pageantry the earl received Elizabeth at Elvetham, his seat in Hampshire. It was his second wife, Frances, daughter of Lord Howard of Effingham, who then, as wrote the chronicler, 'most humbly on her knees welcomed Her Highness as she alighted from horseback at the hall door, and was by the Queen most graciously embraced.'¹⁰ But four years after this happy event Hertford was a second time in disgrace, apparently in connexion with the claim to the succession of his son, Lord Beauchamp, as heir to his mother, Katharine Grey. The 'State Papers' show that he was committed to the Tower towards the end of 1595, and released 3 Jan. 1596.

His second wife died in May 1598, and in December 1600 he took for third wife another Frances Howard, daughter of Viscount Howard of Bindon. But his only children were the two sons born to him in the Tower by Katharine Grey, and as the sad penalty of a life prolonged to eighty-three years they both predeceased him. He lived during the greater part of the reign of James I; was ambassador to Brussels in 1605; high steward to Anne, queen consort; lord lieutenant of Somerset, of Wilts, and of the cities of Bristol, Bath, Wells, and Salisbury.¹¹ Holding these offices, we may credit him for ability without giving perfect credence to the panegyrics engraved on his sumptuous tomb in Salisbury Cathedral. He died 6 April, 1621. His second and third wives lie in Westminster Abbey, and the reader of the Salisbury inscription, interested in the sad story of Katharine, his first choice, learns with satisfaction that it is her remains that have been gathered here, and that it is her effigy in marble that reclines beside her husband's. The words that tell this are touching: 'Having experienced the vicissitudes of mutable fortune, they, as in the harmony of their living union, here at last rest together.'¹²

W. L. RUTTON.

A ROYALIST ACCOUNT OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE KING'S FORCES
FROM TAUNTON, 13 DEC. 1644.

THE original of the subjoined letter, addressed, it would seem, to Prince Rupert, belongs to Mr. Edward A. Serel, and was lent to me by him, to bring before the annual meeting of the Wells Natural History and Archæological Society, on 27 Jan. 1898.

JAMES COLEMAN.

May it please y^r highnes—

It is time that I give you some account of our actions heare. I remained before Taunton euer since I receiued orders for the blockinge of it

¹⁰ Nichols, *Progresses*, iii. 103.

¹¹ Doyle, *Official Baronage*.

¹² For the inscription, in Latin, see *The History . . . of the Cathedral Church of Salisbury*, London 1728. The copy in the Brit. Mus. bears the press mark 295, l. 23.

uppe, & had now reduced them to that misery, that it was impossible for them to haue held out a week longer, but in this time of there necessity there Parliam^t ffriends were soe mindefull of them that they drew out all the force they were able out of Portsmouth Southampton Poole Wareham (w^{ch} I heare they have slighted) Weymouth and Lyme besides some horse & ffoot w^{ch} come from London, accompanied wth the countenance & afsistance of all those Gentlemen who haue estates in this County and are now in rebellyon.

The horse are comaunded by Coll Vandruske, the ffoot are under severall Comaundes, according to the places from whence they are Drawne and they name Sydenham Comaunder in Cheefe, but I beleene hee only beares the title for the conductinge of them to the releefe of Taunton, & some other will shortly be sent to take that charge.

S^r Lewis Dives kept his horse about Shirbourn & came not uppe towards us that wee might unite before the enemy was ffallen betweene us, & Coll. Bampfeyld by S^r John Berkley's order marcht off from Chard, w^h hee did not vntill the enemy came to Crewkerne. The enemy by both there reportes was about 3000 horse & ffoot.

I findinge that Shirbourne fforces came not to ioyne wth mee, & that S^r John Berkleys fforces under the comaunde of Coll Bampfeyld were by his order marched towards Exceter and that I was exposed wth my small force against the power of Taunton w^{ch} had as many ffoot as I had, & all these w^h came to releue it, yet I stayd untill the enemy came wthin two myles of mee & then I rise from my quarters & brought of all my gunnes and Carriages wthout losse of a man, yet the enemy sallyed imediately uppon mee but they were soe hungrye that they could not followe us by any house but that they sought for bread, & by that meanes they gaue vs the better opportunity of cominge off & lost some of there own men wth the Bread in there mouths Soe that I am Marched againe vnto Bridgewater hauinge reduced the towne & Castle of Taunton vnto an impossibility of holdinge out ffeue dayes longer. I send unto his ma^{ties} Comifsioners to sende me some ayd but there men are not yet raysed & I wish they had neuer gone about it in the way they proposed for then I am sure wee had not beene in soe ill a Condition as now wee are.

