

FIVE GENERATIONS OF A  
LOYAL HOUSE,

PART I.

CONTAINING THE LIVES OF

RICHARD BERTIE,

AND HIS SON

PEREGRINE, LORD WILLOUGHBY.

By LADY GEORGINA BERTIE.

"The family had deserved well of the country for *FIVE SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS.*"  
RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW, 2d Ser. vol. ii. p. 202.

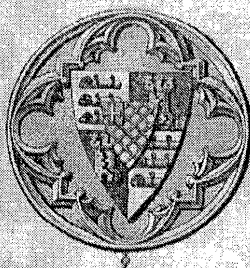


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A return from exile, however safe or honourable that exile may have been, must still be a cause of rejoicing, and an incitement to gratitude; and no doubt Mr. Bertie and the Duchess fully experienced both these feelings, when, after their long absence from their native shores, they set foot together on the coast of England, bringing with them their two children, and acknowledging the protecting hand of that merciful Providence, which had been their guide and preserver, and was now the haven of their rest.



Having thus happily brought to a close the narrative of the persecutions endured by Mr. Bertie and his wife, and safely reconducted them to their own country, and to the repossession of their lands and dignities, we must give a short space to a few remarks concerning them, before the page of history is closed upon them, and we turn from the tomb containing their earthly remains, to record the actions of their son Peregrine, the gallant inheritor of their name and honours.

It appears that after their return to England, Mr. Bertie and his wife were willing to enjoy the tranquillity that followed such stormy times. There can be no doubt that he might have been actively employed in a public station, had he been willing so to devote his leisure; which fact is sufficiently proved by a letter<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Burleigh Papers, 1562-3. Lansdowne MSS, No. 6, art. 35. Letter of the Duchess of Suffolk to Cecil, indorsed, "30th October, 1563. Duchess of Suffolk thanks him, &c. with a postscript from Mr. Bertie to him, refusing public employment."

now existing in the British Museum, dated October, 30, 1562-3, addressed to Cecil, then chief secretary of state, by the Duchess, to which Mr. Bertie adds the following postscript :

"As your loving commendations much comforted me, so the signification to some public function much encumbered me ; yea, so much, that if your gravity had not been the better known to me, I should have thought it scant seriously written ; but seeing you meant it faithfully, I pray you in season correct your error, in preferring insufficiency for sufficiency, and to deliver yourself from rebuke, and me from shame. My hope is, that I shall find you so friendly, and readily hereunto inclined, that I shall not need to iterate my suit.

"R. BERTIE."

Though declining office, Mr. Bertie did not, however, as yet devote himself only to literary pursuits : in this same year (1563<sup>1</sup>) he was, with Cecil, elected representative of the county of Lincoln, and sat in Parliament for four years<sup>2</sup> ; and during this period, in the year 1564, he attended the Queen on her visit to Cambridge. Great preparations were made for her reception ; and for five successive days, the University entertained their sovereign with orations, comedies, and tragedies. On this occasion Richard Bertie, with others of the court<sup>3</sup>, received the

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix, art. Y, for a transaction in the same year, in which Richard Bertie bore a part, extracted from the deeds contained in the Corporation chest at Maidstone, by Mr. Clement Smythe, to whom the author is indebted for this and many other documents respecting Bersted.

<sup>2</sup> Brown Willis, vol. iii. p. 73.

<sup>3</sup> Viz. Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk ; Ratcliffe, Earl of Sussex ; Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick ; Edward Vere, Earl of Oxford ; Manners, Earl of Rutland ; Sir William Cecil, Knight ; Sir Francis Knolles, Knight ; — Hencage, Esq. ; — Andley, Esq. ; and others.