

Milton,
Peterborough.

THOMAS



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BRITISH AUTOGRAPHY.

A

COLLECTION

of

FAC-SIMILIES

of the

HANDWRITINGS

of ROYAL and

ILLUSTRIOUS PERSONAGES,

with their authentic

PORTRAITS.

Publish'd by J. THANE,

Rupert-Street, Haymarket

LONDON.

73367



There are no authentic PORTRAITS known of the seven Persons following, whose AUTOGRAPHS are in the FRONTISPIECE.

WILLIAM DE LA POLE, *Duke of Suffolk,*

ONE of the prime ministers and favourites of Henry the VIth. and his Queen, said to have been too familiar with her Majesty, and to have had a hand in the murder of *Humphry*, Duke of Gloucester, &c. He was beheaded at Sea, in going to banishment, 1450.

ALICE, *his Dutcheſs,*

Was grand-daughter of Chaucer, the poet, the Duke was her third husband, her second was *Thomas De Montacute* Earl of Salisbury, and her first Sir — *Philips*. She brought the Duke a very large dowry.

SIR JOHN FASTOLFF,

Was made a Knight of the Garter for his many great exploits in the wars in France, and judicious management of the lieutenancy and government which he held in Normandy, &c. In 1440 he finally returned to England, where he shone as bright in virtue, as he had abroad in valour, living in great splendor, charity, and hospitality: he died upwards of ninety years of age, 1459.

RICHARD

RICHARD PLANTAGENET, *Duke of York,*

Father of *Edward* the IVth. and *Richard* the IIIrd. was Regent of France on the death of the great Duke of Bedford, and twice Protector of the Realm under Henry the VIth. After a variety of fortunes, he was declared by parliament, successor to the Crown, and in maintenance of his right, (being descended from the third son of *Edward* the IIIrd. whereas *Henry* was only from the fourth,) was slain in battle against Queen *Margaret* at Wakefield, 1460.

RICHARD NEVILE, *Earl of Warwick,*

The most powerful and beloved Nobleman of his time, called *the Great*, and *Make-king*; having dethroned *Henry* the VIth. he set up *Edward* the IVth. afterwards dethroned him, and set up *Henry* again; He was killed in fighting against *Edward*, in the battle of Barnet, 1471.

JOHN DE VERE, *Earl of Oxford,*

Son-in-law of the great Earl of Warwick, had a command in the battle at Barnet field; after which, being taken by *Edward* the IVth. he was sent prisoner to the castle of Hams, from whence, some time after, he escaped and joined the Earl of Richmond, in whose army at Bosworth-field, he was a Captain of the Archers: he died 1512.

SIR HENRY WENTWORTH,

Son of Sir *Philip*, by *Mary*, daughter of *John* Lord *Clifford*, was in the Expedition with *Edward* the IVth. when he demanded the restoration of the kingdom of France; on the marriage of *Edward's* second son, he was made a Knight of the Bath: in the reign of *Henry* the VIIth. he was also much in esteem, and employed as a Commissioner in raising Supplies, &c. particularly against *Perkin Warbeck*. His grandson, for his extraordinary courage and other abilities, was made Lord *Wentworth* in the 21st of *Henry* the VIIIth.

KING

KING HENRY *the* VIth.

The only child of the victorious *Henry* the Vth. by *Catherine*, daughter of *Charles* the VIth. of France; he was called the Prince of Priests, and was more fit for a Monk than a King. He was so weak a Prince as to be governed by every designing party that from time to time happened to be about him, to his own very great misfortunes, as well as the misery and devastation of his subjects, and the loss of nearly all the conquests made in France.—*Edward* the IVth. was under the cruel necessity of sacrificing him to his own safety, 1471.

KING EDWARD *the* IVth.

Eldest surviving son of *Richard*, Duke of York, was reckoned the handsomest man of his time, he made his way to the throne by his sword; when settled in the kingdom, he suffered his active and enterprising nature, to sink into indolence and dissipation, which was sometimes accompanied by cruelty: he died 1483.

KING EDWARD *the* Vth.

Eldest son of *Edward* the IVth. by *Elizabeth*, Widow of Sir *John Grey*, was between twelve and thirteen years old when he succeeded his father, but never crowned; the ambition of his uncle *Richard*, Duke of Gloucester, causing him and his brother to be smothered in the Tower, when he had borne the title of King only two months and twelve days, 1483.

