

PROOFS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

FROM

M A N U S C R I P T S ;

CHIEFLY IN

HIS MAJESTY'S STATE PAPER OFFICE,

HITHERTO UNPRINTED.

PROOFS AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

I.

FIERY CROSS SENT THROUGH SCOTLAND.

History, p. 23.

“He sent the Fiery Cross throughout the Country.”

ON this subject there is the following interesting entry in the MS. Books of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland—under the date, 28 August, 1547.

Item—My Lord Governor’s grace being surely advertised, that the Army of England was at hand ; to Mungo Strathern Messenger, letters of Proclamation, *with the Fire Cross*, to Kincardine, Aberdeen, Banff, Elgin, Forres, Cromarty, Nairn, Inverness, and Bills again, to the Earls of Huntly, Errol, and the Master of Forbes. iii. lb.

Item—To Normand, Pursuivant, same letters, with the *Fire Cross*, to Linlithgow, Stirling, Clackmannan, Kinross, Perth—and all other quarters.

II.

STATE OF SCOTLAND,

After the Battle of Pinky.

1st. History, p. 44. “The land was shamefully deserted by the greater part of its nobility.”

This is a severe charge ; but the following letters, selected from many others which I have transcribed from the State Paper Office,

will prove that it is not unmerited. The leading nobles in Scotland at this time were the Earls of Angus, Huntley, Argyle, and Sir George Douglas, brother to Angus. All of them deserted the Governor, and entered into secret and treasonable transactions with England. I proceed to prove this by the evidence of original letters :—

On the 10th of September, the Battle of Pinky was fought, and on the 18th of the same month, the Protector Somerset commenced his retreat. On the 20th of October, Lord Gray, of Wilton, addressed a letter to the Protector,¹ in which he gives the substance of an interview which passed between him and Sir George Douglas. He (Douglas) says Gray, liked well all the Articles, (alluding to the Secret Articles of Agreement mentioned in the text, p. 44), except that by which, in the event of the young Queen's marriage to any other than Edward the VI, they bind themselves to serve the King's Majesty against their own country" He began, (I use the words of Gray's letter) "He began to allege what it was to forsake his native country, and living there, he showed me also that he had yearly of *the Queen, a stipend of one thousand crowns, and of the French King as much,* and now, since his being with me, the Governor sent for him, to speak to him, and] *offered him an Abbey of another thousand crowns by year,* but he came not at him, nor will not do, but if I would mitigate that article, he was contented with the rest. I showed him, that if he refused part, he must refuse the whole. * * And then at the last he granted thereunto, *and hath both made his othe upon the testament to observe them,* and subscribed the same for a witness thereof, in sort as all others have done." Douglas entreated Gray to induce the Lord Protector to erase this Article, which Gray assured him he was not likely to do. He then communicated his "*device,*" which, with certain requests on his own behalf, Gray inclosed to Somerset. Douglas declared that he intended to go with them (the English army) himself and be their guide, but enjoined secrecy of this private transaction, as if it transpired, he should not be able to win his friends. I subjoin a brief abstract of the paper, given in by Douglas, entitled, "The order of an Invasion into Scotland, devised by Sir George Douglas, to be at-

¹ MS. Letter, St. P. Off. Lord Gray to the Protector, 20th Oct. 1547.

tempted within a month after the date hereof, or six weeks at the farthest." He states that the number ought to be six thousand men—two thousand five hundred to be horse—and victuals in carriages sufficient for four days, for the whole. They should direct their march, *first*, to Jedburgh—to meet the lairds of Fernherst and Cessford, and the rest of the gentlemen of Teviotdale, who must be sent for—no manner of spoil or hurt to be done.

2nd. Journey to Selkirk—where they will meet Buccleugh and the rest of the gentlemen.

3rd. To Pebles—to meet Lord Hay, of Yester. (Sister's son to Douglas.)

4th. To Lanerk. Where the Governor is Sheriff. Here he would that the Earls of Angus, Cassillis, Glencairn, and the Lord Boyd, should come in.

5th. To Glasgow, and 6th. To Stirling.¹

This crafty Baron next handed in a paper, which he probably considered not the least important part of the transaction. It is entitled,

THE REQUESTS OF GEORGE DOUGLAS

For his own part: and consists of four stipulations. 1st, To have one thousand pounds sterling, within eleven days, to support himself, friends, and strengths, against the authority, and to have a yearly stipend of five hundred pounds sterling. 2d, His friends not to be opprest. 3d, That he may have his goods, silver, money, plate, and apparel, that he left in his hostess' house in Berwick, delivered to him. 4th, to have from the English King, the keeping of the Fort at Aymouth. ——— The Lord Gray addressing Somerset, adds this emphatic sentence, "Your Grace,

¹ From a curious paper, published for the first time by Mr. Stevenson, in his "Illustrations of the Reign of Queen Mary," p. 99, from the Harleian MS. 289, fol. 73, we learn that this intended Invasion was stopt by the advice of Thomas Bishop, an adherent of Lennox, who on good grounds suspected that Douglas was acting treacherously.

"My device to him (the Protector), says Bishop and the Duke of Northumberland, at Shene, stopt my Lord Gray from entering Scotland with six thousand men, whereof the greatest force horsemen, being then the flower of England—his journey being devised by George Douglas, to have brought them to the butchery, as well was known after. The article (communication) to him in that matter at good length will declare."

I doubt not, considereth that this *man would not be won without money*, and albeit he demandeth a *thousand pounds* in hand, I doubt not but he will be satisfied with a *thousand marks*. These extracts sufficiently prove the venality and desertion of his country by Sir George Douglas. The following letter from Angus, his brother, to Sir Andrew Dudley, the English Governor of the Fort of Broughty (see text, p. 40), establishes the same fact against that nobleman.

THE EARL OF ANGUS TO SIR ANDREW DUDLEY.

“ Trusty cousin and hearty friend. After most hearty commendations, may it please you I have received your writing the 16th day of December, at Douglas, and understand the same, thanking you greatly of your kind offers. And as anent my assurance, in this manner I have assured my kind friends and servants, because my lands is sae meikle, wheos names could not be specified. * * * * * praying you heartily as my special trust is in you, to be good and friendfull to my servants and friends as Patie Lynn, James Anderson, and my servants of Arbroath, which no more I cannot specify unto you shortly. And as for my servants and friends, I shall use them as ye do. And as anent the siege of the King’s Craig-house of Broughty, I was warned to the same by the Queen’s Grace and the Governor. I had business I showed them, that I might not come. They sent special of the Council to me, and offered me great rewards to come to the same. *I cause all my friends and servants to stop and remain.* * * * he could not make any more on this side the Frith but sixty of honest men. And as long as he was at the siege, I had posts running daily forth of my lands of Hermitage, to see how you fared in all causes, and have my answers, the which I shall show you at our meeting. And as anent the coming in the country, I should have been with you ere now, were not the coming of the Earl of Lennox in Scotland * *. And I have appointed friends to convene the 18th day of this instant month, towards that matter, to set him forward in his affairs, the which shall be shortly, will God. And I (mean to) advertise my Lord of Lennox, with two of my honest friends, Glencairn, Cassillis, or

