

## AN ELECTION TO THE LONG PARLIAMENT.

ANTHONY WOOD, a man to be depended on for accuracy, states as a fact that John Pym, Clerk of the Exchequer, and others, did, during the autumn of 1640, ride to and fro over England, inciting the people to choose members of their faction. Pym and others: Pym ‘rode about the country to promote elections of the Puritanical brethren to serve in Parliament; wasted his body much in carrying on the cause, and was himself,’ as we well know, ‘elected a Burgess.’ As for Hampden, he had long been accustomed to ride: ‘being a person of antimonarchical principles,’ says Anthony, ‘he did not only ride, for several years before the Grand Rebellion broke out, into Scotland, to keep consults with the Covenanting brethren there; but kept his circuits to several Puritanical houses in England; particularly to that of Knightley in Northamptonshire,’ to Fawsley Park, then and now the house of the Knightleys, ‘and also to that of William Lord Say at Broughton near Banbury in Oxfordshire;’<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Hampden might well be on horseback in election time. These Pym, these Hampdens, Knightleys were busy riding over England in those months: it is a little fact which Anthony Wood has seen fit to preserve for us. 5 10 15

A little fact, which, if we meditate it, and picture in any measure the general humour and condition of the England that then was, will spread itself into great expanse in our imagination! What did they say, do, think, these patriotic missionaries, ‘as they rode about the country?’ What did they propose, advise, in the successive Town-halls, 20

<sup>1</sup> Wood’s *Athenæ* (Bliss’s edition), iii. 73, 59; Nugent’s *Hampden*, i. 327.

Country-houses, and ‘Places of Consult?’ John Pym, Clerk of the Exchequer, Mr. Hampden of Great Hampden, riding to and fro, lodging with the Puritan Squires of this English Nation, must have had notable colloquies! What did the Towns-people say in reply to them? We have a great curiosity to know about it: how this momentous General Election of autumn 1640 went on; what the physiognomy or figure of it was; how ‘the remarkablest Parliament that ever sat, the father of all Free British Parliaments, American Congresses, and French Conventions, that have sat since in this world,’ was got together!

To all which curiosities and inquiries, meanwhile, there is as good as no answer whatever. Wood’s fact, such as it is, has to twinkle for us like one star in a heaven otherwise all dark, and shed what light it can. There is nothing known of this great business, what it was, what it seemed to be, how in the least it transacted itself, in any town, or county, or locality. James Heath, ‘Carrion Heath,’ as Smelfungus calls him, does, in his *Flagellum* (or *Flagitium*<sup>2</sup> as it properly is), write some stuff about Oliver Cromwell and Cambridge Election; concerning which latter and Cleaveland the Poet there is also another blockheadism on record:—but these, and the like, mere blockheadisms, pitch-dark stupidities and palpable falsities,—what can we do with these? Forget them, as soon as possible, to all eternity;—that is the evident rule: Admit that we do honestly know nothing, instead of miskonwng several things, and in some sense all things, which is a great misfortune in comparison!

Contemporary men had no notion, as indeed they seldom have in such cases, what an enormous work they were going on with; and nobody took note of this Election more than of any former one. Besides, if they had known, they had other business than to write accounts of it for *us*. But how could any body know that this was to be the *Long* Parliament, and to cut his Majesty’s head off, among other feats? A very ‘spirited election,’ I dare believe:—but there had been another Election that same year, equally spirited, which had issued in a *Short* Parliament, and mere ‘second Episcopal War.’ There had been Three prior Elections, sufficiently spirited; and had issued, each of them, in what we may call a futile shriek; their Parliaments swiftly vanishing again.

<sup>2</sup> Or, *Life of Oliver Cromwell* (London, 1663): probably, all things considered, the brutalest Platitude this English Nation has to shew for itself in writing.

Sure enough, from whatever cause it be, the world, as we said, knows not any where of the smallest authentic notice concerning this matter, which is now so curious to us, and is partly becoming ever more curious. In the old Memoirs, not entirely so dull when once we understand them; in the multitudinous rubbish mountains of old Civil-War Pamphlets (some thirty or fifty thousand of them in the British Museum alone, unread, unsorted, unappointed, unannealed!), which will continue dull till, by real labour and insight, of which there is at present little hope, the ten-thousandth part of them be extracted; and the nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine parts of them be eaten by moths, or employed in domestic cookery when fuel grows scarce;—in these chaotic masses of old dull printing, there is not to be met with, in long years of manipulation, one solitary trait of any election, in any point of English land, to this same Long Parliament, the remarkablest that ever sat in the world. England was clearly all alive then,—with a moderate crop of corn just reaped from it; and other things not just ready for reaping yet. In Newcastle, in ‘the Bishopricks’ and that region, a Scotch Army, bristling with pike and musket, sonorous with drum and psalm-book, all snugly garrisoned and billeted ‘with 850*l.* a-day;’ over in Yorkshire an English Army, not quite so snugly; and a ‘Treaty of Ripon’ going on; and immense things in the wind, and Pym and Hampden riding to and fro to hold ‘consults:’ it must have been an election worth looking at! But none of us will see it; the Opacities have been pleased to suppress this election, considering *it* of no interest. It is erased from English and from human Memory, or was never recorded there,—(owing to the stupor and dark nature of that faculty, we may well say). It is a lost election; swallowed in the dark deeps: *premit atra Nox*. Black Night; and this one fact of Anthony Wood’s more or less faintly twinkling there!

In such entire darkness it was a welcome discovery which the present Editor made, of certain official or semi-official Documents, legal testimonies and signed affidavits, relative to the Election for Suffolk, such as it actually shewed itself to men’s observation in the Town of Ipswich on that occasion: Documents drawn up under the exact eye of Sir Simonds D’Ewes, High-Sheriff of Suffolk; all carefully preserved these two centuries, and still lying safe for the inspection

of the curious among the *Harley Manuscripts* in the British Museum. Sir Simonds, as will be gradually seen, had his reasons for getting these Documents drawn up; and luckily, when the main use of them was over, his thrifty, historical turn of mind, induced him to preserve them for us. A man of sublime Antiquarian researches, Law-learning, human and divine accomplishments, and generally somewhat Grand-isonian in his ways; a man of scrupulous Puritan integrity, of highflown conscientiousness, exactitude, and distinguished perfection; ambitious to be the pink of Christian country gentlemen and magistrates of counties; really a most spotless man and High-Sheriff: how shall he suffer, in Parliament, or out of it, to the latest posterity, any shadow from election brabbles or the like indecorous confusion to rest on his clear-polished character? Hence these Documents;—for there had an unseemly brabble, and altercation from unreasonable persons, fallen out at this Election, which ‘might have ended in blood,’ from the nose or much deeper, had Sir Simonds been a less perfect High-Sheriff! Hence these Documents, we say; and they are preserved to us.