Coll Bampfeyld in his march towards Exceter turned againe & alteringe his resolution came & ioyned wth mee but it was after I was drawne off. wee are now about this towne & I beleene S^r Lewis Dives his horse wilbe wth vs this night & S^r ffrancis Hawley hath promised to adde somethinge to our strength both of horse & foot & I beleene soe united wee shalbe able to face the enemye, & I hope beate him out of the Countrey, but wee shall doe this much the better if his ma^{ty} shall sende some forces this way as if they did intend to come to ioyn wth vs but I beleene there appearinge either in the hither part of Wiltshere or on the edge of Dorsetshere will diuert them I have wasted much amunition in this buisnes & I beseech your highnes to take some course that I may bee suplyed either from Exceter or Bristoll.

I shall send your highnes dayly advertisement of what I understand of the enemye's motion & designe. And I shall beseech your highnes to look uppon this buisnies wth soe much providence to preuent what mischeife

may thereby ensue as a thing soe considerable in its relation to his ma^{ty} affayres that if the enemye should be master of the feyld all that his ma^{ty} can hope for of leuyes & recrewts in the West is Endaunger^d to bee lost. This I leave to your highnes consideration & myselfe to bee ever disposed off.

by your hignes Comaunder
EDMUND WYNDHAM

Bridgewater 14^o Dec.

I came off from Taunton yesterday beinge the 13th of Decemb.

Endorsed. West Bridgewater Dec. 14, 1644.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ARCHBISHOP KING.

The following fragment of an autobiography of William King, archbishop of Dublin, is contained in a volume of his letters in the Armagh Library (G. I.i.). It was communicated by the late Rev. J. W. Stubbs, D.D., Senior Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin; and the proof has not only been revised by his son, Mr. William C. Stubbs, but has also been most kindly collated with the original by the Rev. W. Moore Morgan, LL.D., prebendary and librarian of Armagh. The manuscript being autograph, it has not seemed desirable to correct the archbishop's somewhat eccentric Latinity.

Quaedam meas vitæ insigniora.

Ipse natus Calendis Maii 1650 patre Iacobo eiusdem nominis avo et proavo familiâ antiquâ de Burras in Scotiâ septentrionali. Pater licet presbyterianæ sectæ rigidissime adhaerens, tamen solenne eorum foedus inire noluit eo tempore in Hiberniæ septentrionalibus partibus omnibus eius sectæ sequacibus sub excommunicationis cuiusdam poenâ a suis impositum. Inde mihi baptismum recusabant per sex menses, nec alio qui administraret comparante tandem amicis pro me spondentibus et absente in bello patre, baptisatus utcunque fui.

Primâ infantîâ morbis conflictatus sum, ita ut de vitâ meâ desperatum est, debilisque corpore per aliquod tempus parvam mei spem feci.

Anno 1653 memini tum puer eclipseos fere totalis quæ circa id tempus contingit, et quæ matri et caeteris multum terroris incutiebat; memini belli et militum, quorum reliquiae aliquæ adhuc regionem peragrabant.

Anno 1655 scholam missus discere omnino recusavi et obstinate ludimagistræ restiti, licet verberibus me ad discendum urgebat sed frustra; fessa igitur destitit.

Anno 1658 iam coli regio Tironensis post bellum incipiebat, ubi pater sese transtulit, et aliâ scholâ etiam sub ludimagistrâ constitutâ, in eam missus sum, sed eodem successu: verberibus quidem coactus alphabetum memoriter recitare didici, sed ne litteram distinguere potueram. Sæpe solus fiebam, et censui ex malo animo et odio in me parentes meos me ad discendum literas cogere, cum in iis neque sensum nec usum inveniebam, neque tam hebes eram quin in iis rebus quâ ratione coniuncta erant licet cum labore progressum aliquem facere potui.

Post vero anni dimidium experiundo insumptum tandem alphabetum