KING RICHARD *the* IIIrd.

The eighth and youngest son of *Richard*, Duke of York, made his way to the crown, by hypocrisy, fraud, and murder: Notwithstanding, he was a man of such great abilities for government, as to be esteemed a good King, though so bad a man; he was killed in the battle of *Bosworth-field*, after fighting in person with the greatest courage and fury imaginable, 1485,

JOHN

JOHN HOWARD, *Duke of Norfolk,*

A faithful adherent to the house of York, and the first Duke of his family, was a man of great courage, integrity, and address, and is said to have had no share in the cruelties of *Richard III.* in whose cause, and with whom he was killed, 1485.

KING HENRY *the VIIth.*

Descended from *Catharine*, widow of *Henry V.* by *Owen Tudor*, was on the day he obtained the victory over *Richard III.* at *Bosworth-field*, proclaimed King by the army, but not crowned till he renewed his promise to marry *Elizabeth*, the eldest daughter of *Edward IV.* the completion of which, united the long contending houses of York and Lancaster, to the great joy of the nation.---*Henry* was wise and politic, but his rigid policy, together with his jealousy of the title of the house of York, extended to cruelty and malignity, so that even his Queen did not escape it, and his great avarice in the latter end of his reign, induced him to be very oppressive to his subjects: he died 1509.

MARGARET, *Countess of Richmond and Derby.*

Was mother of *Henry VII.* by the first of her three husbands, *Edmund Tudor*, Earl of *Richmond*, half brother of *Henry VI.* She was sole daughter and heir of *John Beaufort*, Duke of *Somerset*, grandson of *John of Gaunt*, fourth son of *Edward III.* After the death of her last husband the Earl of *Derby*, she engaged herself in a vow of celibacy, and was admitted into five several religious houses.—She was a woman of great piety and a celebrated foundress; at her death, she was allied to thirty Kings and Queens, besides several Princes, Dukes, Marquises, and Earls. She died about three months after her son *Henry VII.* 1509.

THOMAS HOWARD, *Earl of Surry,*

Son of *John*, Duke of *Norfolk*, was taken prisoner in the battle at *Bosworth-field*, and sent to the tower, but some time after released and restored to his Earldom, and made Lord High Treasurer. In the beginning of the reign of *Henry VIII.* he shewed his generalship by the famous victory he gained at the battle of *Flodden-field*, for which he was restored to the dukedom of his father.—This great man, who was not less great in the cabinet, than in the field, died 1524.

KING

KING HENRY *the VIIIth.*

The son of *Henry VII.* by *Elizabeth* of York, was not eighteen years old when he succeeded to the crown.—He was the most accomplished Prince of his time, and unfortunately for his subjects, he knew it, for as he ripened in years, he not only made his own will a law, right or wrong, but brought them into little less than slavery, by overawing his parliaments, and depriving many of their lives and fortunes, even some of his favourites. He had six Queens, two of whom he divorced, two he beheaded, and the last but narrowly escaped the block. He died 1547.

CATHARINE, *first Queen of HENRY the VIIIth.*

The youngest daughter of *Ferdinand*, King of Arragon, by *Isabella*, Queen of Castile, King and Queen of Spain; at eighteen was married to *Arthur*, Prince of Wales, and became his widow in little more than four months; she was afterwards married to *Henry VIII.* and crowned with him; living in his good graces for eighteen years, before his conscience was touched with the unlawfulness of his marriage: when this, and his growing passion for *Anna Bullen*, occasioned her divorce 1533. She was an exemplary good woman, and suffered much on account of her separation from the King, whom she affectionately loved. She died 1536.

CATHARINE, *last Queen of HENRY the VIIIth.*

The eldest daughter of Sir *Thomas Parr*, and widow of *John Nevil*, Lord Latimer, was a woman of learning and great abilities: she married *Henry VIII.* 1543, which verified the farcaim made upon one of his tyrannical acts two years before, that he must marry none but a widow. She was a favourer of the reformation, and had like to have fallen a sacrifice to it, for *Henry* insisted that every one should believe in all points, precisely as himself. Soon after the King's death she was married to Sir *Thomas Seymour*, uncle to *Edward the VIth.* for whom she had an affection, before her marriage with the King; her partiality in his favour was repaid by him with ill usage, she died, soon after her delivery of a daughter, not without the strongest suspicion of being poisoned by him, 1548.

