

## APPENDIX TO PREFACE.

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\* MEMOIRS OF THE LIFE OF SIR EDWARD NICHOLAS . . . WRITTEN BY HIMSELF AND TRANSCRIBED [BY DR. THOMAS BIRCH] FROM THE ORIGINAL MS.

I was born at Winterborne Earls on Tuesday, 4th of April, 1593.<sup>a</sup> Untill I was about 10 years old I was bred in my fathers house at Winterborne Earls under several schoolmasters (whereof Mr. Williams was the last) by my father kept in his house. My school-fellows there were my cosin Edw. St. Low, M<sup>r</sup> William St. Barbe, M<sup>r</sup> Wm. Appleford and M<sup>r</sup> Richard Morley.

When I was about 10 years old, I and my brother Matthew were sent to the Grammar School in the Close of Sarum, my father then being in that city.

When I was about 12 years old my brother and I went to school in S<sup>r</sup> Laurence Hydes<sup>b</sup> house in Sarum, my father then dwelling in the Deanery of Sarum. Our school-fellows there were M<sup>r</sup> Laurence Hyde, S<sup>r</sup> Robert Hyde, late Lord Chief Justice of

<sup>a</sup> He was the eldest son of John Nicholas, of Winterbourne Earls, co. Wilts, who married Susan, daughter of William Hunton, of Knoyle. Their second son, Matthew Nicholas, was born 26 Sept. 1594. He was made Dean of Bristol in 1639, and of St. Paul's in 1660, and died 16 Aug. 1661.

<sup>b</sup> Attorney General to Queen Anne of Denmark. He was second son of Laurence Hyde, of West Hatch, co. Wilts, Robert Hyde, of West Hatch, mentioned below, being the eldest son, and Henry Hyde, father of the first Earl of Clarendon, the youngest.

the King's Bench, Mr Wm. Francis,<sup>a</sup> and Mr Alex. Hyde, now Bp. of Sarum, Mr Robert and Mr Hampden Hyde, sons of Mr Robert Hyde, of Hatch.

There my brother and I continued at school untill I was somewhat above 14 years of age, when we (he being about a year and a half younger than myself) were sent to Winchester school, where we had commons. I had not been there little more than half a year before I fell desperately sick of a pleurisy and a violent fever, which caused my parents to send for me home, where I continued very ill and weak above three quarters of a year. This was in the year when the great frost was, 1608.

After I was well recovered, I was sent to school to my uncle Ri. Hunters,<sup>b</sup> at Bashton, who kept a schoolmaster in his house called Mr Badcock, who was afterwards schoolmaster at Lavington.

My brother Matt. continued at Winchester, where he was elected a scholar of the House. When I was about 19 years old, I went to London, anno 1612, and was then entered in the Middle Temple ; and, as soon as I was admitted of the Temple, I was sent to Oxford, where I was a commoner in Queens College, and continued there above a year and half.

Then I came back to the Temple, and was a student there untill I was above 21 years old, and then, about Allhallows Tide, anno 1615, I was sent into France, where I remained till midsummer 1616.

<sup>a</sup> Possibly there is a misreading here, and William Hyde is meant, who was third son of Sir Laurence Hyde, Alexander Hyde being the fourth. As the latter was consecrated Bishop of Salisbury 31 Dec. 1665, and died 22 Aug. 1667, the autobiography must have been written between these dates. Sir Robert Hyde, Chief Justice, died 1 May, 1665.

<sup>b</sup> A misreading probably for "Hunttons" (see p. xii. note <sup>a</sup>).