The Documents, it must be at once owned, are somewhat of the wateriest: but the reader may assure himself they are of a condensed, emphatic, and very potent nature, in comparison with the generality of Civil-War documents and records! Of which latter indeed, and what quality they are of, the human mind, till once it has earnestly tried them, can form no manner of idea. We had long heard of Dulness, and thought we knew it a little; but here first *is* the right dead Dulness, Dulness its very self! Ditch-water, fetid bilge-water, ponds of it and oceans of it; wide-spread genuine Dulness without parallel in this world: such is the element in which that history of our Heroic Seventeenth Century as yet rots and swims! The hapless inquirer swashes to and fro, in the sorrow of his heart; if in an acre of stagnant water, he can pick up half a peascod, let him thank his stars!

This Editor, in such circumstances, read the D’Ewes Documents, and re-read them, not without some feeling of satisfaction. Such as they are, they bring one face to face with an actual election, at Ipswich, ‘in Mr. Hambies’ Field, on Monday the 19th of October, 1640, an extreme windy day.’ There is the concrete figure of that extreme windy Monday, Monday gone Two hundred and odd years: the express image of Old Ipswich, and Old England, and that Day; exact to

Nature herself,—though in a most dark glass, the more is the pity! But it is a glass; it is the authentic *mind*, namely, or *seeing-faculty* of Sir Simonds D'Ewes and his Affidavit-makers, who did look on the thing with eyes and minds, and got a real picture of it for themselves. Alas, we too could see *it*, the very thing as it then and there was, through these men's poor limited authentic picture of it here preserved for us, had we eyesight *enough*;—a consideration almost of a desperate nature! Eyesight *enough*, O reader: a man in that case were a god, and could do various things!— 5

We will not overload these poor Documents with commentary. Let the public, as we have done, look with its own eyes. To the commonest eyesight a markworthy old fact or two may visibly disclose itself; and in shadowy outline and sequence, to the interior regions of the seeing-faculty, if the eyesight be beyond common, a whole world of old facts,—an old contemporary England at large, as it stood and lived, on that 'extreme windy day,'—may more or less dimly suggest themselves. The reader is to transport himself to Ipswich; and, remembering always that it is two centuries and four years ago, look about him there as he can. Some opportunity for getting these poor old Documents copied into modern hand has chanced to arise; and here, with an entire welcome to all faithful persons who are sufficiently patient of dulness for the sake of direct historical knowledge, they are given forth in print. 10 15 20

It is to be premised that the Candidates in this Election are Three: Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston and Sir Philip Parker on the Puritan side; and Mr. Henry North, son of Sir Roger North, on the Court or Royalist side. Sir Roger is himself already elected, or about to be elected, for the borough of Eye;—and now Mr. Henry, heir-apparent, is ambitious to be Knight of the Shire. He, if he can, will oust one of the two Puritans, he cares little which, and it shall be tried on Monday. 25 30

To most readers these Candidates are dark and inane, mere Outlines of Candidates: but Suffolk readers, in a certain dim way, recognise something of them. 'The Parkers still continue, in due brilliancy, in that shire: a fine old place, at Long Melford, near Bury:—but this Parker,' says our Suffolk monitor,<sup>3</sup> 'is of another family, the family of 35

<sup>3</sup> D. E. Davy, Esq., of Ufford, in that County, whose learning in Suffolk History is understood to be supreme, and whose obliging disposition we have ourselves experienced.

Lord Morley and Monteagle, otherwise not unknown in English History.<sup>4</sup> The Barnardistons too,' it would appear, 'had a noble mansion in the east side of the county, though it has quite vanished now, and corn is growing on the site of it,' and the family is somewhat eclipsed.

5 The Norths are from Mildenhall, from Finborough, Laxfield; the whole world knows the North kindred, Lord Keeper Norths, Lord Guildford Norths, of which these Norths of ours are a junior twig. Six lines are devoted by Collins Dryasdust<sup>5</sup> to our Candidate Mr. Henry, of Mildenhall, and to our Candidate's Father and Uncle; testifying indisputably that they lived, and that they died.

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Let the reader look in the dim faces, Royalist and Puritan, of these respectable Vanished Gentlemen; let him fancy their old Great Houses, in this side of the county or that other, standing all young, firm, fresh-pargeted, and warm with breakfast-fire, on that 'extreme windy morning,' which have fallen into such a state of dimness now! Let the reader, we say, look about him in that old Ipswich; in that old-vanished population: perhaps he may recognise a thing or two. There is the old 'Market Cross,' for one thing; 'an old Grecian circular building, of considerable diameter; a dome raised on distinct pillars, so that you could go freely in and out between them; a figure of Justice on the top;' which the elderly men in Ipswich can still recollect, for it did not vanish till some thirty years ago. The 'Corn Hill' again, being better rooted, has not vanished hitherto, but is still extant as a Street and Hill; and the Town Hall stands on one side of it.

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Samuel Duncon, the Town-constable, shall speak first. 'The Duncons were a leading family in the Corporation of Ipswich; Robert Duncon was patron of the,' &c. &c.: so it would appear; but this Samuel, Town-constable, must have been of the more decayed branches, poor fellow! What most concerns us is, that he seems to do his constabling in a really judicious manner, with unspeakable reverence to the High Sheriff; that he expresses himself like a veracious person, and writes a remarkably distinct hand. We have sometimes, for light's sake, slightly modified Mr. Duncon's punctuation; but have respected

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35 <sup>4</sup> 'It was to William Parker, Lord Monteagle, ancestor of this Sir Philip, that the Letter was addressed, which saved the King and Parliament from the Gunpowder Plot. Sir Philip had been High-Sheriff in 1637; he died in 1675.'—*Dryasdust MSS.*

<sup>5</sup> *Peerage*, iv. 62, 63 (London, 1741).

his and the High-Sheriff's spelling, though it deserves little respect,—and have in no case, never so slightly, meddled with his sense. The questionable *italic letters in brackets* are evident interpolations;—omissible, if need be.

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SUFFOLKE ELECTION.<sup>6</sup>

## No. I.

[*Samuel Duncon testifieth.*]

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'Memorandum, That upon Monday the 19th day of October this present year 1640, the election of two Knights for the Shire was at Ipswich in Suffolke; the Writt being read about eight of the clocke in the morning: and in the Markett Crosse where the County Court is generally kept, Mr. Henry North sonne of Sir Roger North was there at the reading of the said Writt. All this time the other two, namely, Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston and Sir Philip Parker, were at the King's Head; and Mr. North was carried about neare halfe an houre before the other two came [*Carried about in his chair by the jubilant people: Let all men see, and come and vote for him. The chairing was then the first step, it would seem*]; and after the other two were taken there, Mr. North was carried into the field neare the said towne, called Mr. Hambie's feild:<sup>7</sup> and the said High-Sherriffe was there polling, about halfe-an-houre before the other two Knights knewe either of his being polling, or of the High-Sherriff's intention to take the Poll in that place. But at length the two Knights were carried into the said feild; and before they came there, the tables which were sett for them, the said Sir Nathaniel and Sir Philip, were thrust downe, and troaden under foot [*Such a pressure and crowding was there!*]; and they both caused but one table to bee sett there,—till about three of the clocke of the afternoone, the said day, about which time Sir Nathaniel had another table sett there, a little remote from the other. And when they went about to poll they wanted a clarke. I, Samuell Duncon, standing by, some requested mee; and upon the Under-Sherriff's allowance, I did take names, and one Mr. Fishar with mee, he for Sir Nathaniel, and myselfe for Sir Philip; although many that came for the one, came for the other; and if

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<sup>6</sup> From *Harleian MSS.* British Museum (Parliamentary Affairs collected by Sir S. D'Ewes), No. 165, fol. 5-8.