THOMAS CRANMER, *Arch-bishop of Canterbury,*

The son of *Thomas Cranmer*, Esq; of Aslakton in Nottinghamshire, was born 1489. He received his education at Jesus College, Cambridge, where he commenced a Doctor in Divinity: his great and extensive learning and other abilities, occasioned his being consulted when *Henry*
the

the VIIIth. was about to divorce his Queen, *Catharine* of Arragon; and his opinion being that the marriage was unlawful and ought to be dissolved, he became high in favour with that monarch, who sent him to Rome and other courts concerning it, and at the death of Arch-bishop *Warham*, made him Arch-bishop of Canterbury. The King had such an esteem for him, that he continued him in his favour to the last, to the no small mortification of his many and powerful enemies, and further honoured him, with mentioning him first as executor in his last will. During the reign of *Edward* the VIth. he was indefatigable in carrying on the reformation, both at home and abroad: but when *Mary* ascended the throne, he became a sacrifice to her resentment, not for religion only, but chiefly for the active part he had taken in her mother's divorce; notwithstanding she herself owed her life to his sollicitation with her father, when he had resolved on her death, for disobedience to his commands. This great and good man, who was the ornament of our church and nation, was burnt as a heretick, 1556.

THOMAS HOWARD, *third Duke of Norfolk,*

Son to the victorious Duke who gained the battle at Flodden-field, was made Earl of Surry for the share he had in that victory. He was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and after his father's resignation, made Treasurer and Lord High Admiral; but at length had like to have fallen a victim, (as his son had just before,) to the jealousy of *Henry* the VIIIth. and whose death only prevented it.—He remained a prisoner during the reign of *Edward* the VIth. but was released when *Mary* ascended the throne, and, notwithstanding he was above eighty years of age, was again seen at the head of an army, and helped to suppress *Wyat's* rebellion: he died 1554.

CHARLES BRANDON, *Duke of Suffolk,*

Son of Sir *William Brandon*, standard-bearer of *Henry* the VIIth. who was killed by the hand of *Richard* the IIIrd. at Bosworth-field, was the companion of *Henry* the VIIIth. in his youth, and became one of his most particular favorites.—He was a man of great courage, and distinguished himself in tilts and tournaments; after the taking of Tournay, in 1513, in which he had a great share, he was made a Duke. He married *Mary*, Queen Dowager of France, sister to *Henry* the VIIIth. whose affections he had gained before her marriage with *Louis* the XIIth. This deserving Nobleman, was graceful in person, valiant, humble, bountiful, and unaffected; so that he gained universal esteem. — He was a Knight of the Garter, and Knight of the Order of St. Michael, died 1545.

THOMAS

THOMAS CROMWELL, *Earl of Essex,*

Was a man of mean birth, but great abilities; on his return from abroad, where he had been for improvement, he was taken into the service of *Cardinal Wolsey*, after whose fall, he was employed by *Henry the VIIIth.* who for his merit, knighted him in 1531, five years after created him *Baron Cromwell*, next year a Knight of the Garter, and two years after that, *Earl of Essex*.—He was of the greatest service to *Henry the VIIIth.* in the suppression of the monasteries, and was made his Vice-regent: this gave him the precedence of all the great officers of State; after being thus raised, he was suddenly arrested, attainted, and beheaded, without even having been brought to a trial, 1540.

KING EDWARD *the VIth.*

The only son of *Henry the VIIIth.* by his most beloved Queen, *Jane Seymour*. He was only nine years and a quarter old when he succeeded his father, who, by his will, left him under the guardianship of sixteen executors, out of whom they chose one as protector, viz. *Edward Seymour*, after Duke of Somerset, the King's uncle: unhappily for the nation, the ambition of some, and the prejudice of party in others, rendered this short reign full of trouble, and an easy prey to the bigotry of the next successor.—This young King was esteemed for his age, the most sensible, learned, accomplished, and pious of any then living; he died in a decline, not without some suspicion of foul play, 1553.

