

THE MURDER OF RIZZIO

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The murder of Rizzio by Lord Ruthven

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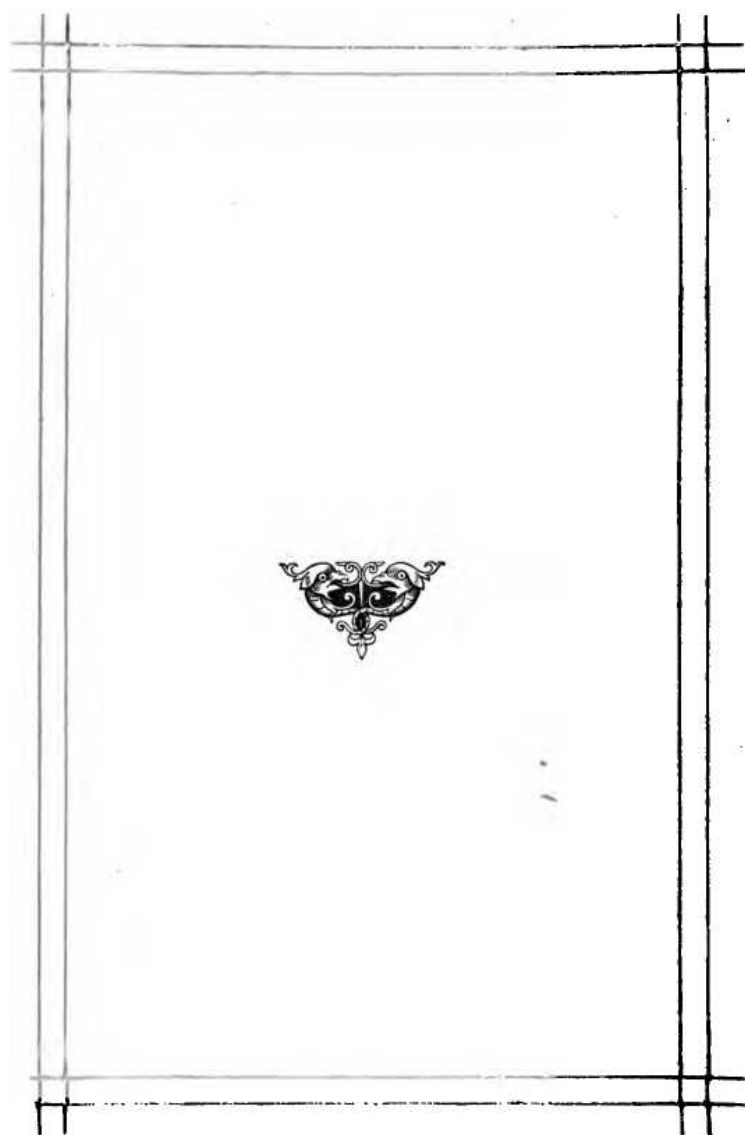
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LORD RUTHVEN

THE MURDER OF RIZZIO

THE
Murder of Rizzio.



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of
Rizzio.

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*FROM THE MS. ACCOUNT OF LORD RUTHVEN.*  
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Edinburgh:
E. & G. GOLDSMID.
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1895.

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JOHN E. HUDSON
Dec. 1, 1900.

THE MURDER OF RIZZIO.

THE author of this relation, LORD RUTHVEN, at the age of forty-six, was visited by the hand of God with great trouble and sickness, whereby he kept his bed continually by the space of three months, and was under the cure of physicians, as of the Queen's French doctor, Dr. PRESTON, and THOMAS THOMPSON, apothecary; and was so feebled and weakened through the sickness and medicines, that scarcely he might walk twice the length of his chamber unsitting down. During this time the King conceived hatred against an Italian called DAVID RICCIO: and about the 10th day of February, sent his dear friend and kinsman, GEORGE DOUGLAS, son to ARCHIBALD, sometime Earl of ANGUS and declared to Lord RUTHVEN, how that the said DAVID RICCIO, had abused him in many sorts, and lately had stayed the Queen's Majesty from giving him the crown matrimonial of Scotland, which her Majesty had promised to him divers times before: besides many other wrongs that DAVID had done to him, which he could not bear with longer, and behoved to be revenged thereof. And because the Lord RUTHVEN was one of the nobility that he confided and trusted most unto, in respect that his children and he were sisters' children; therefore he desired his counsel and advice what way was best to be