<sup>7</sup> Or 'Hanbie's field,' as the Duncon *MS.* has it: he probably means Hamby. 'A family of the latter name had property at Ipswich and about it, in those times.'—*Dryasdust MSS.*

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any came for Mr. North (as there did some), wee tooke them likewise for him. And Mr. John Clinch of Creting,<sup>8</sup> Sir Roger North's brother-in-law, or some other of Mr. North his [*"North his" means North's*] freinds, stode by  
 5 all the time. And after the space of one quarter of an houre, came Sir Robert Crane,<sup>9</sup> and did oppose against Mr. Fishar; and then came the said High-Sheriffe himselfe to the table, wheree wee weere writing, and discharged Mr. Fishar, and tooke his papers of him; and at the request of Sir Roger North did appoint one Mr. John Sheppard to write in his place, who then tooke  
 10 names for Sir Nathaniel, and myselfe for Sir Philip. About one houre after, Sir Robert Crane and the rest of Mr. North his friends moved Sir Nathaniel that wee might leave off polling for him, and Sir Philip, and take the Poll only for Mr. North; for, they said, Mr. North's table was much pestered, and many of his men would be gone out of towne, being neare night,—and the like reasons. Which reasons might as well have been alledged in the behalfe of Sir  
 15 Nathaniel, and Sir Philip: but without reasoning, Sir Nathaniel did grant them their desire; and presently Sir Robert Crane went and called all that were for Mr. North to come to that table; and soe Mr. Sheppard and myselfe tooke for Mr. North as long as wee could well see; which I think was about one houre. Having done, wee gave upp our Bookes, and did goe to Mrs.  
 20 Penning's house in Ipswich, where Sir Roger North was then with the said High-Sherriffe; and I heard no oppositions at that time taken against any thing that had passed that Monday at the taking of the said Poll; but Sir Roger North and the said High-Sherriffe did part very curteously and friendly, each from the other.

25 'But by the next morning it was generally thought, that Sir Nathaniel and Sir Philip had outstripped Mr. North, about 500 voices apiece, at the Poll taken on the Monday foregoing; soe as the said Sir Roger being, it seemes, much vexed thereat, came to the said High-Sherriffe's lodging about eight of the clocke, the same Teuesday morning, and begann to make cavills against  
 30 what had passed at the taking of the Poll the day past. And then they went to the Poll againe; and two tables were sett in the Markett Crosse,<sup>10</sup> whereat the Poll was taken for Mr. North by four clarkes on oath, two writing the

8 'The family of Clinch, or Clench as it should be spelt, were of note in Suffolk. They descended from John Clench of' &c. &c., 'buried in 1607 with a handsome monument to his memory. He was one of the Justices of the King's Bench. His Grandson, John Clench, Esq., was High-Sheriff of the County in 1639.'—*Dryasdust MSS.* This, I think, is our and Samuel Duncon's Clench.

9 'Sir Robert Crane was descended from a Norfolk family, which migrated,' &c. 'He was created a Baronet in May 1627. He was of Chilton Hall, near Sudbury; he died in 1642.'—*Ibid.*

10 'A spacious place; there was room enough in it: see the old copperplate of 1780.'—*Dryasdust MSS.*

same names. About 12 of the clocke, the same forenoone, the Court was adjourned to two of the clocke in the afternoone. About which time the said High-Sheriffe repairing thither againe, did with much patience attend the same Mr. North's Poll, sitting sometimes about a quarter of an houre before any came in to give their voice, for the said Mr. North. And as the said High-Sheriffe was soe attending his [*Sir Roger North's*] said sonne's Poll, about three of the clocke the same afternoone, came Sir Roger North, accompanied with divers gentlemen, most of them armed with swords or rapiers [*Lo, there!*], into the said Mearkett Crosse; and the said High-Sherriffe very respectfully attending with silence to what the said Sir Roger North had to say, he fell into most outrageous, unjust, and scandalous criminations, against the said High-Sherriffe; charging him to have dealt partiallie and unjustlie, and to have wronged his said sonne. To all which violent accusations, the said High-Sherriffe, having desired silence, did answere soe fully and readily, as it gave all unpartiall and honest men full satisfaction. A while after the said High-Sherriffe's speech was ended, the said Sir Roger North with divers others went upp and downe in such a manner on the said Corne Hill, as I, the said Samuell Duncon, fearing that much danger and bloudshedd might ensue, and being one of the constables of Ipswich, did in the King's Majestie's name charge some of the said company to desist [*Highly proper, in such a place as the Corne Hill!*].

'SAMUEL DUNCON.'

NO. II.

[*Samuel Duncon testifieth for the second time.*]

'*Monday, the 19th of October, 1640.*

'When I came into the field where the Polling was for the Knights of the Shire, the first place I settled at was an Elm [*Nota bene*] in the middle of the feild, where there were polling for Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston, and Sir Philip Parker: and there was a long table, at one end whereof was Mr. Robert Dowe, clerke; and he did write for both the foresaid knights; and Mr. Farran, Under-Sherriffe,<sup>11</sup> did sweare the people; and at the other end of the same table did Mr. Robert Clarke write for Sir Philip, and Mr. Peter Fisher wrot

<sup>11</sup> 'Under-Sheriff,' so Duncon calls him; but the real Under-Sheriff was Mr. Chopine, to whom this Mr. Farran must have been assistant or temporary substitute.

for Sir Nathaniel; and sometimes Mr. Chopping<sup>12</sup> did swear the people at that end, and sometimes Mr. Robert Clerke did swear them.