JOHN ALASCO,

A noble Poland, before he became a Protestant, was a Bishop of the church of Rome, but soon after his reform, was obliged to leave his country, from whence he went and settled at Embden, in East Friesland, where he was chose by the Protestants, their Pastor; sometime after, on account of their religion, they were forced to fly thence, when they came to England, and were kindly received by *Edward VI.* who granted them the church in Austin-friars: on the accession of *Mary* they were ordered to leave this kingdom, hence they retired to Denmark, where they dispersed, and *Alasco* went to Francfort, and established a church; from thence he was called to his own country, by letters signed by upwards of forty of the nobility: the King, his nephew, consulted him in all weighty matters, knowing him to be a man of great piety, parts, and learning: he died 1560.

QUEEN

QUEEN MARY,

Daughter of *Henry VIII.* by *Catharine* of Aragon, his first Queen, whom he divorced, did not immediately come to the Throne, *Lady Jane Gray* having been proclaimed according to the will of *Edward VI.* *Mary* was not at all beloved, and perhaps never would have ascended it, had not the universal hatred to the Duke of *Northumberland*, *Lady Jane's* Father-in-law, made the nation think it better to be under her, than his tyranny and oppression; for he was, and doubtless would have continued at the head of affairs, if the *Lady Jane* had succeeded. *Mary* was a woman of a weak understanding, a melancholy, obstinate and unrelenting temper; which, together with a blind zeal for her religion, and ill advisers, rendered her short reign, the most horrid and cruel, on account of religion, that was ever known in this country: she died 1558.

