

The image shows the front cover of a book bound in dark red leather. The cover is decorated with a large, intricate diamond-shaped pattern created by multiple overlapping lines, forming a series of nested diamonds. The text is printed in gold. The text is centered within the diamond pattern.

IN MEMORIAM

J. G. N.



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So

Sir John Maclean F.R.S.

gentl -

Miss Helen Gough Nichol

Wotton Park

October 27th

1874



WALTER BATES
WALTER BATES
WALTER BATES
WALTER BATES
WALTER BATES

MEMOIR

OF THE LATE

JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS, F.S.A.

HON. FELLOW OF THE
SOCIETIES OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND AND NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF
THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC-GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.

BY

ROBERT CRADOCK NICHOLS, F.S.A., F.R.G.S.



WESTMINSTER :

JUNE 1874.

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MEMOIR
OF THE LATE
JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS.

THE subject of the present Memoir was the representative of a family, which, while carrying on successfully the business of printing, has for three generations more or less distinguished itself in the sphere of literature and archæological research. His grandfather, John Nichols, F.S.A., was the well-known author of the *Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century*, the compiler of one of the greatest of our local histories, *The History of Leicestershire*, and for forty-eight years the editor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*. As a printer, he was the pupil, partner, and successor of William Bowyer, a learned typographer and author, himself the son and successor of another William Bowyer, who carried on the business of a printer in London from a period shortly preceding the Revolution of 1688.¹ It may be of interest to observe that the younger Bowyer and the successive Messrs. Nichols have held the appointment of Printers of the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons from the time of Speaker Onslow to the present day.

John Bowyer Nichols, F.S.A. the son of John Nichols by his second marriage with Martha, daughter of Mr. William

¹ See the Memoir of John Nichols in *The Gentleman's Magazine* for Dec. 1826, written by Mr. Alexander Chalmers, F.S.A.

Green, of Hinckley in Leicestershire, was from an early age the coadjutor of his father in editing *The Gentleman's Magazine*. He completed his father's *Illustrations of the Literary History of the Eighteenth Century*, the sequel to the *Literary Anecdotes*, and, in addition to other literary work, superintended the passage through the press of the greater part of the County Histories which appeared during the first half of the present century, rendering by his great topographical knowledge, and by his industry and attention, the greatest service to their authors. He married, in 1805, Eliza, eldest daughter of Mr. John Baker,¹ of Salisbury Square, Fleet Street, surgeon, afterwards of Hampstead, by whom he had fourteen children, of whom, however, six died in infancy. He died on the 19th of October, 1863, and was buried in Kensal Green Cemetery. A memoir of him, from the pen of John Gough Nichols, appeared in *The Gentleman's Magazine* for December 1863, of which a few copies were reprinted, with some additions, for private circulation in March 1864, and illustrated with a photographic portrait taken in 1860.

John Gough Nichols, the eldest son of John Bowyer Nichols, was born at his father's residence in Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street, on the 22nd of May, 1806. He was named Gough after the distinguished antiquary Richard Gough, who was his godfather and the intimate friend of his father. While he was yet in his earliest infancy, on the 8th of February, 1808, the printing-office adjoining the house in Red Lion Passage was destroyed by fire, and during its re-building his father took a house in Thavies Inn, Holborn, which became the scene of John Gough's earliest recollections. He used to tell in later days how he once strayed from home there, and was lost for a whole day, being

¹ See a Memoir in *The Gentleman's Magazine* for 1825, ii. 642.

found in the evening, by an acquaintance of his father, sitting in tears on the steps of St. Andrew's church. On the completion of the new building his father resumed his residence in Red Lion Passage, where he remained until his removal to Parliament Street in 1818.

In the early part of 1811 he was placed at a school at Islington kept by Miss Roper. Here he had among his young school-fellows a boy who was his senior by a few months, the son of his father and grandfather's valued friend Mr. Isaac Disraeli, the author of *The Curiosities of Literature*. This son, destined in later years to eclipse his father's fame and to attain the highest distinction not only as an author but as a statesman, was Benjamin Disraeli, the present Prime Minister.

In the summer of 1814 he was sent to the school of Dr. Waite at Lewisham, where he remained until the end of 1816, and in January 1817 was placed at Merchant Taylors'.

In letters written to Mr. J. B. Nichols respecting his late pupil, shortly after his leaving, Dr. Waite speaks highly of his talents and capacity. Unfortunately, however, he was placed, on his entrance at Merchant Taylors', though some years older than many of his schoolmates, in the lowest class in the school, owing to a wish to that effect injudiciously expressed to the Head Master by his father's brother-in-law, the Rev. John Pridden, who accompanied him, *in loco parentis*, on his first going there. This put him at a disadvantage, compared with others of his age, which he was never able altogether to recover, and it was always a point of which he spoke with regret. Dr. James Hessey, who in later years became the Head Master of the school, was at Merchant Taylors' as a pupil during part of the time when Mr. Nichols was there, and we take the liberty of quoting from a kind and sympathetic letter, written by him to Mrs. Gough

Nichols the day after her husband's death, the following passage, in which he refers to those old school-days. "Personally I grieve for one who is connected with my very earliest recollections, who took me, day by day, when I was a very little boy, most kindly to Merchant Taylors' school, and with whom I have frequently had friendly intercourse since that distant date, 1823, for fifty years. I remember being struck, even in my childhood, with his kindness, and I cannot refrain from expressing to you my respect for his memory."

Journals kept by him during his school-days are still in existence, and indicate already the bent of his mind. He makes notes on churches, and copies inscriptions and epitaphs. The following extract seems worth recording:—"1823, May 7. I went in the evening (for the first time) with my father to the meetings of the Antiquarian and Royal Societies. Saw there (*inter alios*) Sir Humphry Davy, Mr. Hudson Gurney, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Taylor Combe, Mr. Davies Gilbert, Mr. Cayley, Mr. Wm. Tooke, &c. &c. We inspected in the library of the Royal Society Wickliffe's copy of his English translation of the Bible, two MS. vols. folio (about coeval with the invention of printing), and a Greek MS. of the Testament of the 9th century; that is, as old as the Alexandrian MSS. in the Antiquaries Library."

A letter from Mr. Isaac Disraeli to Mr. J. B. Nichols, dated June 7, 1823, contains this testimony to John Gough's early sagacity. He says, "I am gratified to find that your son treads in your footsteps, by the readiness with which he has been able to ascertain our unknown blunder." It appears that he had succeeded in assigning to its actual writer a letter which the author of *The Curiosities of Literature* had supposed to have been by some other person.

Notwithstanding the drawbacks to which we have alluded,

young Nichols made such good progress at Merchant Taylors' that, had his birthday fallen a month or two later, he would have obtained the removal to St. John's, Oxford, which he so much desired. But, with a numerous family growing up, his father did not then feel himself justified in sending him to the University without the aid of the Merchant Taylors' scholarship, and in the summer of 1824 he left school to join in the business and literary labours of his father and grandfather.

Even before his school-days were over John Gough had been the useful assistant of the latter, under whose competent direction he commenced those historical and antiquarian studies in which he afterwards attained such high distinction. His first literary work after leaving school was to help in the compilation of the *Progresses of King James the First*, the latest work of John Nichols; after whose death, on the 26th Nov. 1826, it was John Gough, although his name does not appear on the title, who completed and superintended the publication of the *Progresses* in the year 1828. He began also to take an active part in the editorial management of *The Gentleman's Magazine*, to which he had already been an occasional contributor. From this time to the year 1856, when the proprietorship of *The Gentleman's Magazine* was relinquished by Messrs. Nichols, he continued either as joint or sole Editor to have a large share in the literary direction of the Magazine, as well as contributing to its pages many historical essays of considerable value, and compiling its copious obituary. The writer of a memoir of Mr. Nichols in *The Antiquary*, a publication which not unworthily endeavours to fill in some respects the place formerly occupied by *The Gentleman's Magazine*, truly observes that this department of the Magazine has "in itself rendered that work invaluable to the future biographer and historian." The direction thus given, however, by Mr. Nichols and

his coadjutors to *The Gentleman's Magazine* was less popular than intrinsically solid and valuable, and its proprietors had the mortification to find it not only outstripped in circulation by its modern rivals, but gradually tending to become an actual loss.

In 1829 he published his first separate work, a collection of *Autographs of Royal, Noble, Learned, and Remarkable Personages*, accompanied by Biographical Memoirs. The fac-similes were engraved by C. J. Smith, from originals, most of which are in the British Museum. In addition to a Prefatory Essay, the volume contains short memoirs of between four and five hundred persons, and exhibits extensive research and historical knowledge in its young author.

In August, 1830, he paid a visit to Mr. Robert Surtees, at Mainsforth, near Durham, at whose suggestion he joined the Rev. James Raine (the historian of North Durham), and his brother-in-law, the Rev. George Peacock, F.R.S., of Trinity College, Cambridge, afterwards Dean of Ely, and his sister, Miss Peacock, in a Scottish tour. They visited Edinburgh, Stirling, the Trosachs, Dumbarton, Glasgow, Lanark, Melrose, and Abbotsford (where they were disappointed at finding Sir Walter Scott absent from home), thence returning to Durham and Mainsforth. In a letter to Mr. J. B. Nichols, dated Sept. 17, 1830, Mr. Surtees writes that John Gough has just left them on his return home, and adds: "We are sorry to part with him; but I hope this little northern tour has established an intimacy between us which will only end with my life."