Then I came home and was secretary to S<sup>r</sup> John Dacombe, Chancellor of the Duchy, till the year 1617, when he died; and then I went back to the Temple and was there a student till December 1618; and then I was received secretary to Edward, the last Lord Zouch, who was Lord Warden, Chancellor, and Admiral of the Cinque Ports, and one of His Majestys Privy Council, a grave and wise counsellor, and continued with him untill the year 1624, when he resigned up his office to Geo. D. of Buckingham, Lord High Admiral of England; and then upon his, the Lord Zouchs recommendation, I was received by the D. of Buck. to be his Graces secretary for the business of the Cinque Ports and came to his Grace the 9th of December 1624. And when his Grace received me he willed me to inform myself in business of the office of High Admiral of England, for that he intended, when he should prefer M<sup>r</sup> Tho. Aylesbury, his then secretary for that office, to make use of me therein, and did often command me (even in M<sup>r</sup> Aylesburys time) to dispatch many things belonging to the office of High Admiral when M<sup>r</sup> Aylesbury was absent, and always made me to wait on his Grace when the Court was out of town, to dispatch the business of the Admiralty, M<sup>r</sup> Aylesbury being by him commanded to reside in London about the same affairs, the war being then entering into between England and Spain.

In the year about July 1625 (S<sup>r</sup> Albertus Morton, one of His Majestys principal Secretaries of State, dying at Southampton), K. Charles I. being then in the New Forest, my Lord Duke procured S<sup>r</sup> John Coke, M<sup>r</sup> of Requests, to be Principal Secretary in his place and M<sup>r</sup> Aylesbury to be Master of Requests in his place. And at Plimouth in September following, S<sup>r</sup> John Coke having the signet given him and being then sworn Principal Secretary, S<sup>r</sup>

Tho. Aylesbury was then also sworn Master of Requests. And then his Grace of his own motion made me his Secretary for the Admiralty in S<sup>r</sup> Tho. Aylesburys place and then demanded of me why I did not move him for that employment? I told him I relied on his promise to me when I first came into his service and did not doubt of the performance of it, if his Grace upon the experience he then had of my service and integrity should conceive me capable of it; when his Grace with many gracious expressions of his esteem of my diligence and abilities made me his Secretary for the Admiralty as well as for the business of the Cinque Ports, and said he would allow me the same entertainment he gave my predecessor S<sup>r</sup> Tho. Aylesbury.

Afterwards, about the year 1626, his Grace moved His Majesty that I might be admitted one of the Clerks of the Council in Extraordinary and that I might by His Majestys especial order be permitted to attend in Council at all times, which none of the Clerks of the Council in Extraordinary do without special order. And I was accordingly then sworn and admitted, that I might on all occasions be ready to give account and receive orders concerning Admiralty affairs.

In the year 1628 my Lord the D. of Buck., a little before he was murdered, procured for me of the K. the reversion of the office of Clerk of the Crown and Hanaper in Ireland in recompense of my service done His Majesty and himself in the time of his Graces being at the Isle of Rhee in France the year before.

In the year 1628, presently after the murder of my L<sup>d</sup> Duke of Buck., K. Ch. I. having put the office of Lord High Admiral into a commission, was pleased of his own gracious motion to constitute me by warrant under his hand Secretary for the Admiralty to attend

the Lords of the Council whom he had appointed Commiss<sup>rs</sup> for the Admiralty, and so I continued untill the Earl of Northumberland was made Lord High Admiral of England.

In the year 1635 his said Majesty advanced me to be Clerk of the Council in Ordinary in place of M<sup>r</sup> Will. Trumbull deceased, which His Majesty did of his own gracious goodness without any motion from me or any friend of mine, notwithstanding the importunity used by other Clerks of the Council Extraordinary my seniors, His Majesty saying that to be Clerk of the Council in Extraordinary was no title or pretence to be made in Ordinary, those places being never granted in reversion to any.

In the year 1641, in August, His Majesty sent for me, I being then at my house in Thorpe, and gave the custody of the signet to me, M<sup>r</sup> Secretary Windebanke having in December before resign'd and delivered the signet to His Majesty, being privately gone out of the kingdom into France upon the displeasure of the Parliament for his too much favouring of Papists. And when His Majesty delivered me the signet, he being within few days [to] go into Scotland, His Majesty told me he intended at his return to make me one of His Principal Secretaries of State, and in the mean time he commanded me to hold correspondence with His Majesty and S<sup>r</sup> H. Vane, then the only Secretary of State, and to execute the place of Secretary of State and to seal with the signet as Secretary of State.