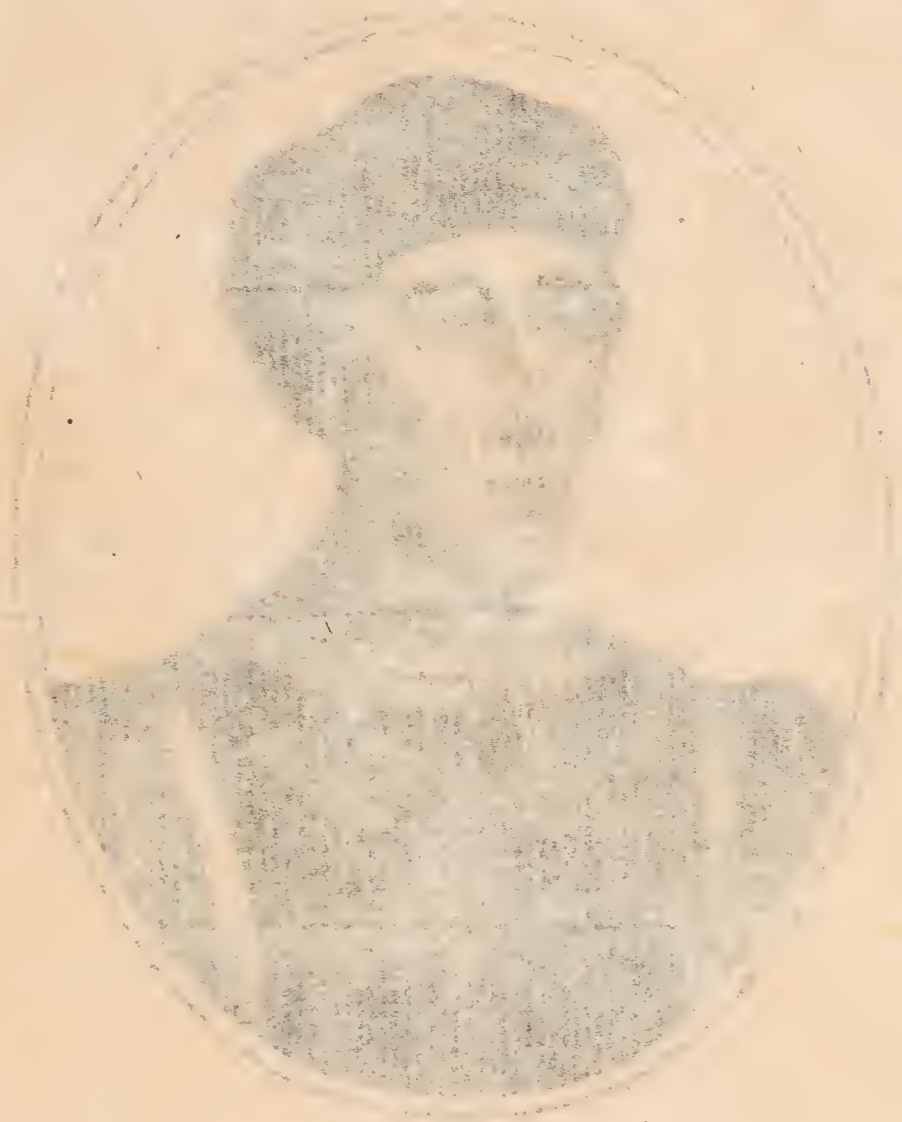
PHILIP II. *King of Spain,*

Son of the Emperor *Charles V.* by *Isabel*, daughter of *Emanuel*, King of Portugal, was not eight and twenty when he married *Mary* Queen of England, who was above ten years older than himself. The Emperor by procuring this marriage, which, as it happened, only gave his son the empty title of King of England, cost him, through the policy of Bishop *Gardiner*, to bribe the Parliament, &c. twelve hundred thousand crowns.

Philip left the Queen in a little more than a year after his marriage, and probably would never have seen her more, had not policy, about two years after brought him, to persuade the Queen to break with France; the which, tho' it gained *Philip*, by the assistance of the English, the famous battle of *St. Quintin*; yet the next year it cost England the key of France, our ancient City of *Calais*, which was taken by surprise by the French. The success of *Philip* in the next reign, with his invincible Armada is well known: he died 1594.

ROBERT FERRAR, *Bishop of St. Davids,*

Was born within the Vicarage of *Halifax*, in *Yorkshire*, began his education at *Cambridge*, and finished it at *Oxford*. He became Chaplain to Archbishop *Cranmer*, with whom he was a favourite, as also with the Protector *Somerset*, under *Edward VI.* who made him a Bishop: on the fall of the Protector, he was greatly harrassed by his enemies; and in *Mary's* reign, he was burnt as a lutheran heretick, for having a wife, &c.
1555.



Major Henry G. P. ...
Commander of the ...

70



King Henry the VI .—
The Original in the Royal Collection.

Sign. Manual of H. Henry 6th

CH

*From the Original Instrument in the Possession of
John Thane .*



Wm. Edwardes Esq.

Esq.

Esq.

Esq.



Printed and Sold by J. G. & Co. Stationers, No. 10, St. Paul's Church-yard, London.

1840



King Edward the IV.
The Original in the Royal Collection.

Sign Manual of K. Edward the 4th

A handwritten signature in a medieval script, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'E' followed by several vertical strokes and a horizontal line, representing the name Edward.

*From an Original Letter in the Possession of
John Thane.*



Miss Estlin 1845

Presented to the Library of the American Bible Society
by the Rev. Mr. Estlin



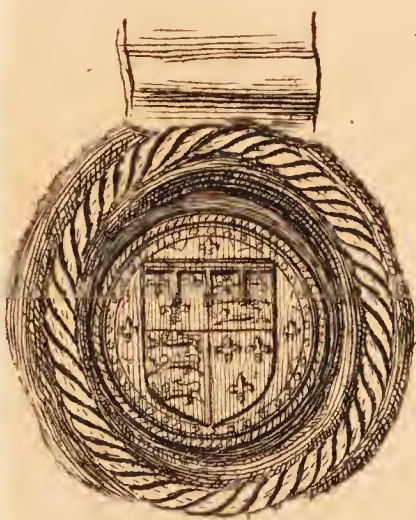
Estlin

Printed and Published by the American Bible Society
No. 101 Nassau Street, New York