Mr. J. G. Nichols continued a constant correspondent of Mr. Surtees until his early death in 1834; and several of the letters addressed by Mr. Surtees to him are printed in the *Life* by Mr. Raine.¹ On the formation of the Surtees Society, in that year,

¹ *Life of Robert Surtees*, published by the Surtees Society, 1852.



1875 24th YEAR
AFTER A DRAWING BY D. MACLIFE, J.R.
1875

he was appointed one of its Treasurers; an office which he continued to hold until his death.

In 1831 he published an octavo volume on *London Pageants*, which was received with considerable favour. It contained an account of all the Royal Processions and Entertainments in the City of London from the time of Henry the Third, and of the Lord Mayors' Pageants from that of King John to the year 1827.

In June, 1833, Messrs. Nichols commenced the publication in quarterly parts of the *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, for the collection and preservation of original and inedited materials of value to the topographer and genealogist. Of this work, which was completed in eight volumes in 1843, Mr. John Gough Nichols was one of the original Editors; and, latterly, the sole Editor.

In 1834 we find him engaged in assisting the Rev. W. L. Bowles in the preparation of a History of Lacock Abbey, Wilts. From the correspondence which took place between them relative to this work we extract the following passage from a letter of Mr. Bowles:—

REV. W. L. BOWLES to J. G. NICHOLS.

My dear Sir,

Bremhill, May 16, 1834.

* * * * *

Age, anxieties, and a mind not capable of wandering in the perplexed mazes of heraldic antiquities, or indeed fitted to laborious research of any kind, admonish me that I had better end at Old Sarum, and leave to younger hands the conclusion of the History of Lacock.

The pains you have taken must have been infinite, and the accuracy of the information is in itself an important addition to English heraldry and genealogy, and as such might make the first portion of the History of Lacock interesting and most valuable . . . I see no reason why what is written may not directly appear as the *First Part* of the History of Lacock Nunnery, in the county of Wilts, by the Rev. W. L. Bowles, assisted by John Gough Nichols, esq., and I shall leave to you to insert or omit what you think proper in the last sheets.

In a subsequent letter, however (Aug. 1834), Mr. Bowles says: "You have given to this interesting chapter, colour, life, and language, as well as historic knowledge, far far greater than anything to which I can pretend. It is, therefore, a matter of difficulty in what manner my name can appear as author of the History of Lacock."

The work was published in the succeeding year as the joint production of Mr. Bowles and Mr. Nichols, under the title of *Annals and Antiquities of Lacock Abbey*.

On December 3, 1835, he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He had previously been a constant visitor at their meetings, and on Feb. 3, 1831, had communicated a short paper on a monumental brass plate from Tours, which, as well as many subsequent communications, in the course of his life, to the meetings of the Society, has been printed in the *Archæologia*. As Printer to the Society he carefully read every sheet of that work; and not a few of the authors of the various communications will acknowledge the value of suggestions received from him. A list of his contributions to the *Archæologia* will be found in the list of works at the conclusion of this memoir.

Among the various occasions on which he took a prominent part in the proceedings of this Society may be mentioned the discussion which took place in 1862 respecting the productions of Holbein and his contemporaries, which arose on the discovery of Holbein's will, and of the date of his death, Oct. or Nov. 1543, communicated to the Society by Mr. W. H. Black in 1861. Mr. Nichols contributed a valuable paper on the contemporaries and successors of that painter, whose works are so frequently confounded with his own; and another in the succeeding year on Holbein's portraits of the Royal Family.

He naturally took a great interest in the question which was raised in 1865 by Mr. Herman Merivale, whose death has so soon followed that of Mr. Nichols, respecting the authenticity of the famous "Paston Letters." A paper in their defence having been read before the Society of Antiquaries, on November 30, by Mr. Bruce, the matter was referred by the Society, on December 12, to a Committee of eight Fellows, of whom Mr. Nichols was one, for their investigation. The result of their labours was reported to the Society on May 10, 1866, and published in the forty-first volume of the *Archæologia*, pp. 38-74. The facts brought out by this discussion fully established to the satisfaction of the Society, and, among others, of Mr. Merivale himself, the genuineness of the letters.

His active participation in the labours of the Society continued to the time of his death. On the 8th May, 1873, he read a paper at the Society of Antiquaries' meeting on Religious and Social Gilds and the College at Walsoken; and on the 15th of the same month another paper on some Portraits by Quintin Matsys and Holbein.

The latter of these will appear in the *Archæologia*, and the former in the *Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Institute*, to which it was also communicated.

To return to his earlier literary avocations—One of the most important works which passed through the press of Messrs. Nichols during the first years of Mr. John Gough Nichols's connection with it was *The History of Modern Wiltshire*, by Sir Richard Colt Hoare, Bart. In the different divisions of the County Sir Richard availed himself of the assistance of several gentlemen whose names are associated with his own in the authorship of the various parts of the work. Mr. J. G. Nichols undertook the Hundred of Alderbury; and this part,

forming the first Part of Volume V., was just finished, but not published, at the time of the death of Sir Richard on May 19, 1838. The Hundred of Frustfield, which had been undertaken by George Matcham, esq., and the History of Old and New Sarum by Robert Benson, esq. and Mr. Hatcher, were still incomplete. The progress of this work occasioned several visits by Mr. Nichols to Wiltshire, of which we may especially note one undertaken in the September following the death of Sir Richard for the purpose of making arrangements for the completion of the history.

In 1838 he published "*A Description of the Frescoes discovered in 1804 in the Guild Chapel at Stratford-on-Avon, and of the Records relating thereto,*" being an account of some very curious mediæval paintings, written to accompany a reissue of the careful drawings by Thomas Fisher, first published in 1808; and a *Description of the Church of St. Mary, Warwick, and of the Beauchamp Chapel; and the Monuments of the Beauchamps and Dudleys.*

In the same year he suggested, and in conjunction with his friends, Sir Frederic Madden, the Rev. J. Hunter, Mr. J. Payne Collier, Mr. John Bruce, Mr. W. J. Thoms, and other gentlemen whose names he has recorded in the passage below quoted, established the Camden Society, the objects of which were announced to be "to perpetuate and render accessible whatever is valuable, but at present little known, amongst the materials for the Civil, Ecclesiastical, or Literary History of the United Kingdom."

"By the popularity of this plan" (we quote from Mr. Nichols's preface to his Catalogue of the Society's Works, 1872,) "and by the influential advocacy of several powerful friends (among whom the late Mr. Amyot, Treas.S.A., the late Rev. Dr. Bliss, of Oxford, and Mr. Purton Cooper, Q.C., were especially active),

the Camden Society rapidly achieved a triumph beyond the hopes of its projectors. Of its first book, 500 copies having been taken, a second impression was shortly required; and a thousand copies were printed of the other works of the year. By the anniversary in 1839 the members were beginning to exceed the copies thus provided, and it was then determined to admit 1,200 Members, and to limit the Society to that maximum. This large number also was quickly attained, and there was besides a book of Candidates waiting for future vacancies."

The success of the Camden Society led to the formation of the Ælfric, the Shakespeare, the Percy, the Parker, and several similar societies, most of which it has survived.

Of the hundred and ten volumes illustrative of our national history, issued by the Camden Society up to the time of Mr. Nichols's death, many were edited by himself. But, as has been observed by the writer of the short memoir in the *Athenæum* (Nov. 22, 1873), "There is scarcely a volume among the long series which does not bear more or less marks of his revision, and more or less acknowledgment of the value of that revision on the part of their respective editors. It was the same with the majority of the writers connected with works on history or genealogy which passed through the press under the careful eyes of Mr. Nichols."

His first contribution to the Society's publications was a paper entitled *Notices of Sir Nicholas Lestrangle*, prefixed to Mr. W. J. Thoms's *Anecdotes and Traditions*, published in 1839. He subsequently edited for the Society the following works: *The Chronicle of Calais*, published in 1846; *Chronicle of the Rebellion in Lincolnshire in 1470*, and *Journal of the Siege of Rouen 1591*, by Sir Thomas Coningsby, 1847; *The Diary of Henry Machyn from 1550 to 1563*, 1848; *The Chronicle of Queen Jane and two years*

of Queen Mary, 1850; *The Discovery of the Jesuits' College at Clerkenwell in March 1627-8*, 1853; *Grants, &c. from the Crown in the reign of King Edward V.*, 1854; *Inventories of the Wardrobes, &c., of Henry Fitz-Roy Duke of Richmond, and of the Wardrobe Stuff at Baynard's Castle of the Princess Dowager*, 1855; *The Letters of Pope to Atterbury when in the Tower of London, and Narratives of the Days of the Reformation (chiefly from the Manuscripts of Fox the Martyrologist)*, 1859; *Wills from Doctors' Commons* (edited in conjunction with John Bruce, Esq.), 1863; and in 1867 and 1868 *History from Marble, compiled in the reign of Charles II., by Thomas Dingley, Gent.*, of the introduction, notes, and literary illustrations of which, by Mr. Nichols, it is remarked by the Athenæum writer that it may truly be said that they doubled the value of that remarkable book.

In 1862 he published a *Descriptive Catalogue of the Works of the Camden Society*, comprising the eighty-six volumes which had been issued up to that date, which he subsequently completed and re-issued in 1872 as a *Catalogue of the First Series of the Works of the Camden Society*, one hundred and five in number.