5       ‘After I had stood there one houre or thereabout, Mr. Robert Clerke his nose did bleede [*Ominous?*], so as he coulde not write, and then he called mee to write in his stead, and the Under-Sherriffe required me so to doe; which I did till his nose left bleeding, and then he tooke the Booke again and wrot himselfe. Then I stood by againe about another houre, and then with the violent presse of the people, the tressolls brake, and the table fell downe to the ground [*Aha!*]. There was a cessation of writing until the table was set up againe. In that interim, Peter Fisher and Samuel Duncon went to the Conduit-head [*Mark!*]; and having a table sett up there, they did write there for the two foresaid Knights: and then, at the former place [*Beside the big Elm, namely, under its creaking boughs, and brown leaves dropping*], when the table was up againe, Mr. Dowe wrot still for the two Knights, and then

10       [“*Then*” signifies “*meanwhile*”] at the other end of the table was Mr. Robert Clarke writing for Sir Philip. And then there was no man at that end writing for Sir Nathaniel; which presently bred this confusion inevitable, viz. when men had with much trouble pressed to the end of the table (where Mr. Clarke did only take for Sir Philip), and desired to be sworne and entered for

15       both, Mr. Clerke would swear and take them onely for Sir Philip; and would send them to the place where Mr. Fisher was writing for Sir Nathaniel [*And I for Sir Philip still? No, I had ceased; the official nose having done bleeding: see presently*], at the foresaid Conduit-head: whereupon men, being unwilling to endure so much trouble as to presse twice into such great crowdes, began to murmure and complaine [*Very naturally!*], saying they would not endure this, but desired they might be discharged at one place; also Mr. Fisher came to Mr. Clerke, and demanded the reason Why there was no one to take for Sir Nathaniel at that end of the table, where the said Clerke did take names for Sir Philip? and Mr. Fisher said that men complained because they were

20       not despatched for both at once; and said also they would goe away, and not endure this crowding twice. When I [*Having now quitted the Conduit-head, and come to the Elm again*] saw no clerke to write for Sir Nathaniel, I desired this inconvenience aforesaid might be prevented; and seeing a Paper Booke in Mr. Farran his hands, I sayd to him, “Mr. Farran, you see there wants a clerke at the other end of the table to write for Sir Nathaniel,” and then Mr. Farran gave me the Paper Booke in his hands, and sayd to mee, “Write you, for Sir Nathaniel at that end of the table,” where Mr. Clerke did write for Sir Philip. And then I, having the Booke, did write for Sir Nathaniel till the evening. And at that end of the table where [*“table where,” not “end where”*]

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<sup>12</sup> ‘A.D. 1640. John Choppine, Gent. Under-Sheriff; Tallemach Choppine of Coddenham’s brother.’—*Harleian MSS.* No. 99, fol. 7.

Mr. Robert Dowe did write at one end, and Mr. Clerke and myselfe at the other end, there were present two or three knightes or gentlemen all the whole time of Mr. North's partie: sometimes Sir Robert Crane, and Mr.—Waldegrave, and Mr. John Smith,<sup>13</sup> and Mr. Henry North, sen. [*This is the Candidate's Uncle, come over from Laxfield, I think, to see fair play*]. No man, all that time, made any observation against mee; and yet they stode, some of these and sometimes some others of that side, all the afternoone, and did supravise all the clerkes. Also, at night, when wee were breaking up, Mr. Clerke demanded of Mr. Clinch [*Clinch of Creting,—whom we saw above*] if he could find any fault with us in doing any wrong? To which he answered, “He could not as yet, if there were no other carriage than there had yet beene,” or to that effect. Neither was there any that day who did find fault with the clerkes in my hearing; but sometimes some muttering and complaining about some particular questions in the oaths, which (as soon as they came to the High-Sheriffe his intelligence) were rectified and settled.

‘And, at night, when wee broke up, I gave my Booke that I wrott in, unto the Under-Sheriffe, Mr. Farran, before I stirred from the table where I wrott; and then wee came home with the High-Sheriffe to Mrs. Penning's howse [*Did she keep the King's Head?*]; and there did the High-Sheriffe call for all the Bookes from the Under-Sheriffe, and in the presence of Sir Roger North, and Mr. North, his brother, and more other gentlemen, locke up all the Bookes in a little truncke, and sett that truncke in his owne lodging-chamber, and gave the key thereof to his Under-Sheriffe, who lodged not in that howse where the Bookes were.

‘Tuesday, the 20th of October, 1640.

‘In the morning Mr. High-Sheriffe came into the Cornehill at Ipswich, and the Knights, to make an end of polling. Whereupon the clerkes who wrot the day before appeared, and wrot againe as before. But Mr. High-Sheriffe commanded that wee should all of us make new Bookes to write in; for he would not stirr those that were wrot in the day before: and so wee did, and wrot in new Bookes.

‘And all that day also while wee wrot, there were divers supravisors; but they found no fault with the clerkes in my hearing; and at noone, when wee brake upp, I gave my Booke againe into Mr. Farran, before I stirred from the

<sup>13</sup> Smith is undecipherable; being ‘very frequent’ in Suffolk as elsewhere. Of Waldegrave the Monitor says, ‘There being no Christian name mentioned, it is hard to say what individual is meant. Doubtless he was one of the Waldegraves of Smallbridge. Wm. Waldegrave, Esq., son of Sir Wm. Waldegrave, Knight, of Smallbridge in Bures, Suffolk, would be about forty years of age about this time;’—let us fancy it was he.

table where I wrot. And in the afternoone, wee came together againe, and made an end of polling; and towards the end of polling, before wee had done polling at the table where I sat to write, Sir Roger with the rest of the knights and gentlemen went about the Cornehill, swinging their caps and hats crying  
 5 "A North! A North!" [*Questionable*]; which caused me to admire; because I knew the Bookes were not cast up [*And nobody could yet tell who was to win*].

'Then after that, Mr. High-Sheriffe went to Mrs. Penning's, and the Knights followed him, and the clerkes to summe up the Bookes. But the night grew on so fast, that they could not be ended that night: then Mr.  
 10 High-Sheriffe did againe locke up the Bookes in the same truncke they were in before and gave the key to Mr.—North, and sett the truncke into his chamber and appointed to meete the next day upon [*Means, in it, not on the roof of it; the figure of Justice stands on the roof*] the Towne-hall.'

15 [*Samuel Duncon still testifieth.*]

'Memorandum that on Tuesday October 20, in the afternoone, this present year 1640, the High-Sherriffe of the county of Suffolk, sitting in the Markett Crosse [*Note him!*], in Ipswich, where hee kept his County Court, and had  
 20 that afternoone taken the poll of divers that came to give their voices for Mr. Henry North, sonne of Sir Roger North [*Grammar fails a little*]. And when it appeared after some stay that noe more weere likely to come, and Mr. Gardener Webb<sup>14</sup> speaking concerning the said election averred That the said High-Sherriffe had been damnably base, in all his carriage. Whereupon, I,  
 25 Samuel Duncon, hearing the same, did [*As an enemy of blasphemy, and Constable of this Borough*] enforme the said High-Sheriffe of that outrageous and scandalous speeche; who thereupon asking the said Webb, Whether hee had spoken the said wordes or not? he answered, with much impudence and earnestness, That he had said soe, and would maintain it. And did thereupon  
 30 in the presence of the said High-Sherriffe call mee, the said Samuel Duncon, base rascall and rogue [*He shall answer it!*] because I had acquainted the said High-Sherriffe with his said injurious speeches.

'SAMUEL DUNCON.'

35 <sup>14</sup> 'Gardiner Webb was the son of William Webb of Ixworth in Suffolk, attorney-at-law. He became heir in right of his mother (who was one of the Gardiners of Elmswell) to considerable landed property' (*Dryasdust MSS.*); and seems to have been a hot-tempered loose-spoken individual.