The 19<sup>th</sup> of Novemb.<sup>a</sup> 1641, upon His Majestys return from Scotland, His Majesty was pleased to command me to be sworn Principal Secretary of State and one of His Privy Council and

<sup>a</sup> In Nicholas's memoranda below (p. xviii.) the date is correctly given as 29th Nov.

caused my Patent to be passed for that office, which was done accordingly.

I executed that place under His Majesty during all the Rebellion untill the year 1646, when Oxford was delivered and His Majesty had put himself into the hands of the Scots much against my humble advice; and I continued His Majestys Principal Secretary of State till his death, notwithstanding that I was by his rebellious Parliament exiled for my loyalty and had all my estate taken from me.

In the year 1654 His Majesty K. Ch. II. at Achen or Aquisgrane in Germany commanded me to be sworn his Principal Secretary of State and of his Privy Council, and gave me his Privy Signet and Letters Patents for the said office, and I continued in execution of that great office untill the 15th of Octob. 1662, when, being about 70 years old, His Majesty was pleased to ease me of the same in a most gracious manner, giving me of his mere bounty a large recompense far above my expectation and continuing me the honour of being still one of His most honorable Privy Council, and using me always most graciously upon all occasions and offered to make me a Baron of England, which I conceiving to be an honour that my small estate could not well bear, I humbly and thankfully declined, but continued my service to His Majesty ever afterwards as one of His Majestys Privy Council.

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MEMORANDA IN MY COURSE OF LIFE.<sup>a</sup>

What hapned to me when I was in France by Mons<sup>r</sup> de la Ferre.

When I was secretarie to Lo. Zouch I was the first to come in after the archbishop Abbott had shot the keeper in Bramshill<sup>b</sup> parke. I went to serve Lo. Zouch when the blazing starr was, which was in November 1618.

I came to serve the D. of B[uckingham] y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> of Dec. 1624, at Cambridge. The 27 of March after, when I wayted on my Lo. at the backe stayres, I saw him and the S[wee]t Prince, afterwards K. Charles, come forth of the bed-chamber, when he made Jo. Bakour, whoe was his Graces barber, eate a great peece of the plaster that he had applied to K. James for cure of the ague.<sup>c</sup>

His Graces passion of sorrow for the death of K. James.

That the D. told me he had on his knee desiered K. Ch. his leave to retire to a country lief and from all busines, but could not obteyne it. The D. obteyned of K. Ch. for me after he came from Retz the reuercion of the office of Clerk of the Crown and Hanaper in Irland after old Sir Rich. King, which afterwards I sold to . . . Carlton for 1060<sup>l</sup> in reddey money.

The D. gave me by his will 500<sup>l</sup> which was paid me.

That M<sup>r</sup> Rich Hopton, stewart to the D. of B. dying, the D. sent

<sup>a</sup> These notes are roughly written on a single sheet of paper (Egert. MS. 3558, f. 19), partly in shorthand. The passages omitted, relating to his successive appointments, are substantially incorporated into the preceding autobiography.

<sup>b</sup> Lord Zouche's seat in Hampshire. The accident occurred on 24 July, 1621.

<sup>c</sup> This is recorded in answer to the charges of poisoning the King which were brought against Buckingham and afterwards revived against Charles himself (p. 80, below). See Fuller, *Church History*, v. p. 568.

me with a noble message to him. He then made me one of his executors and gave me 100<sup>l</sup> legacy.

What Lo. Treasurer Weston said of me to D. B. after his returne from the isle of Retz, that he saw noe light in any busines that concerned his Grace but by my papers.

How the E. Marborow fell out with me for telling the K. y<sup>e</sup> truth why the ships went not with succors to my lord D. His complaint against me to the Dutchess of B.

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That [I] had the busines of the shipping appointed to my care by the K. and that I found that all that money was entirely bestowed in the busines of the navy and shipping, and at least 30000<sup>l</sup> per annum more out of the K's owne revenue.

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The K. would have had me alsoe M<sup>r</sup> of the Wards, for which I have his warrant under his hand, but I declined it, as too envious a thing for me at that tyme to hold 2 such places together.