Mr. Nichols's death found him still with work on hand for this Society, having made considerable progress with the *Autobiography of Lady Ann Halket, in the reigns of Charles I. and Charles II.*, and *Two Sermons preached by Child-Bishops at St. Paul's and at Gloucester, with other Documents relating to that Festivity*, which have been for some time announced for publication by the Society, and the completion of which has now been undertaken, the former by S. R. Gardiner, Esq., the present Director of the Society, and the latter by Edward Rimbault, Esq., LL.D.

About 1840 he contemplated writing an account of the Monu-

ments and Brasses of the Brookes and Cobhams in Cobham Church, Kent. These were at that time in a melancholy state of dilapidation, but Mr. Francis C. Brooke, the present representative of the family, before leaving England in 1839, had commissioned Mr. D. E. Davy to have them put in a state of repair at his expense. Mr. Davy had recourse to the assistance of Mr. Nichols and Mr. Spence, then of Rochester, to whom the idea of restoration, or rather repair and the prevention of further mischief, had already occurred, and under their superintendence the scattered fragments of the brasses were restored to their places, the inscriptions completed, the stonework of the fine monument of George Lord Cobham repaired, and, at a trifling cost, the whole put in tolerable condition, and the progress of further damage stopped.¹ A much more thorough and complete restoration was afterwards effected by Mr. Brooke between 1862 and 1868, at a cost of nearly 700*l.* The progress of this work occasioned frequent visits to Cobham and much correspondence both with Mr. Spence and Mr. Davy from 1840 to 1843. Mr. Nichols's letters on the subject to Mr. Davy have found their way to the British Museum (Add. MS. vols. xvii. xviii.), and contain much interesting matter relating to these remarkable monuments. From some of these letters it appears that he abandoned his intention of writing his *Memorials of the Cobhams*, on account of his being dissatisfied with the plates intended to illustrate the work.

In 1841 he edited for the Berkshire Ashmolean Society the *Unton Inventories*, with a memoir of the Unton family; and in the same year he commenced the publication of a series of *Examples of Decorative Tiles*, the original purpose of which was

¹ A short account of the work done at Cobham will be found in *The Gentleman's Magazine* for March, 1841, p. 306.

to recommend the revival of the art, and to furnish patterns to those who might undertake the manufacture of ornamental pavements. Four Parts of this work were issued, the last in 1845, and in it Mr. Nichols was able to say that its object had been fully accomplished. Messrs. Chamberlain, of Worcester, and Minton and Co., of Stoke-upon-Trent, had produced a few tiles, and the adoption of this kind of pavement in the restoration of the Temple Church had been already decided upon by the time that the first number had appeared; but a considerable impetus to the revival was given, and the best examples made generally known, by the publication of this work.

In 1843 he undertook, at the request of his kind friend Mr. William Perry Herrick, of Beaumanor, to arrange his valuable series of papers and manuscripts, comprising, *inter alia*, Manor Rolls of Beaumanor as far back as the time of Edward I., and the Exchequer Records of the period (1616 to 1623) during which Sir William Herrick (who purchased Beaumanor) was Teller of the Exchequer. These last were completed and a Calendar of them made in 1858, and the family letters and papers in 1862. A full account by Mr. Nichols of these interesting documents and papers appeared in *The Athenæum* of August 27, 1870. He also directed and superintended for Mr. Herrick the execution of a Genealogical and Armorial Stained-glass Window in the Hall at Beaumanor, a description of which he printed in 1849.¹

¹ A handsome silver gilt Cup, a photograph of which is here given, was presented to Mr. Nichols in 1860 by Mr. Herrick, and is thus inscribed:—

PRESENTED TO

JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS, ESQ. F.S.A.

BY WILLIAM PERRY HERRICK, ESQ.

IN COMMEMORATION OF HEREDITARY AND PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP,

A.D. 1860.



ALFRED S. B. CO.

HERRICK CUP.

A. D. 1860

The concluding part of the *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, published in 1843, contains an announcement of the commencement of *The Topographer and Genealogist*, a work on the same model and of similar contents. The parts of this work, of which six form a volume, were intended to be issued at intervals of two months, but the state of Mr. Nichols's health and the multiplicity of his engagements caused considerable delays, and it was only in 1858 that Part 18, completing the third volume, made its appearance. As we shall hereafter have occasion to relate, he then decided to close the series and to commence *The Herald and Genealogist*.

In 1844 he contributed an historical introduction to a handsome volume, printed for the Fishmongers' Company, *The Fishmongers' Pageant on Lord Mayor's Day*, 1616. A second edition of this work was printed in 1859.

On the formation of the Archæological Institute, under the name of the Archæological Association, in 1844, Mr. J. G. Nichols became an original member, and adhered to that Society on its disruption and the foundation of the rival "Association" in 1845.

While taking a very decided part with the majority of the Central Committee, and contending that they, if not regarded as representing the original Association, were clearly not *seceders*, as termed by Mr. Pettigrew, but were *expelled* by the minority (see *Gen. Mag* 1845, vol. xxiii. p. 631, and vol. xxiv. p. 289), he nevertheless remained on good terms with many archæological friends who took the other side. Mr. Nichols attended most of the annual meetings of the Institute, and communicated to it many valuable papers.

In connection with the Archæological Institute we must not omit to mention the long friendship in which kindred tastes and

pursuits bound together Mr. Nichols and Mr. Albert Way, from its foundation the Director of that Society, who has survived him so short a time. All who partake in any degree of their love for history and antiquities will feel that they have seldom lost within a few months two such valuable associates.

In 1849 he published the *Pilgrimages of Walsingham and Canterbury by Erasmus*, an original translation, with an introduction and extensive notes. This little book met with very general approval, and the impression was soon exhausted. He lately had it in contemplation to issue a second edition, and had revised with this object a considerable part of the text, but his numerous other engagements caused it to be deferred. It is hoped that it may shortly be published.

In the same year, in pursuance of the will of his friend Mr. John Stockdale Hardy, F.S.A. Registrar of the Archdeaconry of Leicester, who died on the 19th July in that year, he undertook to edit the *Literary Remains* of that gentleman, which were published in 1852 in a handsome 8vo. volume, prefaced by a memoir by Mr. Nichols, and illustrated by a portrait and several engravings.

His health had never been strong, and in 1856 he found the strain of the editorial work of *The Gentleman's Magazine*, of which, since 1851, he had supported the whole burden, in addition to his other literary undertakings, too great for him. Mr. J. H. Parker having expressed a wish to take up the magazine, the property in it was transferred to him for a nominal consideration, and Mr. J. G. Nichols ceased to be the Editor. As long as it remained in Mr. Parker's hands the high character of the magazine sustained no derogation. Special attention continued to be paid to history and antiquities, and architectural topics became particularly prominent. Mr. Nichols continued

to take an interest in the magazine, and among other contributions furnished its pages with the *Autobiography of Silvanus Urban, Gent.*, an interesting account of matters and persons connected with the early history of the magazine from its first establishment by Edward Cave at St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, in 1731, to the death of its founder in 1754.

The use made by Mr. Nichols of the time thus set free from the toil of a monthly publication is seen in his *Literary Remains of King Edward the Sixth*, edited by him in two volumes 4to. for the Roxburghe Club in 1857-8. A great part of the first volume consists of an introductory biographical memoir, evidencing throughout the careful and accurate research for which its author was so remarkable, and the *Literary Remains* themselves are illustrated by copious notes. It is perhaps to be regretted that this work should have been destined for so limited a circulation as the hundred copies printed for the club, and the publication of the Biographical Memoir, in a more popular form, would be very desirable.

In 1859 he wrote an account of *The Armorial Windows in Woodhouse Chapel, by the Park of Beaumanor, in Charnwood Forest*, which was read at the Annual Meeting of the Leicester-shire Architectural and Archæological Society at Loughborough, July 27, and printed for private distribution at the expense of William Perry Herrick, esq. of Beaumanor.

A new edition of Hutchins's *History of Dorset* having been undertaken in 1860 by Mr. William Shipp of Blandford, Mr. Nichols, though not assuming the nominal responsibility of editorship, engaged to give a general superintendence to the work. It had originally been proposed that this should be merely a reprint of Hutchins, but, owing to Mr. Nichols's representations, and in a great measure by his assistance, the History

has been extended to the present time. The concluding part of this work is now in the press, the whole of the topographical portion having already been published.

In 1860 he edited, for presentation to the Roxburghe Club by Lord Delamere, *The Boke of Noblesse addressed to Edward IV. on his Invasion of France*. In Mr. Nichols's own interleaved copy of this work (in which he has written, "This copy I wish to be presented after my death to the Library of the British Museum") he has prefaced it by this note: "The following passage of a leading article in the *Times* of June 2, 1860, is an evidence how much the invasion of France by Edward IV. is forgotten: 'We have no intention of invading France, and if, since the days of Henry VI. we have ever set foot in France, it has not been to threaten her independence or to substitute one dynasty for another, but simply to keep France from molesting her neighbours and unsettling Europe.'"

In the Introduction to *The Boke of Noblesse* (written to excite the people of this country to commence an unprovoked attack upon their neighbours), after a review of the contents of the work, the story of this forgotten war is told at length, an interesting chapter of History, but, though not actually disastrous, not one which flatters national vanity, and therefore perhaps the more instructive.

At the time of his death he was engaged, and had made considerable progress, in editing for Mr. Paul Butler for presentation to the Roxburghe Club a curious old poem, which he proposed to call *Throckmorton's Ghost*, but which has now been printed with the title of *The Legend of Sir Nicholas Throckmorton*.