## NO. III.

[*Samuel Duncon still testifieth, though without signature.*]

‘Wednesday the 21st October, 1640.

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‘The truncke was brought up into the Town-hall, and the High-Sherriffe and the rest of the knights and gentlemen, came up together to make end of their Bookes: and they passed quietly untill my Booke was produced; and then Mr. North protested against my Booke, and Sir Roger came up and exclaimed at mee, and said I was no fitt clerke, neyther authorised to write. Then was Mr. Farran called, and asked How I came to write? Which he answered, “He never saw mee before Monday in all his life, but wanting one to write, and I standing by, he requested mee to write.” The High-Sherriffe told Sir Roger, “He could not but accept of my Booke, and would doe so if I had wrot for his own sonne;” and for myselfe as I then testified, so am I ready to make oath, being lawfully called, That my Booke was just and right, and that I did not write one name that was not sworne for Sir Nathaniel; and notwithstanding Sir Roger and other knights did speake their large pleasures of mee and charged me with direct and manifest outrage [*Maltreating the honest Town-constable: shameful!*].

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‘In conclusion the High-Sherriffe finished the Bookes, and soe we brake up that night, and the next day we proclaymed Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston and Sir Philip Parker Knights of the Shire for the ensuing Parliament.’

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[SAMUEL DUNCON: signature not given.]

‘To all these Three Pages I am ready to give testimony; and to the whole substance thereof.

30

‘EDW. BESTWALL.’<sup>15</sup>

## NO. IV.

[*Samuel Duncon still testifieth.*]

35

‘Memorandum, Upon Tuesday morning some women [*Puritan women; zealous beyond discretion!*] came to be sworne for the two foresaid Knights, and

<sup>15</sup> Bestwall is not known to Dryasdust. An impartial onlooker, and presumably nothing more. The ‘Three Pages’ he vouches for are all these testimonies of Duncon’s from beginning to end,—*seven* pages as printed here.

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Mr. Robert Clerke did suddenly take some of them; but as soone as Mr. High-Sherriffe had intelligence of it, wee had worde brought to the table where Mr. Clerke and myselfe wrot, that Mr. Sheriffe would have us take no women's oaths; and both the Knights desired that those that were taken  
 5 might be put out, and that we should take no more; and so we refused the rest of the women after that notice from Mr. High-Sherriffe; and when Mr. High-Sherriffe cast up the Bookes, he cast out the women out of the generall summe.'

10 [SAMUEL DUNCON: signature not given.]

These transactions are of 'so high a nature,' it is probable a Parliamentary Committee will have to sit upon them: justice between the vociferous irrational Sir Roger and the discreet unspotted Sir Simonds  
 15 will then be done. Duncon backed by Bestwall, in writing, and by the Under-Sheriffs Farran and Choppin, *vivâ voce* if needful, and indeed by the whole town of Ipswich if needful,—may sufficiently evince that Mr. High-Sheriff's carriage in the business was perfection or nearly so. The accurate Magistrate meanwhile thinks good to subjoin a succinct  
 20 Narrative of his own, which he is ready to sign when required; every word of which can be proved by the oath of witnesses. No. V. is clearly by D'Ewes himself; there are even some directions to his clerk about writing it fair.

25 NO. V.

*A Short and True relation of the Carriage of the Election of the Knights for the Countie of Suffolke at Ipswich, which beganne there upon Monday Morning, October 19, this present year 1640, and ended upon the Thursday Morning then next Ensuing.*<sup>16</sup>

30 'The Under-Sherriffe having had order from the High-Sheriffe of the same Countie to provide honest and able men to take the Poll and to looke to gett ready materialls for the Election, went to Ipswich on Friday night, and the said High-Sherriffe was purposed to have gone thither the next day, but that  
 35 hee understood the small-pox [*Nota Bene*] was exceeding spread in the said towne. Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston and Sir Philip Parker joined together, and Henry North stood singlie, for the place of Knights of the Shire.

<sup>16</sup> From *Harleian MSS.* British Museum, collected by Sir S. D'Ewes, No. 158, p. 275.

‘The said High-Sherriffe came to Ipswich about eight of the clocke of the said Monday morning.<sup>17</sup> To whom Sir Roger North, father of the said Mr. Henry North, and divers other gentlemen repairing, hee yeilded to them to have the Poll taken in a feild neare the towne; and soe, after a little discourse without further stay, went to the Markett Crosse, and caused the King’s Majestie’s Writt to bee published; by which meanes the said Mr. North was carried about a good while before the other Knights [*Yes!*] had notice that the said Writt was published. And this the said High-Sherriffe did about an houre and halfe sooner than he was by law compelled to; that there might be noe just ground of cavill, as if he had delaied the business [*Sir Simonds is himself known to be a Puritan; already elected, or about to be elected, for the town of Sudbury. So high stood Sudbury then; sunk now so low!*].

‘After the publication of which, the said High-Sherriffe withdrew himselfe to make haste into the said feild [*Mr. Hambie’s feild; with the Conduit-head and big Elms in it*] to take the Poll. But before hee got thither, or any place was made readie for the clerkes to write, the said Mr. North was brought into the feild [*Triumphantly in his chair*]; and many of the gentrie as well as others that were of his partie pressed soe upon the place where the planks and boards were setting upp as they could not be fastened or finished. All this time the other two Knights knew yett nothing that the said Poll was begunn in the said feild: soe as [*So that*] the said High-Sherriffe begann Mr. North’s Poll alone, and admitted a clerke. The said Sir Roger North proffered to write the names, with the clerke his [*The High-Sheriff’s*] Under-Sherriffe had before appointed, which hee [*The High-Sheriff*] conceived hee was not in law bound unto.

‘Having then taken the Poll awhile, in the said Sir Roger North’s presence and his said sonne’s, the companie did tread upon the said planks with such extreame violence, as having divers times borne them downe upon the said High-Sherriffe; and hee having used all meanes of entreatie and perswasion to desire them to beare off, as did the said Sir Roger North also,—the said High-Sherriffe was at the last forced to give over; and soe gave speedie order, by the advice of the said Sir Roger North and others, To have three severall tables [*“Three:” Duncon notices only two of them; one under the Elm, one at the Conduit-head, where the Puritan Knights were polling; Sir Simonds himself superintends the Norths’ table:—“three several tables”*] sett upp against trees or other places wheree they might not bee borne downe by violence. Which being verie speedilie performed, the said High-Sherriffe went in person and assisted at the said table wheree Mr. North’s Poll was taking, leaving his

<sup>17</sup> He lived at Stow Hall (*Autobiography of D’Ewes*); he must have started early.

Under-Sherriffe and sworne deputies to attend the other tables, and to administer the oath, where the said Sir Roger and his sonne did appoint their kindred and friends to overview all that was done.