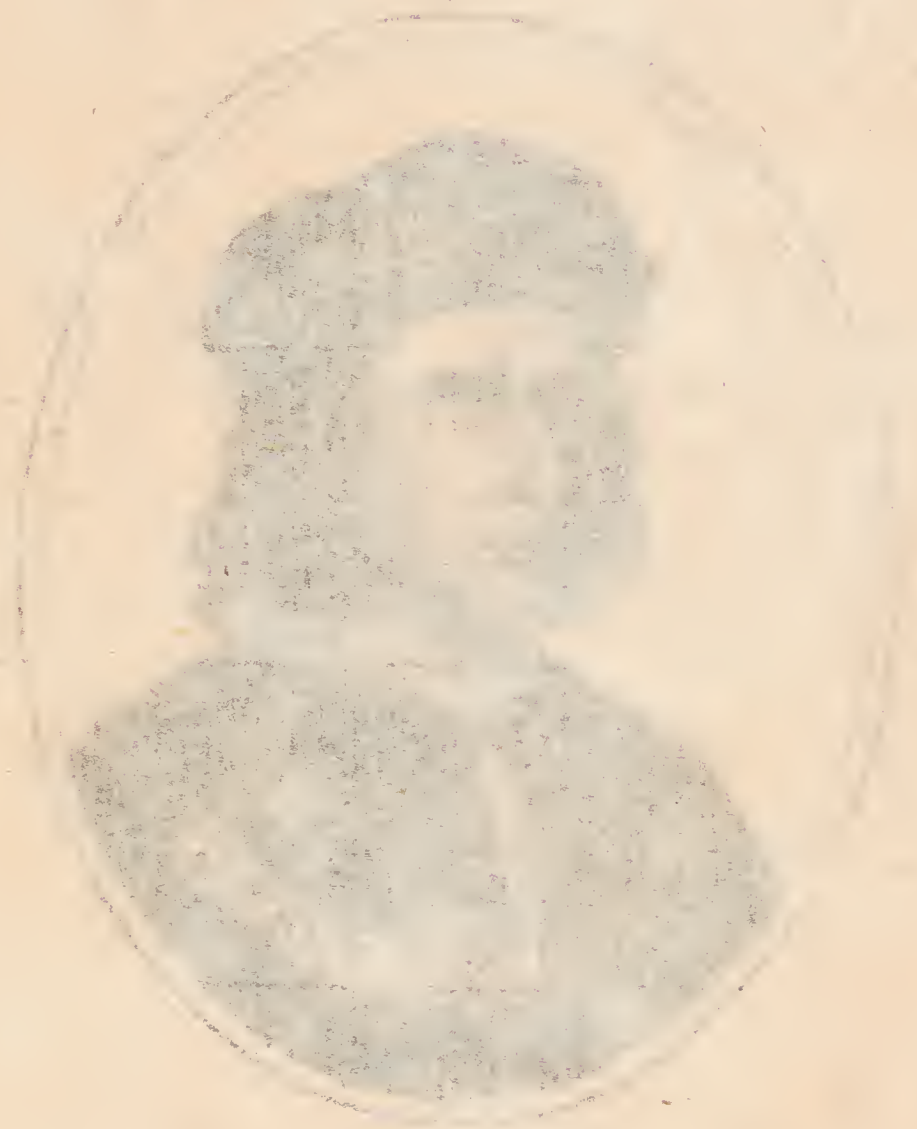
King Edward the V.
The Original is in Lambeth Library.

*The Seal & Autograph of Rich.^d Duke of Gloucester —
Protector to K. Edward the 5.th*



R. Gloucester

*From the Original Instrument in the Possession of
John Thane.*



Wm. Lloyd Garrison

W. L. G.



King Richard the III.
The Original in the Royal Collection.

Sign Manual of K. Richard the 3^d.

A highly stylized, cursive sign manual consisting of three intertwined letters, 'R', 'I', and 'C', representing the initials of King Richard III.

*From an Original Letter in the Possession of
John Thane.*



John Howard Duke of Norfolk.

From a Drawing by Vertue, in the Collection of Rich^d Bull Esq^r. taken from the original Painting on Glass, now preserved in the Royal Society.

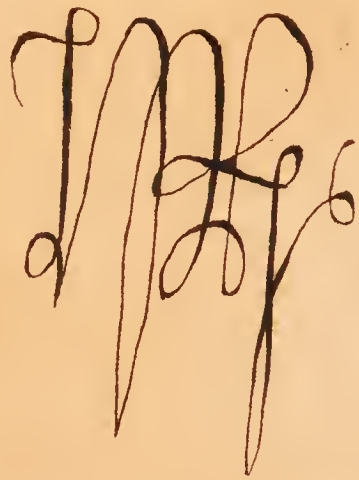
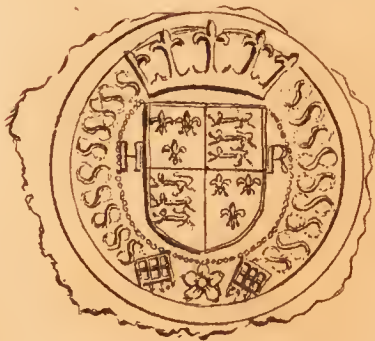
John Norfolk

His Autograph from the Original in the Possession of John Thane.