In the autumn of 1861, on the occasion of the visit of the Archæological Institute to Windsor, an arrangement was made that a History of Windsor Castle should be undertaken as the joint

task of a number of literary men then there assembled, of whom Mr. Nichols was one. The leading portion of the work was to have been written by Mr. Woodward, at that time Her Majesty's Librarian. The department undertaken by Mr. Nichols was "The Royal Funerals." The proposal was one in which the late Prince Consort took much interest, and, subsequently to his death, on a wish being expressed by Her Majesty to Mr. Woodward that he should undertake such a history, Her Majesty was pleased to express her gratification on hearing that it was already in contemplation. This work was unfortunately never carried out, and on Mr. Woodward's death, in 1869, the plan seems to have dropped; but Mr. Nichols had prepared considerable material for his portion, and it may be hoped that his notes, which are now in the hands of the Dean of Windsor, may ultimately in some form or other be made useful for their intended purpose.

The termination of Mr. Nichols's connection with the management of *The Gentleman's Magazine*, after a continuance for upwards of thirty years, had been rendered urgently necessary by the state of his health, and had produced in this respect a most satisfactory effect. But it was with great reluctance that he renounced the editorial task, and little more than a year elapsed before we find him planning the establishment of another periodical, which ultimately took the form of *The Herald and Genealogist*. At first it was proposed that this publication should be simply a continuation of *The Topographer and Genealogist*, but at regular two-monthly intervals, as had been originally intended with that publication, and at a reduced price. A proposal to this effect was inserted in the concluding part of *The Topographer*, vol. iii., and dated Dec. 15, 1857, but the plan remained for some time in abeyance, and it was not until September 1862 that the first number of the *Herald* made its appearance.

It was received with a good deal of favour, and its eight volumes contain ample evidence of Mr. Nichols's industry and research, and his appreciation of these qualities in others, as well as of "HIS OWN EARNEST LOVE OF 'THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH,' IN HISTORICAL INQUIRIES, AND AN UNFLINCHING OPPOSITION TO ALL ATTEMPTS TO SET UP UNFOUNDED CLAIMS TO HONOURS, AND TO FOIST COOKED-UP PEDIGREES AND GENEALOGIES UPON THE PUBLIC."¹

It is at the particular request of the writer of these words that we have given them especial prominence, inasmuch as they were, he says, intended for the express object of pointing out one of the marked characteristics of the late Editor of this publication, in a field of literature which called forth as much the moral sense of duty as the historical knowledge of the writer.

But, in his insatiable appetite for work, he was only too apt to overburden his own physical powers, and other engagements and uncertain health interfered seriously with the intended regularity of the publication. This again tried the patience of subscribers, many of whom dropped off, and the work was only continued at a considerable pecuniary sacrifice. At the time of his death seven Volumes and five Parts of the eighth had been published, but the remainder of that Volume was far advanced and the greater part of it had already been put in type and revised by Mr. Nichols. The publication of the concluding Part was only delayed in order that it might be accompanied by a Notice of its Editor.

In editing *The Herald* he was frequently in communication with many of those American genealogists who have for some

¹ Athenaeum, Nov. 22. 1873.

years past pursued their researches, on both sides of the Atlantic, with great industry and intelligence. His pages were always open to American correspondents, and he had the opportunity of making known in this country many valuable American contributions to genealogical literature. In return he was honoured by being elected a Corresponding Member of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society and of the Massachusetts Historical Society; and at the meeting of the latter Society, on December 11, 1873, the President, in announcing his decease, submitted a short memoir of him, prepared by Mr. Whitmore, from which we extract the following passages:—

Here, in America, we have reason to regret his loss as being one of the few English genealogists who felt an interest in the Transatlantic branches of English families. Mr. Nichols was one of the leaders of the new school of genealogists; one of those who seek the truth in all things, and who subject everything to analysis and proof. No longer content to repeat the fables of the heralds of the seventeenth century, the genealogist of to-day traces out and uses the original records, which alone are of value. Of course the judicious liberality of the British Government, both in opening the great Record Offices to the public and in publishing selections from the National Archives, has enabled antiquaries to work with advantages denied to their predecessors. Still the movement began with the students, and Mr. Nichols was one of the leaders in the improvement.

We have every reason, therefore, to lament that our late associate has thus been stopped in his career of usefulness, and to join in the most sincere expressions of regret. To many of us the notice of his death was a shock as great as the loss of any of our immediate circle, and we feel it to be as great a calamity to American as to English literature.¹

The compilation of the Obituary of *The Gentleman's Magazine* was, as has already been stated, a department of that work to which he had given special attention, and to which he attached great importance. Its discontinuance, under the management

¹ *Journal of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 1873, p. 122.

of Mr. Parker, was regretted by him as a public loss, and suggested the revival of an idea which he had before entertained of the publication of a magazine devoted solely to contemporary biography and the record of family events. Much against the counsel of his own immediate circle, though not without a good deal of encouragement from literary friends, Mr. Nichols attempted the realization of this idea in *The Register and Magazine of Biography*, the first number of which appeared on January 1, 1869. He yielded, however, so far to advice as not to undertake the task of editor, though he contributed many articles to its pages.

Notwithstanding the almost universal expression of approbation which greeted the undertaking, the amount of public support which *The Register* received disappointed even those whose expectations were less hopeful than those of its projector. After six months' trial Messrs. Nichols abandoned the attempt. Everybody, it seemed, would be glad to be able to refer to such a work in a public library; scarcely two or three hundred would pay one shilling per month to possess or support it.

In 1870 he undertook to edit a re-publication by Messrs. Routledge of Whitaker's *History of Whalley*. It was not at first proposed that any considerable modification of the original work should be attempted; but Mr. Nichols was never satisfied to do anything which he took in hand in an imperfect or perfunctory manner. He had not a very high opinion of Dr. Whitaker's history, and his principal inducement to undertake this task was the hope that he might make the new edition somewhat more satisfactory than the old. The work was so much enlarged that it was thought better to divide it into two volumes, the first of which was published in 1871, and the second, though far advanced, was not quite finished at the time of his death.

Mr. Nichols joined the London and Middlesex Archæological Association on its first establishment in 1855, and was elected a Member of its Council in 1857, and a Vice-President in 1865, which offices he retained until his death. The *Transactions* of this Society also bear witness to his untiring industry and extensive knowledge. A list of his communications to it will be found at the end of this Memoir.

In July 1871 he presided as Chairman at the annual meeting of the Surrey Archæological Society, held at Cranley; and at their visit to Newdegate from the meeting at Charlwood on July 4, 1872, he communicated an elaborate paper on the Newdigate Family, which has since been printed in the Society's Proceedings, having been revised for the press by him in the summer of 1873. He was also an Honorary Fellow of the Societies of Antiquaries of Scotland and of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The biography of a student and man of letters affords little to tell of a personal character. Mr. Nichols's habits were influenced by the fact that his health was never robust. In his younger days especially he led a very quiet and retired life. As a bachelor he resided in his father's house, and he remained unmarried until his thirty-eighth year. In a life marked for the most part only by successive labours of the pen, even an excursion on the neighbouring continent was an event. On August 18, 1841, he started with his friend Mr. John Rivington for a short tour on the Continent. They went from London to Hamburg by steamer, thence by Wittenberg and Magdeburg to Berlin and Dresden, visiting the Saxon Switzerland, and returning by Weimar, Leipzie, Frankfort, the Rhine, and Antwerp. His letters and journals give a full and interesting account of this excursion, which, to his regret, was the only one he was ever able to make in Germany—though he made several and sometimes lengthened visits to France.

Retiring as were his habits, he did not decline to take part in such business as his literary or other associations naturally threw upon him. He was elected in 1836 a member of the General Committee of the Royal Literary Fund, of which his father was, as his grandfather had previously been, one of the Registrars. From this time to the close of his life he continued to take an active part and interest in its affairs. He was appointed a member of the Council in 1845, a trustee of the Newton Estate in 1850, and again elected on the General Committee in 1852, retaining that office until his death. He had also been from the year 1845 one of the 'Trustees of the Printers' Pension Corporation.

He was for several years a governor of the Grey Coat School, Westminster, until ousted by the new scheme of the Endowed Schools Commissioners. He was a governor of the Westminster Blue Coat School, which has fortunately escaped from being reformed out of existence. He had been also for many years a director, and was latterly chairman and treasurer, of the York Buildings Waterworks Company.

John Gough Nichols married, on the 22nd July, 1843, Lucy, eldest daughter of Frederick Lewis, Esq. Commander R.N., by whom he had one son, John Bruce Nichols, B.A., born Nov. 18, 1848, lately of St. John's College, Oxford, and now of Parliament Street and Holmwood, whose name was joined in 1873 to those of his father and uncle as Printers of the *Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons*; and two daughters, 1. Lucy-Burgess, who was born June 8, 1844; married June 1, 1869, to Percy Mortimer, Esq., younger son of Charles Mortimer, Esq., of Wigmore, Capel, Surrey, and has issue one son, John Hamilton, born Aug. 13, 1872; and 2. Anna-Eliza, born Aug. 27, 1855, died Sept. 16, 1856.

For four years after his marriage he resided at 27, Upper



ALFORD & CO. N. H. & C.

John Gough Nichols



THE LINDWOOD EARRK

Phillimore Place, Kensington, afterwards for a short time at Wandsworth, and subsequently for a long period at 28, Upper Harley Street, and at Brighton. In 1868 he took a lease of Holmwood Park, near Dorking, a residence belonging to the family of Larpent, from whom he purchased the freehold shortly before his death.