5 ‘The said High-Sheriffe did there without eating or drinking assist the said Mr. North, from about nine of the clocke in the morning till it grew just upon night, notwithstanding it was in the open feild, and a verie cold and windie day: and did in his owne person take much paines to dispatch the said Poll; which had been much better advanced, if such as came to the same had not treaded with such extreme violence one upon another. And whereas the  
10 said Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston came about twelve of the clocke that fore-noone to the said High-Sherriffe, desiring him that all the companie might dissolve to goe to dinner, and that in respect of the great winde, the Poll in the afternoone might be taken in the said towne of Ipswich [*A very reasonable motion*]: The said High-Sherriffe, upon the said Mr. North’s request to the  
15 contrarie, staide in the said feild till the shutting upp of the said day, as is aforesaid.

‘What was done at the other tables the said High-Sherriffe knew not, but twice, upon complaint to him made, repaired thither, and certified and reconciled all matters. And during the same day alsoe the said High-Sherriffe did  
20 desire the said Sir Roger North to sende for another table to the place wheree he sate, being willing by all meanes to expedite the said Poll. And though there were not one man sworne for the other two Knights at the said Mr. North’s table,—yet were there divers sworne at one of the other two tables for the said Mr. North; soe as by this and the early beginning of the said Mr.  
25 North’s Poll, he had neare upon Two hundred voices advantage of the other two Knights, had they come single; but they having manie hundreds that gave voices for them jointly, did before night outstrippe his votes by about Fowre hundreds apiece.

‘At the said High-Sherriffe’s rising from the said Poll on the said Monday  
30 night, hee tooke the Bookes from the said clerkes; and though by lawe he was tied to call noe partie to assist him in the laying them upp, yet to take away all possible cause of cavill, and to shoue his integritie in the whole proceedings, hee called the said Sir Roger North to him, and desired him to accompanie him not only to the places wheree he received all the other Bookes or Papers  
35 from his said Under-Sherriffe, or the other clarkes that wrote them, but to his lodging also [*Mrs. Penning’s*]; wheree hee bound and sealed upp the said Bookes and Papers in the presence of the said Sir Roger North, and the said Under-Sherriffe; then locking them upp, gave the key to his said Under-Sherriffe to keepe, having first asked the said Sir Roger if hee were not a  
40 person fitte to be trusted with it. And soe the said Sir Roger North departed

in a verie friendly and amicable manner from the said High-Sherriffe, without so much as moving the least complaint against any of the said proceedings of that day.

‘But it seemes, after his departure, having that night learned that the other Knights’ polls outstripped his said sonne’s by divers hundreds,—he came the next morning to the said High-Sherriffe’s lodging, and beganne in violent and passionate termes to charge him That hee had dealt unjustlie and partiallie in taking the Poll the day past [*Behold!*]: which at the present caused the said High-Sherriffe to wonder at that sudden and unexpected change; in respect the same Sir Roger parted in soe friendlie a manner from him the night foregoing, and that his indefatigable paines the day past deserved rather just acknowledgment than such unjust expostulation [*Certainly!*].

‘The said High-Sherriffe, therefore, having received the said key from his said Under-Sherriffe, in the presence of the said Sir Roger North, departed to the finishing of the said Poll. And whereas the other two Knights had but each of them one table allowed at which two clerkes only wrote; the said High-Sherriffe allowed the said Mr. North two tables and four clerkes: and at noone when the said Court was adjourned to two of the clocke of the same afternoone, the said High-Sherriffe having taken all the Bookes and Papers touching the same Poll from his Under-Sherriffe, or the clerkes which wrot them, desired the said Mr. North himselfe to accompanie him to his said lodging; which he did, and sawe them sealed and locked upp, and then had himselfe the key along with him.

‘But all these testimonies of the said High-Sherriffe’s impartialitie, and integritie in his proceedings, did in noe way mitigate the passion and indignation of the said Sir Roger North and some others, who now beganne to give the cause upp as conclamated<sup>18</sup> and lost; and therefore, though the said High-Sherriffe afterwarde in his numbering the votes of the said Poll did proceed with it in publike view, which hee might have done privately with his own clerkes, yet all the time after hee was often interrupted by most unjust and outrageous accusations and criminations; and by that meanes was almost as long, within an houre or two, in numbering the names of the said Poll, as hee was in taking the Poll itselfe. And in all differences that emergently fell out in numbering the said names, where there was but any equalitie of doubt, the said High-Sherriffe prevailed with the other two Knights to let the advantage rest on the said Mr. North’s side.

‘And though the said Sir Roger North came, on the said Tuesday in the afternoone, October 20th, into the Countie Court whilst the said High-Sherriff sate taking the Poll for his said sonne, and there used most outrageous

<sup>18</sup> *Conclamatum est*;—summoned nine times, and making no answer, is now to be held for *dead*.

and violent speeches against the said High-Sherriffe [*Hear Duncon too*], and told him “Hee would make it good with his bloud;” yet the said High-Sherriffe seeing him accompanied with many young gentlemen and others, all or most of them armed with their swords and their rapiers [*Questionable!*],  
 5 and fearing if he had made use of his just power to punish such an affront much bloudshedd would have ensued, hee rather passed it over with an invincible patience; and only stooode upp, and desired silence to cleare himselfe from these unjust assertions and criminations which had been laid upon him; and resolved to expect redresse of his enemies from the High Court of  
 10 Parliament [*Far the better plan, Mr. High-Sheriff!—which, among other good effects, has yielded us these present Documents withal*].

‘Yet the said Sir Roger not satisfied herewith, did, a little after, with the said companie of young gentlemen, and others that followed him, armed as aforesaid, or the greater part of them, go about the Cornehill in Ipswich, where the Crosse stands, and cried, “A North! a North!” calling the saylers  
 15 Water-dogges [*Puritan sailors;—mark it; had voted for the Gospel Candidates: “Water-dogs”*], and otherwise provoking them: one also of the companie drewe out his sword [*Lo, there!*] and brandished it about, nor did they give over till one of the Constables of Ipswich [*Sam Duncon; we saw him doing it*], being a sworne officer, charged them In the King’s name to desist. The other two Knights, then sitting at the Poll, were fain at the instant to withdraw themselves in at the next windowe of the house wheree they stooode; having first besought the people and saylers to bee quiet, and not to answer violence with violence. For it is too apparent what was sought for in that  
 20 dangerous action, and that if the said High-Sherriffe had at that present made use of his power to vindicate his owne affronts and sufferings, much bloudshedde might have ensued. Nor did the said High-Sherriffe suffer only from the violent language of the said Sir Roger North and some others of qualitie, but from two of the Webbes alsoe whose Christian names were Roger and Gardiner [*The intemperate Webbes of Ixworth*], and such like persons of inferior rank. The said High-Sherriffe having sate out all Wednesday October  
 25 21, from morning till night, in the West Hall or Court House in Ipswich aforesaid, without dining, did at last, notwithstanding the violent interruptions of the said Sir Roger North and others, finish the numbring of the said votes that day; and found that the said Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston had 2140 voices, and Sir Philip Parker 2240 at the least,—besides the voices of all such persons as had been admitted without the said High-Sherriffe’s knowledge, and were by him, upon numbring the same, disallowed and cast out. And the said Mr. Henry North had 1422.

