contact, which these researches involved, with the original and latent evidences of fanatical cruelty, hypocrisy, cowardice, and calumny, have I sought to fashion a single phrase to that mincing mode of hesitating and half-complimentary dislike, which, sacrificing the expression of a just indignation to a fastidious or a timid taste, fails to distinguish between virtue and vice, and fears to call a spade a spade.

Another important result of these latest researches on the subject of Montrose are some discoveries relative to original portraits of the hero, which cannot fail to interest all readers. These volumes are illustrated by accurate engravings from no less than four original por-

severe strictures passed in this biography upon the political character and conduct of the two first Dukes of Hamilton in their fatal opposition to Montrose, had, in substance, long been in the hands of the public (in the former biographies), before the above-mentioned correspondence with his Grace the late Duke of Hamilton occurred; and that the few documents then so liberally and courteously accorded are not the foundation of those strictures.

traits, with three of which the public were altogether unacquainted. It is unnecessary to add more on the subject in this preface, as a minute and critical account of those interesting works of art, and also of the many engravings which throughout two centuries have tended to obscure, rather than preserve, the memory of the personal appearance of Montrose, will be found in the first number of the appendix to this volume.<sup>1</sup> The other historical portraits of near relatives of the Marquis, which have also afforded fitting illustrations of the present biography, are in like manner sufficiently described and authenticated in the appendix.

In thus redeeming, as we hope to have done, the character of Montrose from the calumnies of two centuries, by the closest of biographical scrutinies, and the most unquestionable of evidences, we claim to have laboured so far successfully in the cause of justice and of truth. But something more remains to be achieved in the same stormy field of the Scottish Troubles. The latest and most brilliant historian of England, too disdainful of minute enquiry where party feeling predominates, speaks of the "seared conscience and adamant heart" of the great Dundee; and tells us that "James Graham of Claverhouse,"—thus betraying carelessness or ignorance of the very name he is consigning to unmerited obloquy,

<sup>1</sup> It was there omitted to be mentioned, however, that the date discovered upon the youthful portrait—"Anno 1629, *Ætatis* 17,"—while it coincides precisely with Montrose's age in that year, and also with the date of the portrait recorded in the accounts of his domestic expenditure, does not coincide with the age of Sir John Carnegie of the Craig, the name which a comparatively modern tradition had erroneously assigned to that portrait.

—“ rapacious and profane, of violent temper and obdurate heart, has left a name which, wherever the Scottish race is settled on the face of the globe, is mentioned with a peculiar energy of hatred.”

No historical character, we verily believe, was ever more recklessly pourtrayed, or in colours more false than these. In due time, *Deo volente*, Dundee, too, must be redeemed from a vulgar error of history, thus glorified by the golden pen that delights the present age.

AINSLIE PLACE,  
March 1856.