His house was always a cheerful and hospitable home, and seldom without its guests, to whom Mrs. Nichols was a genial and entertaining hostess. In the midst of all the distractions of society he pursued his literary work in a persevering but unostentatious manner, ready however at all times to take a kindly interest in the lighter occupations of those around him.

Several photographs of Mr. J. G. Nichols, taken at various periods, have preserved a not unsatisfactory record of his personal appearance in the later years of his life. Two of those accompanying this memoir are enlarged from *cartes de visite* by Hennah and Kent, taken in 1864 and 1866. His portrait at the age of 24 is also contained in a family group in water-colours by D. Maclise, R.A.,¹ an early work of that painter, executed for Mr. J. B. Nichols in 1830, and representing his eight children; and a medallion by Leonard Charles Wyon, Medallist and Engraver to Her Majesty's Mint, from which a number of medals both in silver and bronze were struck, has an excellent likeness of himself and his wife in 1868. He had been from boyhood a great admirer and to some extent a collector of coins and medals, and had long been a member of the Numismatic Society. But such medals as had reference to family history had an especial interest for him, and he had recently been in correspondence with his friend Mr. Richard Sainthill of Cork on the subject of foreign medals struck in commemoration of silver and golden weddings. Mr. Wyon's medal was designed as a memorial of Mr. Nichols's silver

¹ For a photograph of the head of Mr. Nichols from this picture see p. 6.

wedding, on July 22, 1868, and the reverse has an inscription recording the event.¹

It may not be without interest to mention that, on the 22nd of July, 1843, eighty guests assembled in a tent at Chiswick at the wedding breakfast of John Gough Nichols and Lucy Lewis. On July 22, 1868, seventy of those guests met again to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of that day. Of the other ten six had passed away and four were in distant lands. The oldest friend of

¹ Mr. Sainthill described this medal in the following letter, which appeared in the *Art Journal* for January 1869:

“SILVER WEDDING” MEDAL.

“In Germany, when a married pair have been united for twenty-five years, the era is termed ‘The Silver Wedding;’ and when fifty years are reached the era becomes ‘The Golden Wedding.’ The events are celebrated with all the festivities of the original espousals. This custom is not unknown in England. A friend of mine, in Bristol, mentioned to me that his ‘Silver Wedding’ was commemorated with all the gay doings of year number one, excepting that the orange blossoms were omitted on the plum-cake. In Germany it is very customary, also, to have a medal struck to record the joyful event. I have before me the Silver Wedding Medal of the present King and Queen of Prussia, of great artistic merit, designed by Daege and engraved by Kullrich. On the obverse are the portraits of the then Prince and Princess of Prussia. On the reverse, they stand before an altar, their right hands clasped, and a winged figure is about to place wreaths on them; below, ‘1829—1854.’ I have now to record the striking of a ‘Silver Wedding’ medal in England—probably the first of its class—engraved by Leonard Charles Wyon. On the obverse are the portraits, from the life, of the happy couple, inscribed ‘JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS. LUCY LEWIS.’ Beneath, ‘L. C. Wyon.’ Fortunately for the artist, his originals presented a striking contrast, of which he has made the most. Quiescent loveliness and living energy: the broad, smooth brow, topped with its silken shading, relieving the slightly-lined forehead, deep-set eye, massy clustered locks and heavy moustache, are all realised in their varied shades with the highest artistic ability. The idea of the medal was so close to the era, that there was not time to engrave a figure reverse, which therefore presents this very happy inscription, ‘FELICES JUNXIT CONNUBIALIS AMOR.—POST ANNOS PROSPEROS XXV. 22 JULII, 1868. DEO GRATIAS.’ The diameter of the medal is $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.—R.S.”





SILVER WEDDING CUP

A. D. 1868

Captain Lewis's family, the Rev. John Gore, Vicar of Shalbourne and Minor Canon of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, who twenty-five years before had joined their hands, still survived¹ to be the spokesman of the party in wishing them a continuance of the happiness they had so long enjoyed together.²

¹ Mr. Gore died December 7, 1871.

² The accompanying photograph represents an antique silver gilt cup presented to Mr. and Mrs. Nichols, on this occasion, by the members of his family. It bears the following inscription:—

IOHANNI · GOUGH · ET · LUCIÆ · NICHOLS
VOTIS · POST · QUINTUM · LUTRUM · PROBATUS
XI · KAL · SEXTIL · A.C. M.D.CCCCLXVIII.

The Rev. Arthur Lewis Gore, only son of the Rev. John Gore, also contributed the following verses in honour of the day:—

A SILVER WEDDING SONG.

DEDICATED WITH LOVE TO MR. AND MRS. J. GOUGH NICHOLS, JULY 22ND, 1868.

I sing the day which gives you
A record of time past:
A day of joyance to you
As long as life shall last.
A day which calls around you
Friends bound by blood and love:
A day whose thoughts will tell you
Your ties were formed above.
The summer time which gildeth
Your gladsome Silver Day,
Would say, No sun declineth
When Love is wont to stay.
You've trod Life's road together,
'Twere pain for you to part;
You've proved that nought can sever
Those linked in hand and heart!
As friends are gathering round you
To join your festive board,
Believe our hearts are with you
To hail their kindly word—
The word which says, "God bless you,"
To Him we're glad to pray,
May He, in adding to you,
Add yet—the Golden Day!

For a few years longer these wishes were to be fulfilled. Mr. Nichols remained tolerably well, and showed the marks of time as little as any man of his age. Twice again, on June 1, 1869, and April 26, 1870, a wedding party assembled at Holmwood. The first was the occasion of the marriage of Mr. Nichols's daughter Lucy, already referred to, and the second that of his niece, Mary Elizabeth Griffiths, to William Macdonald Bird.

But throughout the summer of 1873 his friends observed with regret a decided falling-off in his health and strength. This, however, was not indicated by any diminution of his energy or appetite for work. He continued to bestow an immense amount of labour upon *The History of Whalley* as well as on *The Herald and Genealogist* and other undertakings. To such an extent was this carried as to cause the impression on his medical advisers that he was injuring his health by overwork. On the 5th of August he attended the Court of the Company of Stationers, of which he had just been chosen one of the Wardens, and dined at the Hall, and on the next day he was present for the first and only time at the Meeting of the Stock Board of the Company. He had always taken a great interest in the City Companies. One of his earliest works had been that on *London Pageants*, and he had subsequently written upon subjects connected with the Fishmongers', the Vintners', the Mercers', and other London Companies. The Stationers' Company, with which his name had been long connected, was of course especially interesting to him, and on the occasion of the visit of the London and Middlesex Archæological Association to Stationers' Hall in 1860 he read a paper on its history, which was afterwards printed both in the *Transactions* of the Society and separately. He had frequently expressed his regret that the period at which he might expect to serve the higher offices of the Company should be at a time in his life when he could hardly anticipate health and strength to go through them.

On the 26th of August he was in town for the last time. He was then feeling unwell, and shortly afterwards went down to Brighton, partly in order to avail himself of the advice of his friend Dr. Pickford. Early in October he returned to Holmwood without having much improved; but, in writing to excuse his non-attendance at the Court of the Stationers' Company on Oct. 7, he was able to say that his medical advisers promised him that a fortnight's entire rest would restore him to health. An incapacity to follow out this prescription, vain as the result proved that it would have been, was, however, one of the symptoms of his malady. His family became seriously alarmed, and, on the 14th, Sir William Gull was called in and saw him several times, as did afterwards another London physician. These great authorities concurred in still taking a favourable view of the case; but the patient continued to sink. So late, however, as Nov. 3rd he was able to walk from his own room to another, and to read a proof of the new edition of Mr. Evelyn Shirley's *Stemmata Shirleiana*, on which he wrote a memorandum that he would have read more if he had had it. From this time, however, he rapidly sank; and, after much suffering in the last days, expired about 4 a.m. on the 14th of November, 1873.

A post-mortem examination showed the real cause of his illness and death to have been an internal cancer, supposed to have been of about eight months' growth, and beyond the power of medicine to alleviate or cure.

The writer of these pages might not unreasonably be suspected of partiality were he to attempt to do justice to the personal worth and character of John Gough Nichols. But he cannot refrain from quoting the words of one in no way connected with him by kindred, yet well enough acquainted with him to appreciate his merits:—"I have often thought of his great worth, his re-

tiring modesty, his quiet, unobtrusive ways, his perfect gentleness, his opinion, mildly tendered, often browbeaten, but always true in the end, on a point of learning—in fact, I looked on him as a living lesson of a gentle spirit from which I might draw good.”

A large number of friends and dependents followed him to his last resting-place on Wednesday the 19th of November. He was buried in a grave at the east end of Holmwood Church, now marked by a coped slab of granite, on which is inscribed:

PASSED AWAY
TO HIS ETERNAL REST
ON THE EARLY MORN OF NOV. 14TH, 1873,
JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS, F.S.A.
OF HOLMWOOD PARK,
BORN MAY 22ND, 1806.

I heard a voice from heaven saying, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Rev. xiv. 13.

A monumental brass has been prepared from the design of his friend Mr. Waller to be placed in the church, bearing the following inscription:—

TO THE DEAR MEMORY OF
JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS, F.S.A.
ELDEST SON OF JOHN BOWYER NICHOLS, F.S.A.
AND GRANDSON OF JOHN NICHOLS, F.S.A.
THE HISTORIAN OF LEICESTERSHIRE,
BORN MAY 22ND, 1806,
DIED AT HIS RESIDENCE, HOLMWOOD PARK,
NOVEMBER 14TH, 1873.

