
**Queen Elizabeth's
gentlewoman, and other
sketches**

Cust Sybil Lyttleton

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QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GENTLEWOMAN
AND OTHER SKETCHES



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MONUMENT TO BLANCHE PARRY IN BACTON CHURCH,
HEREFORDSHIRE

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S
GENTLEWOMAN
AND OTHER SKETCHES

BY

SYBIL CUST

AUTHOR OF "FROM A LITTLE TOWN-GARDEN"

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TO

ANNE THACKERAY RITCHIE

PREFACE

THE kind reception given to my former small volume of essays, *From a Little Town-Garden*, has encouraged me to offer another series to my readers. These sketches are obviously too miscellaneous to form a connected work, ranging, as will be seen, from Queen Elizabeth to a dormouse. For this shortcoming I can offer no apology, but trust to the friendly indulgence of those into whose hands my little book may fall.

My special thanks are due to Lt.-Col. J. A. Bradney, C.B., and the Rev. C. T. Brothers, Rector of Bacton, Herefordshire, for their kind assistance with the history of Mistress Blanche Parry, and to the Rev. H. F. Westlake for permission to use his photograph of her tomb in St. Margaret's, Westminster. Also to Fräulein Auguste Gieseler

PREFACE

and Frau Niemoeller for their help in obtaining for me much curious information and several rare old books bearing on the romantic and—to English people—little known history of the principality of Lippe Detmold.

SYBIL CUST.

DATCHET, *July* 1914.

POSTSCRIPT

THE following pages were completed, as will be readily seen, before the world was set on fire in August of this year. It is interesting to find that Princess Pauline of Lippe, more than a century ago, when her little country was in danger between two threatening forces, chose the tyranny of Napoleon rather than that of Prussia.

I regret that two mistakes have remained in the text. On page 119 I have stated that Peter Martel climbed Mont Blanc, whereas he only reached the glacier of the Montanvert; and on page 41, line 8, for "exile" read "captive."

DATCHET, *October* 1914.