40 ‘The next morning, October 22, the said High-Sherriffe made open publication of the said votes, and pronounced the said Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston

and Sir Philip Parker the due elected Knights for the said Countie of Suffolke. And then caused the indentures witnessing the same election to be there ensealed and loyallie [*Lawfully*] executed.

‘Tis true that, by the ignorance of some of the clerkes at the other tables, the oaths of some single women [*We saw it with Duncon*] that were freeholders were taken, without the knowledge of the said High-Sherriffe; who, as soon as he had notice thereof, instantlie sent to forbidd the same, conceiving it a matter verie unworthy of anie gentleman, and most dishonourable in such an election, to make use of their voices, although they might in law have been allowed; nor did the said High-Sherriffe allow of the said votes upon his numbring the said Poll, but with the allowance and consent of the said two Knights themselves discount them and cast them out. 5  
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‘Now, though all the frivolous cavills, exceptions, and protestations which were made against the foresaid Election by the said Sir Roger North or others did only concerne the Poll which was taken on the said Monday October 19, and are sufficiently answered with the verie preceding bare Narration of the true carriage thereof; and the rather, because himselfe accompanying the said High-Sheriffe the same evening when he received all the said Bookes and Papers from his said Under-Sherriffe, or such persons who had written them, did except against noe person, nor noe booke or paper, but consented to the sealing and locking them upp as Acts by which the matter in question was to be decided: Yet to satisfy all the world, such exceptions shall be heare set down, and clearly elevated or wiped away, which on the Tuesday and Wednesday following were pressed at Ipswich upon the said High-Sherriffe, with soe much outrageous passion as he could be scarce permitted to make answer to the same, by reason of the vociferation and clamours of the other partie. 15  
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‘It was objected, That the said High-Sherriffe made delaies on purpose to hinder the said Mr. North. This is so frivolous as ’tis not worth the answering; for the hindrance must have been equallie prejudiciale to the other two Knights as well as to him. Nay, on the contrarie, if any had wrong, they had; for the said High-Sherriffe soe hastened both the reading of the Writt, and going to the Poll as hee could not in time give the other two Knights notice of it. Soe as if the said Mr. North’s companie had not by their overpressing violence, throwne downe the boards and planks, wheree the said High-Sheriffe begann his the said Mr. North’s poll alone, hee had gained neare upon an houre’s advantage of the other two. 30  
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‘Another objection, That the said High-Sherriffe refused such clerkes as the said Sir Roger North offered him; telling him hee was provided. This is a shamefull objection, as if the adverse partie were to provide men to take the poll. In this matter the said High-Sherriffe committed all to the trust and care 40

of his Under-Sherriffe, who assured him hee had provided able and sufficient writers; yet did the said High-Sherriffe admitt a clarke, at the said Mr. North's poll, to write with the clerke his said Under-Sherriffe had provided, upon the motion of the said Sir Roger North.

5        'A third objection, That the said Mr. North lost many voices that were forced to goe out of towne the same Monday, because they could not be sworne. And soe doubtless did the other two likewise. And this was an invincible or remediless mischief on all sides. And 'tis evident the extreame pressing of the said Mr. North's votes hindred some hundreds from being  
10        dispatched. Besides, the said High-Sherriffe, at his entreatie, forbore his dinner [*The high-spirited immaculate man*], to sitt it out with him in the winde and cold till night; which deserved acknowledgement, and not rage and furie. Besides, he made the said Sir Roger North once or twice to send for another table to the same place; which courtesie the said High-Sherriffe afforded the  
15        said Mr. North the next morning, more than was allowed the other two Knights. And had the said Mr. North lost the place by one or two hundred voices, there might indeed be some colour that hee had miscarried because the Poll could not be finished on the said Monday night; which notwithstanding that it had been soe, yet the said High-Sherriffe was noe ways the  
20        cause thereof. But it is noe ways probable that the said Mr. North should be so illbeloved or lightlie esteemed by such as appeared for him, that Seven hundred persons would all depart and desert his cause, rather than abide and stay one night in Ipswich to assist him with their votes. For by so many at the least did either of the other two Knights carrie it from him.

25        'Lastly, for conclusion of the whole. There is not a word or sillible sett down here, which is not notoriously known to manie or which the said High-Sherriffe himself will not make good by his corporall oath being loyallie thereunto called, as also by the Bookes and Papers taken at the said Poll. Soe as never was innocency oppressed more by violence and fury; nor did his  
30        royall Majestie's Authoritie ever suffer more in the person of his Minister, than by the outrageous affronts offered unto, and unjust criminations heaped upon, the said High-Sherriffe at the said Election.'

35        Such is the account High-Sheriff D'Ewes has to give of himself, concerning his carriage in the Election of Knights of the Shire for Suffolk on this memorable occasion. He has written it down in an exact manner, to be ready for the Parliament, or for any and all persons interested; his clerks can now make copies of it as many as wanted. In the same Volume, No. 158 of the *Harley Collection*, there  
40        is another copy of this 'short and true relation,' with slight changes,

principally in the punctuation; doubtless the immaculate Magistrate saw good to revise his Narrative more than once, and bring it still nearer perfection: he adds always this direction for the amanuensis: "They are desired who take a coppie of this to compare it with the originall after they have transcribed it,"—to be sure that they are exact. The original, which at any rate, in D'Ewes's hand, few persons could have read, is happily lost.

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No notice in the *Commons Journals* or elsewhere indicates at all whether this case ever came before the Election Committee of the Long Parliament. But if it did, as is probable enough, we put it to the commonest sense of mankind, whether on Sir Roger North's side it could have a leg to stand on! No Election Committee can have difficulty here. Accordingly our Puritan Knights Sir Philip Parker and Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston sat indisputable as County Members for Suffolk, Mr. Henry North consoling himself as he could. Sir Simonds the High-Sheriff had another case before the Parliament; this namely, that he being High-Sheriff had returned *himself* for Sudbury as duly elected there, which was thought informal by some: but in this too he prospered, and sat for that Burough. The intemperate Sir Roger, as we said, was admitted Member for Eye: but in the second year, mingling with 'Commission of Array' and other Royalist concerns, to small purpose as is likely, he, like many others, was 'disabled,'—cast forth, to Oxford, to 'Malignancy,' Disaster, and a fate that has not been inquired into.

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Sir Simonds sat spotless for Sudbury; made occasional fantastic Speeches; and what is far more important for us, took exact Notes. Several of his Speeches he has preserved in writing; one, probably, the most fantastic and pedantic of all, he sent forth in print: it relates to a dispute for seniority that had arisen between Oxford University and Cambridge; proves by unheard-of arguments and erudition, obsolete now to all mortals, that Cambridge, which was his own University, is by far the older,—older than Alfred himself, old as the very hills in a manner. Sir Simonds had the happiness to "shake hands with Mr. Prynne," when he came to the Parliament Committee on his deliverance from prison, and to congratulate Mr. Prynne on the changed aspects that then were. He wrote frequent letters to 'Abraham Wheloc' and many others. Far better, he almost daily dictated to his secretary, or jotted down for him on scraps of paper, Notes of the

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Proceedings of the Long Parliament; which Notes still exist, safe in the British Museum; unknown seemingly to all the learned. He was a thin highflown character, of eminent perfection and exactitude, little fit for any solid business in this world, yet by no means without his uses there.

