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THE LIFE, VOYAGES, AND EXPLOITS
OF
ADMIRAL
SIR FRANCIS DRAKE, KNT.

WITH
NUMEROUS ORIGINAL LETTERS FROM HIM AND THE LORD HIGH ADMIRAL
TO THE QUEEN AND GREAT OFFICERS OF STATE;

Compiled from MSS. in the State Paper Office, British Museum, and the Archives
of Madrid, never before published;

BY JOHN BARROW, ESQ.



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SIR FRANCIS DRAKE,

From the Original Miniature by Hilliard, in the possession of the Earl of Derby,
formerly at Strawberry Hill

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

MDCCCXLIII.

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TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR JAMES R. GRAHAM, BART.,

&c. &c. &c.

ONE OF HER MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARIES OF STATE,

THIS VOLUME IS GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E.

AMONG the number of distinguished characters which the reign of Queen Elizabeth produced, the name of SIR FRANCIS DRAKE must always hold a prominent place. Born of humble parents, and thrown upon the world, in early youth, as a common seaman, by honest industry, by perseverance and resolution in overcoming difficulties, and by unflinching courage, he rose in gradual succession to the highest rank in the Naval Service, and to the honour of knighthood bestowed by the Sovereign; “an honour,” says Johnson, “in that illustrious reign, not made cheap by prostitution, nor ever bestowed without uncommon merit.” It will not be denied that the Life of such a man must supply matters of great interest, of curiosity, and of profitable example.

But the little volume, that is now presented to the public, may perhaps by some be deemed a work of supererogation, as most of the events of his public life have been carefully collected and described by contemporary historians, and remodelled by others of more recent date. Be it so; yet I may be permitted to say, that much still remained to be dis-

covered and told; in point of fact, in all the scenes, the acts, and adventures of this extraordinary man, the first Englishman that circumnavigated the globe, or, as one of his historians says, the first "who ploughed a furrow round the world," we have nothing, or next to nothing, published of his own writing, not even a common sea-journal, with the exception of a few sentences in his third voyage, revised by himself; yet how much is discovered of the real character of a man from his epistolary correspondence! The difficulty was, where to look for it? Obviously in the public depositories of the records of the kingdom, and accordingly to these I made application.

In the first instance, I received a most ready permission, by the kindness of Sir James Graham, to have free access to the State Paper Office, where I was well assured there would be found something to my purpose; and also in the numerous collections of manuscripts in the British Museum. From these sources I calculated on receiving much additional and unpublished information; and by the obliging assistance of Sir Henry Ellis, in the latter, and of Messrs. Lechmere and Lemon, in the former, (as also from Mr. Thorpe, who obligingly took the trouble to collate my copies with the almost illegible manuscripts,) so far from being disappointed, I have obtained numbers of autograph letters, not only of Sir Francis Drake, but also of the Lord High

Admiral, the Earl of Effingham, more particularly those relating to the Spanish Armada, miscalled "the Invincible;" together with many other documents connected with the public transactions of Sir Francis Drake.

My next application was to Sir Francis Palgrave, who says there is nothing at the Tower, so early as the reign of Elizabeth, among the Admiralty Papers, but thinks there may be something in the Rolls'-House relating to payments, but observes that the search would be laborious, as there are no indexes.

From the Bodleian Library the answer was, nothing new to interest a biographer of the gallant Sir Francis Drake.

In the Ashmolean Museum there are a few^e notices, but only such as have already appeared in print.

At the Magdalen College, Cambridge, there are numerous and voluminous documents collected or composed by Mr. Pepys, chiefly relating to naval matters, but little or nothing has been found concerning Drake.

To Mr. Bolton Corney, a private gentleman of great literary acquirements and research, I am highly indebted for the loan of several valuable and rare tracts, besides detached notes of information on points connected with my subject, for which I am desirous of thus publicly acknowledging my