revenged on DAVID. The Lord RUTHVEN hearing the message aforesaid, gave answer to GEORGE DOUGLAS, that he could give no counsel in that matter, in respect he knew the King's youth and facility; for he had sundry of the nobility that had given him counsel for his own honour and weal, and immediately he revealed the same again to the Queen's Majesty, who reproved them with great anger and contumelious words; so that he would have no meddling with the King's proceedings until the time he could keep his own counsel. The said GEORGE departed with the answer about 12th of February. The King, hearing the answer, was very miscontented and said, it is a sore case that I can get none of the nobility that will assist me against yonder false villain DAVIE. GEORGE DOUGLAS answered, the fault was in yourself, that cannot keep your own counsel. Then the King took a book and swore thereon, that what counsel soever the Lord RUTHVEN should give him, he would not reveal, neither to the Queen's Majesty, nor to any others; and immediately directed GEORGE to him again, declaring what oath the King hath made. Notwithstanding the Lord RUTHVEN was eight days after ere he would give any counsel therein; howbeit, the King sent GEORGE DOUGLAS to him every day three or four times. After eight days were past, which was toward the 20th day of February, the Lord RUTHVEN perceiving that the King's whole intent was but only the slaughter of DAVIE, resolved in his mind, and considered that he had a good time to labour for certain of the nobility, his brethren that were banished in the realm of England and in Argyle; and specially the Earls of ARGYLE, MURRAY, GLENCARN, and ROTHES; the Lords BOYD and OCHELTRIE, and the Laids of PITTARRO and GRANGE, with many other gentlemen and barons. Wherefore so soon as the said GEORGE was directed again from the King to him, he answered, that he could not meddle with the King's affairs, without that he would bring home the noblemen before rehearsed, who were banished only for the Word of God. And after long reasoning, and divers days travelling, the King was contented they should

come home into the realm of Scotland; so that the Lord RUTHVEN would make him sure that they would be his, and set forward all his affairs. He gave answer to the King, and bad him make his own security, and that he should cause it to be subscribed by the aforesaid Earls, Lords, and Barons. Immediately thereafter the King directed GEORGE DOUGLAS to Lord RUTHVEN with certain articles, which he desired him to put in form of writing, to be subscribed by the Lords banished; the which he caused to be put in form. And having consideration that the King desired them to be bound to him, he caused to be drawn certain articles in the said Lords names for the King's part towards them; which the King himself reformed with his own hand.

The articles being penned for both parties, and the King reading and considering the same, he was contented therewith, and subscribed his part, and delivered it to the Lord RUTHVEN, who sent the other articles to the Earl of MURRAY, and the remanent being within England; and to the Earl of ARGILE, and the remanent being with him in the west, who subscribed the same, and sent them to Lord RUTHVEN to be kept till their meeting with the King, and every one to have their own part; the tenour whereof followeth.

Certain Articles to be fulfilled by James, Earl of Murray; Archibald, Earl of Argile; Alexander, Earl of Glencarne; Andrew, Earl of Rothes; Robert, Lord Boyd; Andrew, Lord Ochiltree; and their Complices, to the Noble and Mighty Prince Henry, King of Scotland, husband to our Sovereign Lady: which Articles the said Persons offer with most humility, lowliness, and service to the said Noble Prince, for whom to God they pray, &c.

Imprimis. The said Earls, Lords, and their complices, shall become, and by the tenour hereof become, true subjects, men and servants, to the noble and mighty Prince HENRY, by the grace of