5 This one use, had there been no other, That he took Notes of the Long Parliament! Probably there is much light waiting us in these Notes of his, were they once disimprisoned into general legibility. They extend, in various forms, in various degrees of completeness, to the year 1645: but in that year, after the victory of Naseby, the questionable course things were taking gave offence to our Presbyterian Grandison; he sat mostly silent, with many thoughts, and forbore jotting any farther. Two of his written Speeches relate to the confused negotiations with King Charles in the Isle of Wight; and are strong in the Royalist-Presbyterian direction. Colonel Pride, in the end, purged him out altogether, on the memorable 6th of December, 1648; sent him, with four or five score others, ‘over to the Tavern called Hell, kept by Mr. Duke, near Palaceyard,’—in the most unheard-of manner! For on questioning Mr. Hugh Peters, who had come across to them, By what law? By what shadow or vestige of any law, common or statutory, human or divine, is this unheard-of thing done?—the candid Mr. Peters, a man of good insight and considerable humour of character, answered these much injured honourable gentlemen, “By the law of Necessity; truly by the power of the sword!” And they remained in a nearly rabid state; evidently purged out, without reason and without remedy; and had to retire to their respective countries and there rhyme the matter for themselves as they could. Our poor Knight, Sir Simonds, soon after died; leaving an unspotted pedant character, and innumerable Manuscripts behind him. Besides his *History of the Parliaments of Queen Elizabeth*, a laborious compilation, which has since been printed, long ago, and still enjoys a good reputation of its sort, there are, as we count, some Ninety and odd Volumes of his Papers still extant in the British Museum; very worthless some of them, very curious others;—among which latter, certain portions of his *Autobiography*, already known in print,<sup>19</sup> are well worth reading; and these his *Notes of the Long Parliament* are perhaps, to us English,

<sup>19</sup> *Bibliotheca Topographica*, No. 6.

the most interesting of all the Manuscripts that exist there. Pury's Notes of the Long Parliament<sup>20</sup> appear to be irretrievably lost; Varney's, which also have never yet been made accessible,<sup>21</sup> extend over only a short early period of the business: it is on these Notes of D'Ewes's, principally, that some chance of understanding the procedure and real character of the Long Parliament appears still to depend for us. At present, after shiploads of historical printing, it is and remains mere darkness visible; if in these Notes by an accurate eye-witness there be no chance of light, then is light any where hopeless, and this remarkablest Parliament that ever sat will continue an enigma forever. In such circumstances, we call these Notes, the most interesting of all Manuscripts. To an English soul who would understand what was really memorable and godlike in the History of his Country, distinguishing the same from what was at bottom *un*memorable and devil-like; who would bear in everlasting remembrance the doings of our noble heroic men, and sink into everlasting oblivion the doings of our loud ignoble quacks and sham-heroes,—what other record can be so precious? If English History have nothing to afford us concerning the Puritan Parliament but vague incoherences, inconceivabilities and darkness visible,—English History, in this Editor's opinion, must be in a poor way!

It has often been a question, Why none of the Dryasdust Publishing Societies, the *Camden* or some other, has gone into these D'Ewes MSS., in an efficient spirit, and fished up somewhat of them? Surely it is the office of such Publishing Societies. Now when Booksellers are

<sup>20</sup> 'Mr. Robinson asked me this morning,' Monday, 12 Jan. 1656-7, 'before the Speaker came, If I took Notes at Scot's Committee? I said, Yea. He told me He had much ado to forbear moving against my taking Notes, for it was expressly against the Orders of the House. I told him How *Mr. Davy* took Notes all the Long Parliament, and that Sir Symons D'Ewes wrote great volumes' of the like.—*Burton's Diary* (London, 1828), i. 341.

Of Sir Simonds's 'great volumes' we are here speaking: but who the 'Mr. Davy' is? No person of the name of *Davy* sat in the Long Parliament at all; or could by possibility have taken Notes! After multifarious examination, and bootless trial of various names more or less resembling *Davy*, a sight of the original ms. of the thing called *Burton's Diary* was procured; and the name 'Davy' then straightway turned out to be *Pury*. Pury, or Purry, perhaps now written *Perry*, Alderman of Gloucester, and once well known as Member for that City. But of him or of his *Notes*, on repeated application there, no trace could now be found. If, as is possible, they still exist, in the buried state, in those regions,—to resuscitate and print them were very meritorious.

<sup>21</sup> Edited now (London, 1845) by Mr. Bruce.

falling irrecoverably into the hand-to-mouth system, unable to publish anything that will not repay them on the morrow morning; and in Printed Literature, as elsewhere, matters seem hastening pretty fast towards strange consummations: who else but the Printing Societies is to do it? They should lay aside vain Twaddle and Dilettantism, and address themselves to their function by real Labour and Insight, as above hinted,—of which, alas, there is at present little hope!

Unhappily the Publishing Societies, generally speaking, are hitherto ‘Dryasdust’ ones; almost a fresh nuisance rather than otherwise. They rarely spend labour on a business, rarely insight; they consider that sham-labour, and a twilight of ignorance and buzzard stupidity, backed by prurient desire for distinction, with the subscription of a guinea a year, will do the turn. It is a fatal mistake! Accordingly the Books they print, intending them apparently to be read by some class of human creatures, are wonderful. Alas, they have not the slightest talent for knowing first of all what *not* to print; what, as a thing dead, and incapable of ever interesting or profiting a human creature more, ought not to be printed again, to steal away the valuable cash, and the invaluable time and patience of any man again! It is too bad. How sorrowful to see a mass of printed Publishings and Republishings, all in clear white paper, bound in cloth, and gold lettered; concerning which you have to acknowledge that there should *another* artist be appointed to go in the rear of them, to fork them swiftly into the oven, and save all men’s resources from one kind of waste at least. Mr. Chadwick proposes that sweepers shall go in the rear of all horses in London, and instantly sweep up their offal, before it be trampled abroad over the pavement to general offence. Yes; but what sweeper shall follow the Dryasdust Printing Societies, the Authors, Publishers, and other Prurient-Stupids of this intellectual Metropolis, who are rising to a great height at present! Horse-offal, say Chadwick and the Philanthropists very justly, if not at once swept up, is trampled abroad over the pavements, into the sewers, into the atmosphere, into the very lungs and hearts of the citizens: Good Heavens, and to think of Author-offal, and how *it* is trampled into the very souls of men: and how the rains and the trunk-makers do not get it abolished for years on years, in some instances!