IN TESTIMONY OF HER SINCERE AND DEEP AFFECTION, THIS MEMORIAL,
DESIGNED BY HIS OLD AND VALUED FRIEND JOHN GREEN WALLER, IS
ERECTED BY LUCY HIS WIDOW.

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave whither thou goest.

Ecclesiastes, ix. 10.



TO THE DEAR MEMORY OF
JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS F.S.A.
ELDEST SON OF JOHN BOWYER NICHOLS F.S.A.
AND GRANDSON OF JOHN NICHOLS F.S.A.
THE HISTORIAN OF LEICESTERSHIRE. 72
BORN MAY 22 1806 DIED AT HIS RESIDENCE
HOLMWOOD PARK NOVEMBER 11 1875.

IN TESTIMONY OF HER SINCERE AND
DEEP AFFECTION THIS MEMORIAL
DESIGNED BY HIS OLD AND VAILED
FRIEND JOHN GREEN WALLER HAS
BEEN ERECTED BY MARY HIS WIDOW.

WHATEVER THY HAND FINDERETH TO DO DO
IT WITH THY MIGHT FOR THERE IS NO WORK
NOR DEVICE NOR KNOWLEDGE NOR WISDOM
IN THE GRAVE WHITHER THOU GOEST. D

AN. TOMES

HISTORIA



APPENDIX.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

SOC. ANTIQ. LOND.,

Somerset House,

Nov. 28, 1873.

MY DEAR MR. NICHOLS,

I am instructed by the President and Council to send you the accompanying Resolution, which I would ask you to communicate to the other members of the family of the late Mr. Nichols.

Of my own personal sympathy in your loss I have already assured you.

Believe me yours truly,

C. KNIGHT WATSON.

R. C. Nichols, Esq.

At a Meeting of the Council of The Society of Antiquaries of London, held at Somerset House, Tuesday, November 25th, 1873, Frederic Ouvry, Esq. Treasurer, in the chair.

It was resolved:—

The President and Council of the Society of Antiquaries have learnt the decease of their Fellow Member, J. G. Nichols, Esq. with very sincere regret. They feel that a void not easily to be supplied has been made in the ranks of Antiquarian Science, and, while desirous to put on record their high sense of his character and services, they wish also to convey an expression of their sympathy to his surviving family.

By Order,

C. KNIGHT WATSON.

CAMDEN SOCIETY.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE,

Chancery Lane, London,

5 December, 1873.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am directed by the Council of the Camden Society to forward to the family of your late brother, with the strongest possible expressions of sympathy on their behalf, a copy of a Resolution directed to be entered on the minutes of the Council held on the 3rd inst.:—

“Resolved, unanimously, That the Council, before proceeding to the
“business of the day, desire to record their sense of the great loss which
“the Camden Society has sustained by the death of Mr. John Gough
“Nichols. The obligations which he has conferred upon the Society
“have been great and various. Mr. Nichols was one of the most active
“of those by whom the Society was originally established; the works
“edited by him for the Society have been alike numerous and valuable;
“and of the volumes issued by the Society, exceeding one hundred,
“there are few which have not been benefited by his careful revision and
“deep historical knowledge.

“The Council feel assured that the Society at large will share their
“regret at the death of an amiable and accomplished gentleman with
“whom they have been so long associated, and the sincerity with which
“they desire to convey to his widow and family their deep sympathy
“with them in their great bereavement.”

I feel deeply sensible, I assure you, how poor words are to convey the sorrow which all the friends of the late Mr. John Gough Nichols must feel when remembering that he is lost to them. The friendly and able help he was always ready to offer to all who applied to him for assistance, has left a host of pleasant memories, not only throughout the Camden Society but all the literary world, and I hope, my dear Sir, that the few words in which the Council have sought to convey to you how great their appreciation of your brother has been,

and how deeply they deplore his loss, may prove grateful to you even under these very painful circumstances.

Will you have the very great kindness to communicate this letter to Mr. Nichols's family, as I am not personally acquainted with them, and know no one, except yourself, to whom to address myself.

I am, my dear Sir, with deep sympathy,

Yours very faithfully,

ALFRED KINGSTON,

Robert C. Nichols, Esq.

Hon. Sec.

At the General Meeting of the Camden Society, held May 2, 1874, it was resolved:—

“That the Members fully concur with the Council of the Camden Society in recording their sense of the great loss the Society has sustained through the death of the late Mr. John Gough Nichols, and their grateful remembrance of the valuable help he was ever ready to afford them.

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.,

MADAM,

4 December, 1873.

At the last Meeting of the Council of this Society the members present expressed a deep sense of the loss this Society and the science of Archæology had then so recently sustained by the death of your lamented husband; and we were directed, on the motion of Mr. Waller, to convey to you the unanimous condolence and sincere sympathy of the Council with yourself and family in your bereavement.

They did not fail to recollect that Mr. Nichols was never called upon in vain for that assistance which his deep learning qualified him, and his ready kindness always impelled him, to give, by any among

them; and their feelings of respect for his memory as a profound and accomplished Archæologist are equalled by their regret for his loss as a kind friend and loyal colleague.

May we add, as we both saw much of him, and experienced his readiness at all times either to aid the Society or to render assistance in any inquiry in which we might ourselves be engaged, our desire to join personally in this expression of condolence.

We are, Madam,

Your faithful servants,

EDWARD W. BRABROOK, } *Hon.*

JOHN EDWARD PRICE, } *Secs.*

Mrs. Nichols.

THE STATIONERS' COMPANY.

STATIONERS' HALL.

At a Court of Assistants, held on Tuesday, the 2nd
day of December, 1873,

It was unanimously resolved:—

“That this Court deeply regret the great loss they have sustained by the death of John Gough Nichols, Esq. F.S.A. Warden of this Company, who, while distinguished for his literary attainments, always evinced an anxious and active interest in the welfare of this Company, and this Court desire to record their sense of the great respect and esteem in which his memory must ever be revered by the Members of the Stationers' Company.

“And that a Copy of the above Resolution be sent to Mrs. Nichols.”

Extracted from the Minutes.

CHAS. ROBERT RIVINGTON,

Clerk.

PRINTERS' PENSION, ALMSHOUSE, AND ORPHAN
ASYLUM CORPORATION.

Copy Resolution:—

“The Council desire to express their sense of the loss which this Corporation has sustained by the decease of John Gough Nichols, Esq. since 1845 one of their Trustees, and to record their grateful acknowledgments of the kind and valuable assistance which he rendered to the objects of the Institution for a period of nearly thirty years.”

J. S. HODSON,

Secretary.

December, 1873.

WORKS OF MR. JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS.

Autographs of Royal, Noble, Learned, and Remarkable Personages conspicuous in English History, from the Reign of Richard the Second to that of Charles the Second, with some Illustrious Foreigners. Engraved under the direction of Charles John Smith. Accompanied by concise Biographical Memoirs and interesting Extracts from the original Documents, by John Gough Nichols. Imp. 4to. 1829.

London Pageants. I. Accounts of Sixty Royal Processions and Entertainments in the City of London; chiefly extracted from contemporary writers. II. A Bibliographical List of Lord Mayors' Pageants. Royal 8vo. Pp. 125. 1831.

Annals and Antiquities of Lacock Abbey, in the county of Wilts, with Memorials of Ela the Foundress, the Countess of Salisbury, and of the Earls of Salisbury of the Houses of Salisbury and Longespé, &c. by W. L. Bowles, M.A. and John Gough Nichols. 8vo. 1835.

The Modern History of South Wiltshire, by Sir Richard Colt Hoare, Bart. Vol. V. I. The Hundred of Alderbury, by Sir R. C. Hoare and John Gough Nichols, F.S.A. Folio. Pp. 223. Date on Title of Part, 1837; on that of Volume, 1844.

Description of the Church of St. Mary, Warwick, and of the Beauchamp Chapel, and the Monuments of the Beauchamps and Dudleys; also, of the Chantry Chapel of Isabella Countess of Warwick, in Tewkesbury Abbey. 4to. Pp. 40. Seven folio plates. *No date* (1838).

An Abridgement of the same. 12mo.

Ancient Allegorical, Historical, and Legendary Paintings in Fresco, discovered in 1804 on the walls of the Chapel of the Trinity at Stratford-upon-Avon, from drawings by Thomas Fisher, F.S.A. with Fac-similes of Charters, Seals, Rolls of Accounts, &c. Described by John Gough Nichols, F.S.A. Folio. Pp. 14. Plates 1838.

Notices of Sir Nicholas Lestrangle, Bart. and his Family Connexions. In *Anecdotes and Traditions*, edited by W. J. Thoms, Esq. F.S.A. Camden Society's Publications, No. v. 4to. pp. ix.-xxxviii. 1839.

The Unton Inventories, relating to Wadley and Faringdon, co. Berks, in the years 1596 and 1620, from the originals in the possession of Earl Ferrers. With a Memoir of the Family of Unton. Printed for the Berkshire Ashmolean Society. 4to. Pp. lxxxviii. 56. 1841.

The Fishmongers' Pageant on Lord Mayor's Day, 1616. Chrysanaleia, the Golden Fishing, devised by Anthony Munday, Citizen and Draper. Represented in twelve plates by Henry Shaw, F.S.A., from contemporary drawings in the possession of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers. Accompanied with various illustrative documents, and an Historical Introduction by John Gough Nichols, F.S.A. Lond. and Newc., Citizen and Stationer. Printed for the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers. Imp. folio. 1841.

