

William Hamper
The life, diary, and correspondence of Sir William Dugdale
London
1827

THE
LIFE,
DIARY, AND CORRESPONDENCE
OF
SIR WILLIAM DUGDALE, KNIGHT,
SOMETIME GARTER PRINCIPAL KING OF ARMS.

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EDITED BY WILLIAM HAMPER, ESQ. F. S. A.

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LETTER LXXXVII.

WILLIAM SOMNER ESQ. * TO MR. DUGDALE.

Worthy Sir,

I here send you the 2 inscriptions, as I promised,
leaving it to your selfe to abbreviate the words (for lessening the
charge of graving) as you please.

The preface † (I must needs say) is a most learned and elaborate
peice, but (as I hinted to you) defective in many things. As 1. It
makes no mention at all of either the many noble benefactors to it,
or of your selfe or me, as contributory to the compileing of it ‡;
whereas, I am perswaded, if not the greater, yet the better part of the
collection is yours, and the Saxon part (in translating the Boundaries,
Willes, Charters, and the like, originally Saxon, into Latin) is mine;
which if for no other cause, yet to shew that the translations are not
found in the autographs, but are additionall parts purposely for the
Reader's (the meere Latine Reader's) understanding and satisfaction,
is fit to be advertised: as are likewise (on the same account) what
sometimes is here and there premised or introductorie to what would
otherwise seeme haply either improper, or impertinent, and brought
within these crotchets [], that so the Reader may be able to know

* This excellent Antiquary, whose legal and philological learning are evinced by his
Glossary, and Treatise of Gavelkind; and his ability as a Topographer by his History of
Canterbury, – where 'in studious content, he took up his cradle, his mansion, and his
grave,' – was the active friend and coadjutor of Dugdale, in several of his undertakings.
His Life by White Kennett, prefixed to his posthumous treatise of the Roman Ports
and Forts in Kent, 8vo, 1693, is a very interesting piece of biography, written con amore.
Mr. Somner died in 1669, at the age of threescore and ten.

† The draught probably of Sir John Marsham's Propylaion to the first Volume of
the Monasticon.

‡ This was afterwards, in some degree, supplied.

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and distinguish what is additionall, from what is originall. A second
principall thing the preface is as yet defective in, and that is the promise
of a Glossary (God willing) from my hand, both to this, and the
future volume, to come at the end of the latter of them, as taking
in all the obsolete words of the whole worke. 3. Nothing is yet
said to explicate the short and obscure quotations of the authorities
in the margent, which (at least those from the records of the Tower)

will be very hardly understood by the generality of readers, without some better key. Somewhat els haply is further wanting, which at present is not in my thoughts, but against my coming up may perchance occurre, whereof then I shall give you an accompt. Meane time wishing the continuance of yours and the recovery of your Daughter's good health, whereof I should be glad to heare; I rest (sweet Sir)

Your true friend and servant

Wm. Somner.

Cant. 10 Novemb. 1654.

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LETTER XCII.

WILLIAM SOMNER, ESQ. TO MR. DUGDALE.

Worthy Sir,

I hope this night to receive from you back againe that piece of our Cathedral's groundplott so corrected as I directed by my last, that I may present the prooffe to Sir Tho. Peyton, and call upon him for the money, which I doubt not will readily be paid, as will also Sir Anthony Aucher's upon a prooffe of St Austines, which this night I also expect, together with one of the Verses, and the rest of the Index. I here send you the Frontispiece of our Cathed. very exactly and accuratly taken, for which I am to pay Mr. Johnson 10s. and I thinke he may deserve it; being it is so well donne. You may fall to cutting of it as soone as you please, and upon Friday next, upon proposall to a gent., now out of towne, in the interim, to undertake it, or not, I shall resolve you whether he will, or not, that if he will

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you may add his coate, which with an inscription for it I will then send you, or word at least of his refusall, that you may then be free to take in any other benefactor for it. The Drawer hath, on the North side, of his owne head added the same West end of the Chapter-house, which is left to discretion whether to cutt or not. For my part, I thinke the peice is better, and will shew and seeme handsomer without it. He hath added a small direction at the foote of the peice, which he desires may be observed in the cutting. I would desire you, at your next best leisure to step to my worthy friend Mr. Painter, and, having presented him with my best respects and service, desire him to deliver you my review of our Cathedral, which hath been sometime in his hands, whereof I am in some want at this time, and therefore intreate you after receipt to transmitt it to me. With my humble service to all my friends, I rest

Your true friend and servant,

Wm. Somner.

Cant. 13 March 1654.

For his very loving and worthy friend Mr. Will'm Dugdale, at the house of Mr. Bisse, at the Heralds' Office, London.

<C.F. February 2011.>

<http://www.archive.org/stream/lifediarycorresp00dugduoft#page/n7/mode/2up>