

CONCLUSION.

"'Tis ended; but my hopes and fears begin:
Nor can it be imputed as a sin
In me, to wish it favour."

Epilogue, THE COXCOMB II. 307.

Beaumont and Fletcher, 1839 edition.

This has been the work of odd moments together with uncounted hours of research extending over many years; the difficulties which at times have been great lead us to sympathize with Anthony Wood, the Antiquarian, when he wrote (HIST. AND ANTIQ. UNIV. OXON.) "A painefull worke it is I'll assure you, and more than difficult wherein what toyle hath been taken, as no man thinketh, so no man believeth, but he that hath made the triall."

It has nevertheless had its compensations, for it has been a fascinating work of constantly growing and engrossing interest. We now send it forth into what we realize may prove to be a cold domain, where it will be criticised and eventually possibly lost in the backwater of the literary world; in so doing we ask "Is this task done?" and as we listen, a distant voice replies "'Tis scarce as yet begun" (LIVES OF THE LINDSAYS, Lord Lindsay). We therefore leave it as an heritage to some member of a succeeding generation of the family to take up, feeling assured that further research will reveal more and more information on the deeds of our gallant ancestors.

We console ourselves with the thought, that our hours will not have been spent in vain, if they have thereby made more available information, which otherwise many could not have obtained, and all such will we think agree, that

"The plan is laudable, e'en though the aim
Our humble pow'r, may ne'er at length attain,
In diligence and toil there wanted nought." (1)

In conclusion we would sum up our work, in the words of Thomas Hill, in his work "THE PROFFITABLE ARTE OF GARDENINGE", 1568.

"Thus rudely haue I ended my booke.....and yf to some

(1) Goethe, TORQUATO TASSO, Act IV. Sc. 4 (Des Voeux Translation).

men I shal seeme not fullye to haue satisfied their desyres herein, accordinge to their expectation, or not so cunninglye haue handeled the same, as the matter itselfe offereth and is worthie of.....then I referre my selfe wholye to ye learned correction of the wise, desyrynge theym frendelye to geeve knowledge to the printer, or to me, and beinge detected of my faulte, wyll wyllinglye correct and amende the same: for welle I wotte, that no treatise can alwaies so workemanly be handeled, but that some what sometimes may fall out amisse, contrarie both to the minde of the wryter and contrarie to the expectation of the reader. Wherefore my petition to the gentle reader is, to accept these my treuails, with that minde I do offer them to thee, and to take gentelye that I geeve gladly, in so doinge I shal thinke my paynes well bestowed and shal be encouraged hereafter to trust more vnto thy curtesye.....

and therefore gentle reader once againe
 I crave at thy handes the thankfull ac-
 cepting of these rude labours of
 myne, and thus, the favour
 of God bee with thee
 alwayes."

"Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth
 for evermore."
 Ecclesiasticus xlii. 14.