KING HENRY THE VII.
The Original in the Royal Collection.

The Signet & Sign Manual of K. Henry VII in his XI Year.



*From the Original Instrument in the Possession of
John Thane.*



Portrait of a man with a beard
and a turban, wearing a dark
robe, seated in a chair.
The portrait is enclosed in an oval
frame.

A portrait of a man with a beard
and a turban, wearing a dark
robe, seated in a chair.

The portrait is enclosed in an oval
frame.





Margaret Countess of Richmond & Derby.

The Original in Christ's Col. Cambridge.

*The Sign Manual of Margaret
Countess of Richmond.*

A handwritten signature in a cursive script, likely the 'Sign Manual' of Margaret Countess of Richmond. The signature is written in dark ink and consists of several connected, flowing letters that are difficult to decipher precisely but appear to start with 'M' and end with 'y'.

*From the Original Instrument in the Possession of
John Thane.*



THO^S HOWARD EARL OF SURRY
The Original late in the Torrington Collection.

The Autograph of Tho. Earl of Surry

yo' longins Cousin
THOMAS SURRY H

*From the Original in the Possession of
John Thane*



Wm. Lloyd Garrison
Secretary of the American Society for
the Abolition of Slavery



Ms. A. 9. 2. 1. 1. 1.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 1. 1. 1.



King Henry the VIII.

The Original by Holbein in the Royal Collection.



Henry VIII

His Seal & Autograph

from the Original in the Possession of

John Thane.



Catharine 1st Queen of Henry VIII.

From an Original by Holbein.

Katharina Thronow

Her Autograph,

from the Original in the Possession of

John Thane.



Faint, illegible text, possibly a name or title.

Salome the Queen

Faint, illegible text, possibly a name or title.



Catherine last Queen of Henry VIII.
From an Original in Lambeth Gallery.

Caterzyn the Quene KP
— — — — —

Her Autograph from the Original in the Possession of
John Thane.



Thomas Cranmer Archbishop of Canterbury.
From an Original by Holbein.

Thomas Cranmer

*His Autograph
from the Original in the Possession
of J. Thane.*



The Hon. and Rev. John G. Whittier

W. H. W. F. S.



Tho^s. Howard 3^d. Duke of Norfolk.

*The Original by Holbein, in the Royal Collection.
Another in the Norfolk Collection.*

THORNFOLK
8—8—8—8

*His Autograph from an Original in the Possession of
John Thane.*



Charles Brandon Duke of Suffolk.

The Original is at Strawberry Hill.

Charles Brandon
1558

*His Autograph from the Original in the
Possession of John Thane.*



THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY
NEW YORK

Very truly yours,
John C. Bennett



THO. CROMWELL EARL OF ESSEX

From an Original by Holbein.

*The Autograph of Sir Tho.^s Cromwell
Earl of Essex.*

*Your Loving Friend
Thomas Cromwell*

*From an Original LETTER in the Possession of
John Thorne*



King Edward the VI

For your service James the
Sixth and Elizabeth his wife

to be your grace
Edward



King Edward the VI.
The Original by Holbein in the Royal Collection.

Fro sainte James the
fife and tWentie daie of June.
(To the quenes grace.) Edward.

*From an Original Letter in Possession of
John Thane.*



John Milton

London the 10th of October 1674

to the Honorable the Commissioners

of the Customs and Excise

James Smith



John Alafco.

Londini 16. Decembris. 1552

toto pectore addictissimus

Joannes à Lasco
manu propria

*His Autograph from an original Letter in the Possession of
John Thane.*



QUEEN MARY.

From an Original by Sir Ant. More.

The Signet & Sign Manual of Q. Mary.



Marye the quene

*From the Original Instrument in the Possession of
John Thane*





PHILIP the II. K. of SPAIN &c.
The Original by Titian, in the Devonshire Collection.

Sign Manual of King Philip.

A handwritten signature in a highly stylized, cursive script, characteristic of the 16th century. The letters are interconnected and flow together, with a prominent initial 'P'.

*From the Original Instrument in the Possession of
John Thane*



Robert Ferrar Bp. of S^t. Davids.

By mo tps sumo ROBERT ferrar

His Autograph from the Original in the Possession of

John Thane.