The same. Second edition. 1869.

Examples of Decorative Tiles, sometimes termed Encaustic, engraved in facsimile, chiefly in their original size, with Introductory Remarks. 4to. Text pp. xxxii. Woodcuts 101 on pp. 97. 1845.

The Chronicle of Calais in the reigns of Henry VII. and Henry VIII. to the year 1540. Edited from MSS. in the British Museum. C. S. No. xxxv. 4to. Pp. xlii. 228. 1846.

Chronicle of the Rebellion in Lincolnshire 1470. Pp. 28. Journal of the Siege of Ronen, 1591. By Sir Thomas Coningsby of Hampton Court, co. Hereford, pp. 84. In *The Camden Miscellany*, Vol. I. C. S. No. xxxix. 4to. 1847.

The Diary of Henry Machyn, Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London. From A.D. 1550 to A.D. 1563. C. S. No. XLII. 4to. Pp. xxxii. 464. 1848.

Pilgrimages to Saint Mary of Walsingham and Saint Thomas of Canterbury. By Desiderius Erasmus. Newly translated, with the Colloquy on Rash Vows by the same Author, and his Characters of Archbishop Warham and Dean Colet, and illustrated with Notes. 8vo. Pp. 6, xxiii. 248, and frontispiece. 1849.

Description of the Armorial Window on the Staircase at Beaumanor, co. Leicester. Privately printed. 8vo. Pp. 8. *No date* (1849).

The Literary Remains of John Stockdale Hardy, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, sometime Registrar of the Archdeaconry Courts of Leicester. Edited in pursuance of his will by John Gough Nichols, F.S.A. 8vo. Pp. xxiv. 487. Five Plates. 1852.

The Chronicle of Queen Jane, and of two years of Queen Mary, and especially of the Rebellion of Sir Thomas Wyatt. Written by a Resident in the Tower of London: with illustrative Documents and Notes. C. S. No. XLVIII. 4to. Pp. viii. 196. 1850.

Chronicle of the Grey Friars of London. C. S. No. LIII. 4to. Pp. xxxv. 108. 1852.

The Discovery of the Jesuits' College at Clerkenwell in March 1627-8; and a Letter found in their House (as asserted) directed to the Father Rector at Bruxelles. 4to. Pp. 61. 1852. In *The Camden Miscellany*, Vol. II. C. S. No. LV. 1853.

Grants, &c. from the Crown during the reign of Edward the Fifth, from the original Docket Book, MS. Harl. 433; and two Speeches for opening Parliament, by John Russell, Bishop of Lincoln, Lord Chancellor. With an Historical Introduction. C. S. No. LX. 4to. Pp. lxvii. 96. 1854.

Inventories of the Wardrobes, Plate, Chapel Stuff, &c. of Henry FitzRoy Duke of Richmond; and of the Wardrobe Stuff, at Baynard's Castle, of Katharine Princess Dowager. With a Memoir and Letters of the Duke of Richmond. 4to. Pp. c. 55. In *The Camden Miscellany*, Vol. III. C. S. No. LXI. 1855.

Literary Remains of King Edward the Sixth. Edited from his Autograph Manuscripts, with Historical Notes and a Biographical Memoir, by John Gough Nichols, F.S.A. Printed for the Roxburghe Club. 4to. 2 volumes. Pp. cccx. 636. 1857-8.

The Letters of Pope to Atterbury when in the Tower of London. 4to. Pp. 22. In *The Camden Miscellany*, Vol. IV. C. S. No. LXXIII. 1859.

Narratives of the Days of the Reformation, chiefly from the Manuscripts of John Foxe, the Martyrologist, with two Contemporary Biographies of Archbishop Cranmer. C. S. No. LXXVII. 4to. Pp. xxviii. 366. 1859.

The Armorial Windows erected in the reign of Henry VI. by John Viscount Beaumont and Katharine Duchess of Norfolk in Woodhouse Chapel, by the Park of Beaumanor, in Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire, including an investigation of the differences of the coat of Neville. Read at the annual meeting of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society at Loughborough, July 27th, 1859. Privately printed. 4to and 8vo. Pp. iv. 50, and Pedigree. 1860.

The Boke of Noblesse: addressed to King Edward the Fourth on his Invasion of France in 1475. With an Introduction by John Gough Nichols, F.S.A. Printed for the Roxburghe Club. 4to. Pp. lx. 96. (Presented to the Club by Lord Delamere). 1860.

A Descriptive Catalogue (*in Second Edition of the First Series*) of the Works of the Camden Society, stating the nature of their principal Contents, the Periods of Time to which they relate, the Dates of their Composition, their Manuscript Sources, Authors, and Editors, accompanied by a Classified Arrangement and an Index, and Illustrative Particulars. 4to., uniform with Camden series, pp. xvi. 72. 1862.

Do. do. The Second Edition. 4to. Pp. xxiv. 92. 1872.

The Family Alliances of Denmark and Great Britain from the earliest times to the present. Illustrated by Genealogical Tables and a plate of the Arms of Denmark. 8vo. Pp. 46. 1863.

Wills from Doctors' Commons. A selection of the Wills of Eminent Persons proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1495-1695. Edited by J. G. Nichols and John Bruce. C. S. No. LXXXIII. 4to. Pp. viii. 175. 1863.

The Heralds' Visitations of the Counties of England and Wales. An account of what has been done towards their publication. 8vo. Pp. ii. 60. 1864.

History from Marble. Compiled in the reign of Charles II. by Thomas Dingley, Gent. Printed in Photo-lithography by Vincent Brooks from the original in the possession of Sir Thomas Winnington, Bart., with an Introduction and Descriptive Table of Contents. C. S. Nos. xciv. and xcvi. Two volumes 4to. Pp. 196, ccccxvii. 1867-8.

An History of the original Parish of Whalley and Honor of Clitheroe, in the counties of Lancaster and York, to which is subjoined an Account of the parish of Cartmell. By Thomas Dunham Whitaker, LL.D., F.S.A., Vicar of Whalley. The fourth edition, revised and enlarged. By John Gough Nichols, F.S.A. Vol. I. Royal 4to. Pp. lxxvi. 362. 1870.

The following works were left unfinished by Mr. Nichols at his death, but will shortly be completed and issued :—

History of Whalley, Vol. II.

Two Sermons preached by Child Bishops at St. Paul's and at Gloucester: with other Documents relating to that Festivity. For *The Camden Miscellany*, Vol. VII. Autobiography of Ann Lady Halket in the reigns of Charles I. and Charles II. For the Camden Society.

The Legend of Sir Nicholas Throckmorton. For the Roxburghe Club.

PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, edited by Mr. J. G. Nichols :—

The Gentleman's Magazine and Historical Review, from December 1851. New Series, Vols. XXXVI. to XLV. Demy 8vo. 1851-1856.

Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica. 8 vols. Royal 8vo. 1834-1843.

The Topographer and Genealogist. 3 vols. Demy 8vo. 1846-1858.

The Herald and Genealogist. 8 vols. Demy 8vo. 1863-1874.

PAPERS communicated to the SOCIETY of ANTIQUARIES :—

Description of a Brass Plate from Tours with inscription. Read Feb. 3, 1831. *Archæologia*, Vol. XXIII. pp. 427-429.

Observations on Ancient Paintings in St. Mary's Church at Guildford. Read Feb. 16, 1837. Vol. XXVII. pp. 413, 414.

Remarks on a Specimen of Ancient Damask. Read March 9, 1837. *Ibid.* pp. 421-423.

Observations on the Heraldic Devices discovered on the Effigies of Richard the Second and his Queen in Westminster Abbey, and upon the mode in which those ornaments were executed: including some Remarks on the Surname Plantagenet and on the Ostrich Feathers of the Prince of Wales. Read June 4, 1840. Vol. XXIX. pp. 32-59.

Description of the Silver Matrix of the Seal of Thomas de Prayers. Read June 10, 1841. Ibid. pp. 405-407.

The second Patent appointing Edward Duke of Somerset Protector, temp. King Edward the Sixth: introduced by an Historical Review of the various measures connected therewith. Read March 21, 1844. Vol. XXX. pp. 463-489.

On an Amity formed between the Companies of Fishmongers and Goldsmiths of London, and a consequent Participation of their Coat-Armour. Read February 22, 1841. Ibid. pp. 499-513.

Description of an Ivory Diptych. Read Dec. 9, 1847. Vol. XXXII. p. 456.

Some Additions to the Biographies of Sir John Cheke and Sir Thomas Smith: in a Letter addressed to Charles Henry Cooper, Esq. F.S.A., one of the Authors of the *Athenæ Cantabrigienses*. Read March 31, 1859. Vol. XXXVIII. pp. 98-127.

Inventory of the goods of Dame Agnes Hungerford, attainted of murder 14 Henry VIII.; with remarks thereon by J. G. N. and the Rev. John Edward Jackson, M.A. F.S.A. Read May 19, 1859. Ibid. pp. 353-372.

Notices of the Contemporaries and Successors of Holbein. Read March 13, 1862. Vol. XXXIX. pp. 19-46.

Remarks upon Holbein's Portraits of the Royal Family of England, and more particularly upon the several Portraits of the Queens of Henry the Eighth. Read June 4, 1863. Vol. XL. pp. 71-80.

