

MILITARY MEMOIR
OF
COLONEL JOHN BIRCH,

SOMETIME GOVERNOR OF HEREFORD IN THE CIVIL WAR BETWEEN
CHARLES I. AND THE PARLIAMENT;

WRITTEN BY ROE, HIS SECRETARY;

WITH AN HISTORICAL AND CRITICAL COMMENTARY,
NOTES, AND APPENDIX,

BY THE LATE

REV. JOHN WEBB, M.A., F.S.A., F.R.L.S.

EDITED BY HIS SON THE

REV. T. W. WEBB, M.A., F.R.A.S.



PRINTED FOR THE CAMDEN SOCIETY.

M.DCCC.LXXIII.

WESTMINSTER:
PRINTED BY J. B. NICHOLS AND SONS
25, PARLIAMENT STREET.

[NEW SERIES VII.]

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PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

THE Commentary and Notes which illustrate the following Memoir were the production of an author the greater part of whose ninety-third year was employed in their preparation. But, whatever interest may be attached to them from this cause, they are still more deserving of attention from the scrupulous fidelity as well as the unwearied diligence which they express. Such, as is well known, had been the uniform character of the earlier works of the same hand; and during this last effort of a feebler age, neither vigour of thought nor truth of discernment failed. The editorial office which had been entrusted to the Reverend John Webb by the Camden Society was, at the time of its interruption, nearly fulfilled: the latter part, however, of his manuscript had not received his final touch, and the close was left very imperfect. These deficiencies could be ill supplied even by one who best knew his revered parent's intentions, but, having been honoured by the Council of the Society with permission to complete the design, he has done it to the best of his ability. A portion of illustrative material has been reluctantly omitted, which may, however, it is hoped, find a place in the future publication of another posthumous work by the same hand—the History of the Civil War in Herefordshire.

The extent of the present writer's responsibility has been indicated by brackets. The initials J. W. are attached to certain notes which the original editor had not appended to his manuscript, but which it did not seem desirable to suppress.