An original Appointment of Sir John Fastolfe to be Keeper of the Bastille of St. Anthony, at Paris, in 1421. With Illustrative Remarks. Read Dec. 8, 1870. Vol. XLIII. pp. 113-123.

Observations on Religious and Social Guilds suggested by the Charters of Confraternity of the Pardon of Walsoken, and the History of the College or Hospital of Walsoken. Read May 8, 1873. To be printed in *Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society*, Vol. VIII. (An Abstract in *Proceedings S.A.* Vol. VI. pp. 15-19.)

On certain Portraits by Quintin Matsys and Holbein in the Collection of the Earl of Radnor, at Longford Castle. Read May 15, 1873. To be printed in *Archæologia*, Vol. XLIV.

PAPERS communicated to the ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE:—

A Secret History of a remarkable Passage in the Life of Charles Brandon Duke of Suffolk. Read at the meeting at Winchester, Sept. 12, 1845, but not printed (?)

On the Seals of the Earls of Winchester, and On the Seals of Winchester City, and on the Seals for the Recognizances of Debtors temp. Edw. III. Read at the same meeting on Sept. 13, 1845. *Proceedings, &c. Winchester*, pp. 103-110.

On the Seals for Cloths used by the King's Aulnager. Read at the same time but not printed (?)

On Precatory or Mortuary Rolls, and particularly one of the Abbey of West Dereham, Norfolk. Read at Norwich, August 3, 1847. *Memoirs, &c. Norwich*, pp. 99-114.

The Descent of the Earldom of Lincoln, with Notices of the Seals of the Earls. Read at Lincoln July 31, 1848. *Memoirs, &c. Lincoln*, pp. 253-279.

The Earldom of Salisbury. Read at Salisbury, July 1849. *Memoirs, &c. Salisbury*, pp. 211-234.

On the Descent of the Earldom of Oxford. Read at Oxford on June 21, 1850. *Arch. Journal*. Vol. IX. pp. 17-28.

The Descent of the Earldom of Gloucester. Read at Bristol, August 2, 1851. *Memoirs, &c. Bristol*, pp. 65-79.

PAPERS communicated to the LONDON and MIDDLESEX ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION:—

Answer filed in Equity respecting the Park and Common at Haworth, temp. Charles II. *Transactions*. Vol. I. pp. 183-191.

The Brass of John Birkhede at Harrow. Vol. I. pp. 276-284.

Biography of Richard Gough, Esq. Director S.A. (Abstract.) Vol. I. pp. 319, 320.

The Ancient Mace or Jewelled Sceptre at Guildhall. Vol. I. pp. 355-6.

Notices of the Stationers' Company, their Hall, Pictures, and Plate, and their Ancient Seal of Arms. Read at Stationers' Hall, April 12, 1860. Vol. II. pp. 37-61.

(This was also separately printed under the title "Historical Notices of the Stationers' Company, &c." for private distribution. Demy 4to. 1861.)

Pictures in the Deanery at Westminster. *Ibid.* pp. 167, 168.

Henry de Yeveley, one of the Architects of Westminster Hall. *Ibid.* pp. 259-266.

Notices of Pictures in the Middle Temple Hall, the Parliament Chamber, and Inner Temple Hall, and Pictures at Bridewell. *Ibid.* pp. 65-74.

Notices of John Lovekyn, four times Lord Mayor of London, and Master of Sir William Walworth. Vol. III. pp. 133-137.

The Muniments of the Vintners' Company. Ibid. pp. 432-447.

The Biography of Sir William Harper, Alderman of London, Founder of the Bedford Charities. Read Feb. 14, 1870. Vol. IV. pp. 70-93.

Remarks on the Mercers' and other Trading Companies of London, followed by some account of the Records of the Mercers' Company. Read at Mercers' Hall April 21, 1869. Ibid. pp. 131-147.

A Triple Civic Marriage in the year 1560 and other Notes in illustration of Machyn's Diary. Read March 13, 1871. *Proceedings at Evening Meetings*, pp. 30, 31.

PAPERS communicated to the SURREY ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY:—

Bowyer of Camberwell. *Surrey Archæological Collections*, Vol. III. pp. 220-226.

The Origin and early History of the Family of Newdigate so long as they remained connected with Surrey. Read at Newdigate on the visit of the Surrey Archæological Society, July 4, 1872. Vol. VI.

POSTSCRIPT.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

The ANNUAL ADDRESS of EARL STANHOPE, President, delivered on St. George's Day 1874, contained the following notice of MR. NICHOLS—

JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS, Esq., was the eldest son of John Bowyer Nichols, Esq., F.S.A., and grandson of John Nichols, Esq., F.S.A., author of the great History of Leicestershire, and of the well-known Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century, &c., the pupil, partner, and successor of William Bowyer, who belonged to a family of printers reaching back to a period shortly anterior to the Revolution of 1688. Mr. John Gough Nichols—so called from his godfather, the distinguished Antiquary, Richard Gough—was born at his father's residence in London in 1806. His first work was to take part in the compilation of the "Progresses of King James the First;" he also assisted in the editorship of the "Gentleman's Magazine." This last was an office he continued to discharge up to the year 1856, when Messrs. Nichols relinquished the proprietorship of that publication. I must, however, leave it to others to enumerate and describe the important literary labours which Mr. John Gough Nichols carried to a successful close outside the pale of this Society, and must confine myself to a few details as to the contributions he made to our own Transactions. He was elected a Fellow on the 3rd of December, 1835, but his first communication to the *Archæologia*, vol. xxiii. 427, "On an Inscription from a Chapel at Tours in France," bears the yet earlier date of February 24, 1831. In 1837 we find him describing.

in the course of one month, some paintings from St. Mary's Church, Guildford, and a Specimen of Ancient Damask Linen of the time of Henry VIII. (*Archæologia*, xxvii. 413—421.) One of the most important of his memoirs is entitled, "Observations on the Heraldic Devices discovered on the Effigies of Richard the Second and his Queen in Westminster Abbey, including some remarks on the surname, Plantagenet, and on the Ostrich Feathers of the Prince of Wales." (*Archæologia*, xxix. 32.) The thirtieth volume contains four memoirs, of which the most important is that on "The Second Patent appointing Edward, Duke of Somerset, Protector, temp. Edward the Sixth." In 1856 Mr. J. G. Nichols communicated, in a letter to George Scharf, Esq., F.S.A., an Account of some Old Tapestry in St Mary's Hall at Coventry (*Archæologia*, xxxvi. 448), and in the following year we find from his pen an important contribution to biographical literature under the modest title of "Some Additions to the Biographies of Sir John Cheke and Sir Thomas Smith," two of the great Cambridge scholars who adorned the reign of Henry VIII. In 1862 Mr. J. G. Nichols added a valuable contribution to the materials which about that time were brought before the Society in connection with Holbein, in the shape of a Memoir entitled "Notices of the Contemporaries and Successors of Holbein." (*Archæologia*, xxxix. 19.) This Society having established on a firm basis the fact that Holbein died eleven years sooner than the date ordinarily assigned to his decease, it naturally became a question of great importance in the history of art in England to find out who painted the pictures which have hitherto passed as the works of Holbein, and to this question Mr. J. G. Nichols, in the paper I have named, attempted to furnish an answer. Of a somewhat similar scope was the memoir laid before the Society under the title "Remarks upon Holbein, Portraits of the Royal Family of England, and more particularly upon the several Portraits of the Queens of Henry the Eighth." (*Archæologia*, xl. 71.) In 1866 we find Mr. Nichols acting as a Member of the Committee appointed by the Society to examine and consider the authenticity, as impugned by the late Mr. Herman Merivale, of the Paston Letters. His Report on this interesting subject will be found in the *Archæologia*, vol. x. 41—72.

In 1870 he laid before the Society a paper on "An Original Appointment of Sir John Fastolfe to be Keeper of the Bastille of St. Anthony at Paris in 1421." (*Archæologia*, xliv. 113.) Still more recently, on the 15th of May, 1873, he contributed not the least valuable of his papers, under the heading "On certain Portraits by Quintin Matsys and Holbein in the collection of the Earl of Radnor, at Longford Castle." This paper will be published in a future part of the *Archæologia*.

As an Antiquary his death has made a void which it is no exaggeration to call irreparable as regards the particular line of inquiry to which he devoted himself. And, even were it otherwise, the mere fact that for more than a century the firm of Messrs. Nichols has been officially connected with this Society as the Society's Printers would alone entitle his name to expressions of affection and respect, and invest his death with some part, at least, of the mournful sympathy which attaches to a domestic bereavement.

I may further mention that within these few days I have received from America a copy of the second part of the Massachusetts Historical Society for the past year. That part contains an able Obituary notice of Mr. Nichols, who was an honorary member of that Society; the notice being from the pen of Mr. Whitmore, and going into full details. I feel great pleasure in extracting from it the following passage: "Here, in America, we have reason to regret his loss, as being one of the few English genealogists who felt an interest in the trans Atlantic branches of English families. Mr. Nichols was one of the leaders of the new school of genealogists, and one of those who seek the truth in all things and who subject every thing to analysis and proof. To many of us the notice of his death was a shock as great as the loss of any of our immediate circle, and we feel it to be as great a calamity to America as to English literature.

Let me add that I design to place in our library, for permanent preservation, the whole of this interesting paper.

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Nichols, John Gough
Nichols, Robert Cradock
Memoir of the late John Gough Nichols,
F.S.A.

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